RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on Thursday, the August 8, 2002/Sravana 17, 1924 (Saka)

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; External Affairs; Labour; Parliamentary Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—155

Basic infrastructure for tiny sector in Tamil Nadu

2336. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the tiny sector industrial units under the integrated infrastructural development scheme for creation of basic infrastructure in cluster basis in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether the scheme is being extended to other parts of the State where it is not in operation now;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Comparative study of Khadi and Village Industries

2337. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried

out a detailed comparative study of the Khadi and Village Industries;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the persons engaged in Khadi and Village Industries in each State; and
- (d) what are their earnings per day, State-wise?

Assistance to Plasma Institute, Gandhinagar

†2338. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to provide more economic assistance to Gandhinagar based Plasma Institute;
- (b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when a decision is likely to be taken?

517

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Ill effects of nuclear tests

- †2339. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) the type of ill effects likely to be caused as a result of nuclear tests conducted in the country; and
- (b) whether such tests can be carried out at some other places also besides Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof?

Prevention of nuclear radiation

- 2340. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, "Pill to prevent N-radiation" appearing in the 'Times of India', dated the 15th June, 2002;
 - (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether any study has been/is being conducted in the matter so as to find out any pharmaceutical agent to prevent/counteract the effect of radiation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Purchase of electricity from Nuclear Power Corporation

- 2341. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the State Electricity Boards are reluctant to purchase electricity from the Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC) as it is expensive in comparison to Thermal/Hydel Power;
- (b) if so, the outstanding amount to be recovered by NPC from the State Electricity Boards; and

(c) the steps taken to bring nuclear power rates at par with Thermal/Hydel Power?

Phone connectivity in Faizabad

- 2342. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of villages without telephone connectivity in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh;
 - (b) the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to cover those villages with telephone connections in future?

New telecom circles in UP

- 2343. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have any proposal to set up some new telecom circles in Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the details of the schemes and programmes formulated and implemented, so far, in the State; and
- (c) the necessary steps taken by Government in this regard?

VSNL's outstanding dues against telecom carriers

- 2344. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
 - (a) whether a number of telecom carriers

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of the world are owing a huge amount to VSNL:

- (b) if so, the details of the carriers and the amounts due upto the 30th June, 2002, on each carriers; and
- (c) the amount which the international telecom carriers owe to VSNL upto the 30th June, 2002 and since when?

Suspension of practical industrial training by VSNL

2345. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited has suspended the practical industrial training being given to engineering students in between, without assigning any reasons thus causing harassment to a large number of students;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) what would be the fate of the students who could not complete their practical training and in what manner Government propose to compensate such students?

De-licensing of Bluetooth wireless technology

2346. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have recently de-licensed the Bluetooth wireless technology in 2.4. GHz band for indoor use; and
- (b) whether Government would permit use of this technology for outdoor users?

Sale of personal computers

- 2347. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the sale of Personal Computers has shown a considerable downward trend in 2001-2002;
- (b) if so, the negative growth thereof and the actual number of units sold and Value thereof;
 - (c) the reasons for downward trend; and
- (d) whether Government expect the trend to reverse during 2002-2003?

Extravagancy in BSNL

2348. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bharat Sanchar Nigam main Karodon ki Phizulkharchi" which appeared in the 'Panjab Kesari' dated the 4th July, 2002;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) what corrective steps are proposed to be taken to address various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the news article regarding corrupt practices between Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited?

Mobile connections through BSNL in Kerala

2349. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any

decision to provide mobile connections through BSNL in Kerala;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

Introduction of WLL Services in Mainpuri

- †2350. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answers to Starred Question 325 and Unstarred Questions 1203 and 779 given on the 14th August 2001, 29th November, 2001 and 7th March, 2002 respectively and state:
- (a) whether WLL services have been introduced in the Mainpuri district, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of telephone connections provided in villages Anjani and Shahjahanpur of Mainpuri;
- (c) if no connections have been provided, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether telephone connections would be provided by August, 2002?

Software exports to Germany

- 2351. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Germany has become India's new software market;
- (b) if so, whether after the US and the UK, Germany is fast emerging as the largest market for Indian Software exports despite slowdown;
- (c) whether Germany has also started introducing Green Cards to IT specialists

which has created enthusiasm among IT firms in India;

- (d) if so, to what extent software exports to Germany has improved; and
- (e) what are the other countries to which India is exporting software?

VSNL's internet service in Metros

2352. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of subscribers of VSNL's Internet service in all metros;
- (b) whether the rate of internet subscribers of VSNL has decreased in the past years; and
 - (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

STD/ISD/PCO booths in Assam

- 2353. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths presently running in different districts of Assam;
- (b) the number of booths proposed to be installed during 2002-2003;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated for the purpose; and
- (d) the steps taken so far by Government in this regard?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Requirement of witness for opening of savings account

- 2354. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether for opening of a Savings Account in Post Office, a witness is required who already holds an account in the same branch:
- (b) if so, whether for opening of another account by the same person in the same branch the usual formality is again required;
- (c) if so, whether such formality is not required in the Nationalised banks; and
- (d) if so, the reasons of discrimination in opening of accounts in post offices in comparison to the Nationalised banks?

Target for I.T. exports

- 2355. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) the target set for I.T. exports during this year; and
- (b) Government's role in the growth of domestic hardware brands to enable India to become a major power in that sector?

Software technology parks

- 2356. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a number of software technology parks of India units have either got their licences cancelled or closed down during the last two years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, area-wise;
- (c) whether Government have developed a strategy to boost software export;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Bandwidth to S.T.P.I.

- 2357. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Department of Information Technology has acceded to the demand of Software Technology Park of India to provide bandwidth to call centres;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures undertaken to provide bandwidth in remote areas of the country where V.S.N.L. is unable to access?

Dues of Postal Department to Indian Airlines

- 2358. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Posts and Telegraph Department owes crores of rupees to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the cargo that the airline has carried since 1994.
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for withholding the payment; and
- (d) by when the arrears would be cleared?

VSNL's dues on American companies

†2359. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an amount of \$30 million of VSNL is outstanding against a number of American companies;
- (b) if not, the actual amount due till March, 2002;
- (c) the names of American companies along with the amount due on these companies; and
 - (d) by when it is likely to be recovered?

Downward trend in IT sector

2360. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that IT sector in the country has been slowed down in the year 2002-2003;
- (b) if so, the steps Government propose to take for achieving the propriety in the sector; and
- (c) whether there would be demand for Indian IT professionals across the world in near future, if so, the details thereof?

Bid for installation of telephones from MNCs and indigenous companies

2361. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the telecom circles for

which bids were received from the multinational and Indian companies jointly some times before 1995 for undertaking installation of telephones as per provisions in the telecom policy;

- (b) if so,the details of such bids;
- (c) whether such action was repeated by the DoT; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Visit of high powered US delegation

2362. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a high powered delegation headed by the Secretary of USA had visited India some times before 1995;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that in order to observe the formalities an agreement was reached between the Chairman of Telecom Commission and representative of US delegation;
- (c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether the agreement was signed between Government and Head of delegation of USA; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Award of work to MNC for induction of latest technology

2363. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to award parts of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to a US based MNC for induction of latest technology by the then Government on pilot project basis, without a licence fee during 1995;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that instead of signing MoU between Government and Head of the US delegation, an agreement reached between the Chairman, Telecom and representative of the delegation;
- (d) the reasons for which MoU was not signed; and
- (e) Government's reaction/decision thereto?

Non-availability of Kisan Vikas Patra

- 2364. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that Kisan Vikas Patra in the denomination of Rs. 500/- and above are not available in various Post Offices in the country;
- (b) whether there was any demand and reminder for such Kisan Vikas Patras from Gujarat circle; and
- (c) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Vacancies in Department of Posts

- 2365. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of vacancies in department of Posts in the different parts of the country, State-wise/category-wise and since when;
- (b) by when these vacant posts are likely to be filled up; and
- (c) the details of the new post offices to be opened in the country, location-wise/ district-wise/State-wise?

Cell services by M/s Bharti

- 2366. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether M/s Bharti proposes to launch cell services in three new circles; if so, the details thereof and the type of cell services proposed to be launched;
- (b) the overall investment of the company in cell services with areas of coverage;
- (c) the fresh areas proposed to be covered in the next phase; and
- (d) whether the company propose to offer any kind of incentives to the customers to woo them?

Provision of village telephones by BSNL and DoT

2367. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) what has been the percentage of village telephones provided by the public sector BSNL and DoT during the last three years and what is the percentage of telephones installed as against the number of DELs installed from 1998 to 2001;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Attorney General of India has opined before migration to the National Telecom Policy 1999, that two sets of licensing regimes were legally not tenable to the growth of telecom; and
- (c) whether Government have accepted this recommendation or continuing with two sets of licenses in the telecom sector?

USO fund norms

2368. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund norms have not been finalized by the DoT in tune with the recommendations of the TRAI and NTP 1999:
- (b) whether NTP 1999 clearly mentions that USO would be paid for the balance uncovered villages but there is a controversy over USO fund between Government and Private Sector;
- (c) if so, whether Government are planning to have a relook at USO policy and give incentives in the nature of capital expenditure and operational expenses for providing village Panchayat telephones, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Management of VSNL

- 2369. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that VSNL was a sick and mismanaged unit;
- (b) if not, the reasons for its disinvestment;
- (c) the number of Government nominees that exist in VSNL Board of Directors and whether the Board can take any decision without concurrence of Government nominees; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for the existence of Government nominees?

Funds for paddy procurement in Chhattisgarh

- †2370. SHRI RAMDHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether any demand for grant of Rs. 500 crore has been made by Chhattisgarh for paddy procurement on support prices as has been provided to Punjab; and
- (b) if so, the action taken thereon, so far, in this regard?

Starvation deaths in Palamau district of Jharkhand

2371. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported starvation deaths in Palamau district of Jharkhand; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Prices of sugar

- 2372. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the prices of sugar have risen by around 35-40 per cent during the past six months:
- (b) if so, whether the prospects of improving the industry with the introduction of monthly quotas, future trading and the availability of transport subsidy have fuelled expectations of investors in this sector;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) whether the Central and State Governments have been able to formulate a policy on upstream product-sugarcane product and the movement of downstream products; and
- (d) if so, to what extent these steps have been able to help the sugar industry?

Decontrol of sugar prices

2373. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item whice appeared in the 'Financial Express' dated the 1st July, 2002 captioned "Monthly quota may dampen sugar decontrol";
- (b) if so, whether Government have examined the report;
- (c) whether this decision was taken by Government in view of sugar prices at Rs. 1,350-1,400 per quintal in April-June, 2002, which was 14-15 per cent down from Rs. 1550-1600 levels of April-June, 2001; and
- (d) if so, to what extent Government have been able to help the sugar industry?

Misappropriation of PDS Commodities by Andhra Pradesh

- 2374. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether CAG's recent report has indicted Andhra Pradesh for misappropriating PDS commodities allocated to the State for distribution amongst the poor through PDS;

- (b) if so, what are the details thereof; and
- (c) what corrective measures Government have taken in this regard?

Foodgrains to BPL families

- †2375. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have failed to provide foodgrains to the BPL families as per prescribed norms;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether poorest among poor are not in a position to purchase foodgrains being distributed through Public Distribution System under the "Antyodaya Yojna" due to least purchasing power;
- (d) the storage of foodgrains as on the 30th June, 2002; and
- (e) the annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance of this storage capacity?

Procurement of rice and wheat from different States

- 2376. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) the quantity of rice and wheat procured from different States for storage and distribution, State-wise;
- (b) what is its percentage out of total production of wheat and rice in the States;
- (c) the reasons for large variation in above percentage in different States;
- (d) the reasons for less procurement of rice and wheat in comparison to its production in Bihar; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) what efforts are being made to increase this percentage?

(c) the measures proposed to lessen the burden on consumers?

Buffer stock of foodgrains

2377. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the existing buffer stock of foodgrains in the country;
- (b) whether the stock of foodgrains exceeds the limit of buffer stock; and
- (c) if so, the manner in which Government propose to use the buffer stock for the benefit of people below the poverty line?

Subsidy for handling foodgrains

2378. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of subsidy being provided by Government for handling of foodgrains;
- (b) the reasons for payment of food subsidy;
- (c) whether the subsidy is being paid to the farmers; and
- (d) if so, how the farmers are benefited by the payment of subsidy?

Prices of edible oils

2379. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether prices of all the edible oils have considerably risen, recently;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

Wastage of foodgrains during transportation

2380. SHRI RANGANATH MISRA: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that lot of foodgrains is wasted while transferring it from farms to godowns or from godowns to rail or road dispatch centres;
- (b) if so, the details of the quantity of foodgrains wasted during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the quantity of foodgrains wasted is minimized?

Wheat export

- 2381. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether India exported wheat during 2001-2002 to various countries;
- (b) if so, whether there are prospects of exporting ten million tonnes of wheat during 2002-2003;
- (c) whether this has greatly affected the US chances of exporting wheat;
- (d) if so, whether the countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and West Asia have given preference to the Indian wheat than the US; and
- (e) if so, what are the efforts being made to export more wheat to these countries?

FDI in food sector

2382. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has opposed the proposal for FDI in food sector;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) to what extent Government have agreed to the proposal?

PDS Control Order, 2001

- †2383. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Public Distribution System Control Order, 2001 was brought to protect interests of economically weaker sections of the society;
- (b) the details of officers/employees punished under the provisions of this Order, State-wise; and
- (c) whether the benefits of the provisions of Order have reached such people throughout the country?

BPL people in Uttaranchal

- †2384. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that 36 per cent population of the country is living below the poverty line and what is the State-wise number thereof;
 - (b) the existing quota of foodgrains for

- the States in comparison to the quota of foodgrains being disbursed under this head before increasing the quantity of 10 kilograms of grains being given to the people living below the poverty line; and
- (c) whether Uttaranchal Government has not been able to identify this section properly?

Marketing of fake consumer goods

2385. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of fake consumer goods are being marketed in the country on a large scale;
- (b) if so, the stringent measures taken to control the menace; and
- (c) whether Government would contemplate any long term strategy to curb the practice?

Foodgrains under Antyodaya Anna Yojana

- †2386. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that two times' meal is not available to five per cent population i.e., more than five crore people of the country;
- (b) whether Government have introduced 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana' to salvage the society from this painful situation in which there is an arrangement to provide 35 kg. ration per week including wheat and rice at very cheap rates *i.e.* at Rs. 2 per kg. and at Rs. 3 per kg. respectively; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the State-wise details thereof togetherwith the per month quantum of foodgrains being provided to Uttaranchal under this head?

PDS beneficiaries

2387. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people getting benefited by the Public Distribution System in the country for the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) how many States have subsidized foodgrains, sugar and kerosene for BPL families under PDS:
- (c) whether it is a fact that in many States below poverty line people cannot buy food items due to the monthly distribution system existing there:
- (d) the States, which have monthly and weekly public distribution; and
- (e) whether Government have taken any steps to recommend the respective State Governments to make the distribution weekly?

Removal of goods from the purview of Essential Commodities Act

2388. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Out of Essential Commodities Act, cement quality suffers" as reported in the 'Times of India' dated the 17th June, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether due to non imposition of mandatory quality control order on cement

manufacturers, the consumers are being cheated:

- (c) if so, the facts thereof and whether Government have removed certain goods from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act in the recent past; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Closure of Super Bazaar

- †2389. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have issued orders to close down the Super Bazaar; and
- (b) if so, the details of the amount of compensation being given to the employees of Super Bazaar?

Duty on palm oil

- 2390. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether vanaspati producers have revived their demand to cut duty on palm oil to reduce burden on the industry; and
 - (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Amount due on sugar mills

†2391. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- of dues of the sugarcane growers were outstanding against sugar mills at the end of June. 2002:
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government have taken any action for payment of such outstanding amount?

Services provided by BIS

- 2392. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) the recent steps taken by Government to increase the services provided by BIS in various parts of the country, specifically to Northern India;
- (b) the reasons for the shortage of technical manpower;
- (c) what are the differences between the different certifications such as product certification, quality management certification etc.; and
- (d) the products that have been given the BIS mark by the State level Committee in Puniab?

CAG's criticism of foodgrain prices

- 2393. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has criticized the Centre's policy on prices of foodgrains;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken to set right the shortcomings pointed out by the CAG?

Research on consumer behaviour

- 2394. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are promoting research on consumer behaviour in order to identify ways to make consumption patterns more sustainable;
- (b) if so, the specific areas of thrust and the details of research conducted;
- (c) whether any regulatory mechanism exist in the country to protect consumer and economic measures to promote sustainable consumption;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government have in place economic measures such as taxes or subsidies that promote sustainable consumption; if so, the details therefor?

BPL people in Madhya Pradesh

- †2395. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have identified the families living below poverty line in Madhya Pradesh who are to be covered under the targeted public distribution system and if so, details thereof:
- (b) whether all families have been issued special ration card and if not the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to issue ration cards at the earliest as they have less purchasing power?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Export of sugar machinery to South Africa

2396. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Sugar and General Engineering Corporation has become the first Indian sugar machinery supplier to make a dent in the Central African Region;
- (b) if so, whether it has bagged an order of over \$5 million (Rs. 26.5 crores) for setting up an integrated sugar plant near Lusaka in Zambia;
- (c) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) what are the efforts being made to approach other countries in setting up of such projects?

Uniform grain procurement policy

†2397. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a suggestion regarding formulation of a uniform grain procurement policy;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) by when a final decision in this regard would be taken?

Liquidation of surplus foodgrains

- 2398. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) the extent to which Government have been able to liquidate surplus foodgrains stocks through exports and food assistance to other countries during the last year; and
- (b) the problems in increasing the quantum of export and food assistance?

Export of foodgrains to Iraq

- 2399. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether foodgrains were exported to Iraq recently and that country has raised certain issues; if so, the details thereof and whether these issues have since been resolved;
- (b) which are the countries to whom foodgrains were exported during the last one year, quantity-wise and the amount earned in foreign exchange;
- (c) whether the country has also imported any type of foodgrains from other countries during the above period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, together with reasons therefor; and
- (e) the amount paid to those countries in foreign exchange?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Testing of samples of mineral water companies

- 2400. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 68 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 2002 and state:
- (a) whether the samples taken from the Delhi Bisleri Company Limited were also tested in Industrial Toxicology Research Institute, Lucknow and other similar Government laboratories:
 - (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government propose to monitor the samples from Delhi Bisleri Company Limited from time to time and if not, the reasons therefor?

Transportation cost of sugar

- 2401. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments had represented to the Central Government for allowance of actual road transportation charges in respect of lifting of levy sugar under levy sugar price equalization fund scheme; and
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to alleviate the problems faced by transporters of sugar because of high cost of transportation?

Response on proposal for joint patrolling

- 2402. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) the response of the Pakistan authorities, the US, Britain and other major interlocutors to the Indian proposal for joint Indo-Pak army patrolling on the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir and other borders to prevent infiltration of terrorists; and
- (b) what steps have since been taken in the light thereof for de-escalation of military stand-off between the two countries?

Panic evacuation of foreign citizens

2403. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the foreign diplomatic community and his Ministry are blaming the US embassy for triggering the panic evacuation of foreign citizens from India and Pakistan;
- (b) if so, whether there is a deep anger in India that US and Britain has encouraged many other countries to follow suit and ask their citizens to leave India;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Government to check this; and
- (d) to what extent it has been now reduced?

Agreement for nuclear arms cut

2404. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Russia have reached an agreement for nuclear arms cut;
- (b) if so, the features of the agreement; and
- (c) to what extent this agreement would help in reducing the tension and arms cut in the country?

Human rights violation in Jammu and Kashmir

2405. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether British Foreign Secretary, during his recent meeting with him in New Delhi, had raised the issue of human rights violation in Jammu and Kashmir; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

Arrangements for Haj pilgrims

- †2406. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) the arrangements made for the Haj pilgrims this year and whether it has been ensured that all the Haj pilgrims may go on journey safely and well in time by aeroplanes;
- (b) whether the arrangements of their stay in Makkah and Madina have been finalised; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to sort out the problems faced by the pilgrims during the last three years and the number

of pilgrims who are allowed to go to perform Haj this year?

Portraying of South Africans of Indian origin

2407. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in South Africa a song was written portraying South Africans of Indian origin as oppressors of black people;
- (b) if so, whether Government have taken up the issue with the Government of South Africa; and
 - (c) if so, the outcome thereof?

Simplification of issuance of passport

- 2408. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have recently decided to simplify the procedure for issuing of passports to citizens without any hassles and hindrance;
- (b) if so, the details of the measures taken in this regard;
- (c) whether Government have decided to open more Regional Passport Offices across the country; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Rates of accommodation abroad

- 2409. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether any rates have been fixed for accommodation for the officers including

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Group-A visiting abroad for official purpose like training, attending seminars etc. status-wise:

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the criterion adopted by the missions abroad for hiring accommodation for officers visiting abroad for official purpose?

Functioning of terrorists camps in Pakistan

- 2410. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Pak jehadi assembly line still functional', published in the 'Hindustan Times', dated the 6th June, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether terrorists camps in Pak occupied Kashmir are functioning at its peak and the promise of the Pak Government to end cross border terrorism is lying in cold storage; and
 - (c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

American influence in Indian foreign policy

- †2411. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the foreign policy of India is under influence of America;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that India has repeatedly failed to get Pakistan declared as a terrorist nation despite all the evidences due to its foreign policy being under influence?

Closure of Indian offices in Pakistan

- †2412. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that all the Indian offices in Pakistan have been kept closed due to involvement of Pakistan indirectly in continued terrorism in India;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that America is continuously exercising pressure upon India to re-open its offices and to normalise the situation; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Non-alignment policy

- 2413. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have virtually shifted from the policy of non-alignment;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, the steps taken by Government to strengthen this policy?

US refusal to declare Pakistan a terrorist state

2414. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the United States has refused to list Pakistan as a terrorist state;
 - (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether it is due to diplomatic failure or due to other political reasons that Government could not provide convincing

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

evidence to US for taking a decision in favour of India; and

(d) Government's strategy to pressurize US Government to list Pakistan as terrorist state?

Regrouping of Taliban in Afghanistan

- 2415. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have any information about the regrouping of Taliban in Afghanistan;
 - (b) whether they are getting foreign aids;
- (c) if so, the known sources of aid to Taliban:
- (d) whether the available information has been passed on to the Governments of USA and UK; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

British Foreign Secretary's visit to India and Pakistan

- 2416. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the British Foreign Secretary visited Pakistan after his talks with the Indian leaders and returned to India with some feed back;
- (b) if so, whether any headway has been made to resolve border tension; and
- (c) how far Indian foreign diplomacy has succeeded in taming Pakistan?

Extradition of Prabhakaran

2417. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether during his recent visit to Sri Lanka on the eve of the current session of Parliament, he had taken up with Sri Lanka the question of extradition of V. Prabhakaran in connection with the assassination of Late Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India; and
- (b) if so, the Sri Lankan Government's response thereto?

Reports of US Commission on Gujarat violence

2418. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the 'Asian Age', captioned "The foreign hand in Gujarat is home-grown" mentioning that the US Commission on International Religious Freedom has strongly condemned the Gujarat Government for its alleged complicity in the "genocide, ethnic cleansing programme" directed at Muslims;
- (b) if so, whether the said US Commission has also pointed out that extremist organisations in India are getting fund from Indian diaspora in the UK and the USA; and
- (c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Differences between India and US on infiltration issue

2419. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned

"India, US differ on infiltration issue" which published in 'The Times of India' dated the 14th July, 2002;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government accept the US assessment in the matter; and
- (d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Naming of PoK as Azad Kashmir by World Bank

2420. SHRI AIMADUDDIN
AHMED KHAN
(DURRU):
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recently reported World Bank aid for a development project in Pak-occupied-Kashmir (PoK), named by the Bank as Azad Kashmir:
- (b) if so, whether Government had taken up the issue with World Bank, on the ground that the area formed part of the Sovereign Indian territory which was under forced-illegal occupation of Pakistan;
- (c) if so, the World Bank's response and reaction thereto; and
- (d) what other steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

Terrorist's telecommunication towers in PoK

†2421. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a list of telecommunication towers, being used by terrorists in Pak occupied Kashmir, was handed over to America's Deputy Secretary of State Mr. R. Armitage by Government;
- (b) if so, the number of towers included in the list; and
- (c) the purpose of handing over the said list and whether any action has been taken after handing over the list; if so, the details thereof?

Atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh

†2422. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in 'Navbharat Times' dated the 3rd June, 2002 under the caption "Bangladesh Mein Hinduon Ke Viruddh Hinsa Zaari: Amnesty"; and
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken to prevent incidents of atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

American aid to Pakistan

- 2423. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that the U.S. has recently paid to Pakistan more than eight billion dollors while, many a times expressing fear of Indo-Pak nuclear war and even asked its citizens to leave India;
- (b) whether Government have reportedly "nailed America for double-speak on Pak" and revealed that "New Delhi's patience with America's South Asia Policy may be wearing thin" and expressed the view "we don't see signs of an end, rather there has been a revival" support to cross border terrorism; and
- (c) if so, how Government propose to deal with this matter?

Suggestions by Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrims

- 2424. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the pilgrims who went on Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra have, on return, urged Government to provide Indian cooks and doctors during their stay in Chinese territory;
- (b) what other demands have been put forward before Government; and
 - (c) the other details in this regard?

Action against ULFA by Bhutan

- 2425. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
 - (a) whether it is a fact that the Bhutan

- Government has taken action against ULFA in their territory;
- (b) whether some camps of ULFA have been shifted from Bhutan; if so, to which places;
- (c) whether such type of actions have been taken by Bangladesh Government also; and
- (d) what help has been offered by Government to these Governments in dealing with ULFA?

Fake passport racket in the country

- †2426. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the work of making fake passports in the country is going on at a very fast pace;
- (b) if so, whether some persons have been found involved in this work, recently;
- (c) if so, whether Government have taken any action against them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Service tax on embassies

- 2427. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether NDMC propose to impose service tax on embassies in Delhi; and
 - (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Welfare schemes for salt workers

- 2428. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of workers in the salt sector, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) the welfare schemes formulated by Government for them and the number of workers benefited from these schemes, so far, State-wise;
- (c) the funds allocated under these schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the schemes operating in Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat?

Direct/indirect employment generation through NGO

- 2429. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) the extent of unemployment problem in the country indicating the State-wise, number of unemployed, both educated and uneducated, gender-wise; and
- (b) the number of direct and indirect employment generated through NGOs by implementation of Government Schemes as well as funding from other sources including foreign funding, State-wise?

Child labour in A.P.

- 2430. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that there are presently more than two million child labour in Andhra Pradesh;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the occupations in which generally these Children have been employed; and
- (d) what remedial measures Government propose to take to free these children from work and send them to schools?

Settlement of pending industrial disputes

- †2431. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are contemplating to fix a time schedule for Central Government industrial tribunal and labour courts constituted under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 on the lines of Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Notification, 2002, for speedy settlement of pending industrial disputes of labourers; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

Eradication of child labour

- 2432. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to raise the allocation for eradication of child labour in the country; and
- (b) if so, what is the present allocation for the same and the details of the raised allocation?

Women workers engaged in fish processing industry

- 2433. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have decided to make any study regarding the problem of women engaged in fish processing industry;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (c) the action taken in this regard?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pending industrial disputes

- †2434. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of disputes pending before the Government industrial tribunals and labour courts established under the Industrial Disputes Act 1947, situated at New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata;
- (b) the time taken generally for disposal of industrial disputes; and
- (c) whether Government are contemplating to increase the number of presiding officers in Central Government industrial tribunals and labour courts in metropolitan cities of the country in view of the number of pending industrial disputes?

Functioning of ESI hospitals

- 2435. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKA-RASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have reviewed the working of ESI hospitals;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the functioning is found to be satisfactory;
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government propose to open more ESI hospitals; and
 - (f) if so, the details thereof?

Rise in unemployment

- 2436. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that unemployment is gradually on the rise all over the country;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) what steps are being taken to control unemployment in the country;
- (d) the number of unemployed in the country as on the 31st March, 2002; and
- (e) what is the impact of Government's disinvestment policy *vis-a-vis* unemployment problem in the country?

Eradication of child labour

- 2437. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have decided to raise allocation for eradication of child labour during the current plan period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the comparative increase in allocation from the previous plan period;
- (c) whether the targets of eradication of child labour in the country during the previous plan was achieved;
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the present target of eradication of child labour during the current plan period and the effective steps taken to achieve the targets?

Unemployed persons in Assam

- 2438. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the unemployed persons registered with the various employment exchanges in Assam as on the 30th April, 2002, employment exchange-wise;
- (b) whether Government have any plans to solve the increasing unemployment problem day by day in the country; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Employment opportunities

- †2439. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) the employment opportunities created in the country during the year 2001-2002;
- (b) the number of persons rendered unemployed in the wake of liberalisation;
- (c) the current status of the declaration by the Prime Minister to provide employment to one crore persons every year; and
- (d) whether Government have received the report of Montek Singh Ahluwallia Committee; if so, what are the recommendations made by the Committee?

Corruption in PF offices

- 2440. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a large-scale corrupt practices are prevailing in different regional PF offices;
- (b) whether poor employees are being losers due to the default/callousness of the RPF offices; and
- (c) if so, the remedial measures contemplated by Government?

Welfare of the labourers in unorganised sector

2441. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken any steps to ensure the welfare of the labourers in unorganized sectors such as agriculture, small hotels and dhabas, textiles, leather etc.;
- (b) if so, the various welfare measures taken by Government for the unorganized workers in agriculture and other sectors during the last three years; and
- (c) the number of people covered under these programmes, during the last three years, State-wise?

Closure of industries

- 2442. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 860 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th March, 2002 and state:
- (a) whether there is no system of maintaining records of the industries which are closed without taking Government's prior permission; and
- (b) if so, what steps are being taken to streamline the system?

Amendment in I.D. Act

- 2443. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have decided to amend the Industrial Disputes Act in order to facilitate labour reforms;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) whether it is proposed to consult the various State Governments and the different labour Unions before embarking upon this exercise:
- (d) if so, what efforts have been made so far in this direction; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Session of Tripartite Standing Labour Commission

- 2444. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that 38th Session of the Tripartite Standing Labour Commission was held recently;
- (b) whether the Trade Unions were highly critical of the move by Government to bring about far reaching changes in the labour laws without consulting them;
- (c) if so, the details of the other issues discussed and the results thereof; and
- (d) whether Government propose to consult Trade Unions before making changes in Labour Laws?

Ratio of income and expenditure of wage earners

2445. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTER-JEE:

SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the ratio of income and expenditure of wage earners in respect of food, clothing, housing, medical and education in India and other developing countries?

Accountability of higher officers to check corruption

2446. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the measures

proposed to ensure that those vested with power be made accountable and subject to social audit to check corruption and improve efficiency in public life?

CVC's consent before filing charge-sheet

2447. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKA-RASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation has to obtain consent of the Chief Vigilance Commissioner before filing charge-sheet; and
- (b) if so, how many cases have been filed before the court without the consent of Chief Vigilance Commissioner?

Vigilance cases registered by CVC

2448. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of vigilance cases registered by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) against senior level Government officers during the last three years;
- (b) the number of cases in which major penalty was imposed;
- (c) the number of officers against whom prosecution proceedings have been launched for corruption charges;
- (d) the number of cases in which officials were convicted; and
- (e) the number of cases in which the officers were acquitted for want of adequate proof?

Pension reforms in Railways

2449. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the pension reform programme undertaken by the Railways?

Discrimination with Hindi speaking candidates in Civil Services Examination

- †2450. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item published in Hindi daily 'Navbharat Times' dated the 8th June, 2002 under the caption "Civil Service Sakshatkar mein Hindi bhashi abhyarthiyon se durvyavhar";
- (b) if so, the reasons for this discrimination;
- (c) whether Government propose to take some effective measures in this regard; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Revision of OTA rates

- †2451. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have revised wage ceiling for purposes of overtime and rates of overtime allowance on the basis of revised pay scales; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Amendment to Anti-Corruption Laws

- 2452. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Chief Vigilance Commissioner has suggested to Government for amending the Anti-Corruption Laws;
- (b) when he has suggested and what are his main suggestions; and
- (c) the decision taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this matter?

Vacancies of Special Directors and Joint Directors in CBI

- 2453. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of posts of Special Directors and Joint Directors in CBI are lying vacant for the last many months;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when these posts would be filled up; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to improve functioning of this premier investigating agency?

Recommendations regarding additional pension

2454. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

> SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHARJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended for grant of

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

additional pension at the rate of 0.5 per cent for each completed six-months period of service in excess of 33 years subject to a limit of 35 years;

- (b) if so, whether the recommendation was accepted;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether it is now proposed to accept and implement the same in order to give some relief to the pensioners?

Automatic merger of Dearness Relief with pension

2455. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHARJEE:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended an automatic merger of Dearness Relief with pension in the case of pensioners simultaneously whenever Dearness Allowance is merged with pay in the case of serving employees;
- (b) whether the decision has been accepted and implemented by Government;
- (c) if not, the reasons for the discriminatory treatment to the serving and the retired employees; and
- (d) whether Government would have a second look into the matter, and if not, the reasons therefor?

CBI inquiry against higher officers

†2456. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that CBI has conducted inquiry against the persons working in the posts of Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Director during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the number of such persons against whom inquiry has been conducted since March, 1999 to till date; and
- (c) the number of persons, out to them, suspended from their services?

CBI cases against gazetted officers

2457. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the CBI has registered cases against 1,115 gazetted officers under the Prevention of Corruption Act and imposed fines amounting to Rs. 1.85 crores last year;
- (b) if so, whether this shows that high corruption is prevailing amongst the Government officials in the country; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check corruptions in the Government offices?

Pension plan for new Government employees

2458. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that new pension plan for new Government employees may spill beyond the deadline already declared by Government;
- (b) if so, whether Government have find out the causes involving miscalculation of new pension plan;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) how Government would manage the pension of new employees appointed on or after 1st October, 2001?

Changes in Civil Services Examinations

- 2459. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether an examination reforms Committee headed by Prof. Y. K. Alagh has suggested extensive changes in the Civil Services examination system in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations:
- (c) whether these changes have been considered and made applicable for the future examinations;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) what provisions have been made to ensure a candidate with broad overview can get into the Civil Services rather than the candidate with more bookish knowledge?

Teachers in Grih Kalyan Kendra

- 2460. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that teachers training of unrecognized duration and or diplomas obtained from unrecognized institutions are not treated as a valid qualification for employment under Central, State Governments and in Government aided schools etc.;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that this provision is violated by Grih Kalyan Kendra, Delhi while employing Nursery Teachers having unrecognized one year Nursery Teacher Training and/or diplomas obtained from unrecognized institutions;

- (c) if so, the details of Nursery Schools where such teachers and B. Ed. teachers are employed; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken by Government?

National vision-2020

- 2461. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Planning Commission has prepared/finalised "National vision 2020" document in order to have a perspective plan of development for the next 20 years;
 - (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) if not, by when the document would be finalised?

Economic condition in the country

- †2462. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that industrialists are also disagreed with the Prime Minister's assessment presented in respect of economic condition of the country in the meeting of Industry and Trade Advisory Council;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that 33 crore of people in the country still live below poverty line and there are 20 crore of people who have no means to feed themselves even one time:
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures being taken by Government for betterment of these people?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Per capita income

†2463. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that average annual national per capita income has been assessed as Rs. 15, 562 in the country;
 - (b) if not, the actual per capita income;
- (c) the year for the assessment of the income;
- (d) whether Government have identified the citizens with lesser income *vis-a-vis* national average income in various States; and
 - (e) the details thereof?

Per capita income of various States

†2464. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there exists a big gap in per capita income in the various States:
- (b) if so, the per capita income in each State during the year 2000-2001; and
- (c) whether any special scheme has been made for development of States with low per capita income?

Objectives of National Development Council

†2465. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of the National Development Council togetherwith the period after which its meetings are held;
- (b) whether some States have requested Government to change the criterion for allotment of assistance:
- (c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (d) by when, Government would hold discussions with the States on their request?

Fund for Chhattisgarh

- 2466. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have received a proposal for sanction of Rs. 5,000 crores in September-October, 2001 for the development of capital city of Chhattisgarh; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal is likely to be cleared by Government?

Golden Quadrilateral Highways Project

- 2467. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have adopted an annuity route instead of BOT method for some of the sectors in the Golden Quadrilateral Highways Project;
- (b) if so, how many sectors have so far been awarded on an annuity basis;
- (c) what is their length, cost, payment terms and also the names of the prime contractors and their consortium partners;

- (d) whether Government have assumed all the traffic risks in these sections; and
- (e) what is the length of highways that are planned to be offered through the annuity route?

Highway Coastal corridor in Andhra Pradesh

2468. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any action is being taken to build a highway coastal corridor, especially in Andhra Coast for speedy movement of traffic:
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the work would be finalised?

Change in number plates of vehicles

- 2469. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to change the number plates of vehicles in the country with a view to make them security foolproof by February, 2003; if so, the details thereof:
- (b) the reasons for the present change in the number plates for which the deadline had been fixed as July this year; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the current order for changing the number plates could have been kept in abeyance till February, 2003, instead of causing inconvenience and avoidable expenditure to six crore vehicle owners in the country?

Construction of Trans-asian road network

2470. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for construction of trans-asian network covering Thailand, Myanmar, India and Bangladesh;
- (b) whether there is any plan to develop the road from Agartala to the nearest city of Bangladesh, as Tripura is strategically convenient; and
- (c) whether Government are attaching importance to the proposal in consideration of the terroristic problems prevailing in the North-Eastern Region of the country?

Upgradation of roads in hilly region

- 2471. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2747 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th April, 2002 and state:
- (a) the amount of assistance being provided by the World Bank for upgradation of road and by when, the work of upgradation would be started for convenience of the people of hilly region;
- (b) whether Government have awarded any tender for upgradation of this road; and
 - (c) the action being taken in this regard?

Pollution check

- 2472. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a vehicle is now mandatory for pollution check after every three months and there are more than 30 lakh vehicles in the Capital;

- (b) whether the fake pollution vehicle certificates are easily available on payment of premium in Noida, Gurgaon and Faridabad adjoining cities of the Capital;
- (c) if so, the steps being taken to check the malpractice;
- (d) whether Government propose to make the pollution check compulsory at least once in six months or in a year instead of three months keeping in view the problems of vehicle owners; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Golden Quadrilateral Project

- 2473. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the progress achieved so far by the National Highways Authority of India on the Golden Quadrilateral, East-West and South-North Projects;
- (b) whether any major obstacles are being faced for funds tie-up;
- (c) the sections of National Highway Development Project (N.H.D.P.) which are being tolled; and
- (d) the details of the economic benefits, especially employment that would accrue from this project?

Construction of Mughal Road in Kashmir

- 2474. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that for resuming the works for construction of Mughal Road from Poonch-Rajouri to Shopian in Kashmir the Central and the State Governments have agreed on 50:50 basis expenditure for more than one year; and

(b) if so, the reasons for which the work on this project has not been started so far?

Meeting of National Road Safety Council

2475. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of the National Road Safety Council under his Chairmanship was held in June, 2001; and
 - (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

Naini bridge in Allahabad

- 2476. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Naini Bridge over Yamuna river at Allahabad with approach road of N.H.-27 in U.P. has not been completed as yet and as a result thereof the estimated cost of the project has increased terribly;
- (b) if so, the original estimated cost and likely cost of its completion; and
- (c) by when, the project is likely to be completed?

Four laning of road from Sikandra to Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh

- 2477. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the work on four laning of road from Sikandra to Varanasi in the U.P. is not progressing as per the schedule and if so, the reasons therefor;

- (b) the progress made so far on this project; and
 - (c) by when it is likely to be completed?

Construction of Golden Quadrilateral Project under BOT

2478. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have written to the State Governments for upgrading the roads:
- (b) if so, whether his Ministry would entertain anyone interested in constructing stretches of the Golden Quadrilateral connecting the four metros or the North-South and East-West corridors under the Build Operate Transfer scheme;
- (c) whether under the Central Road Fund, an assistance of about Rs. 1,000 crore per year is being given to the State highways;
- (d) if so, the assessment made by his Ministry in regard to investment of the fund by them; and
 - (e) what is the progress made so far?

Private sector investment in National Highways Development Project (NHDP)

2479. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest estimates, the second phase of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) would cost Rs. 30,000 crore out of which only Rs. 3,000 crore would be from the private sector; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for Government not encouraging the private sector to invest in this project?

Roads in Orissa

- 2480. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the National Highways Government propose to take up during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;
- (b) whether any such National Highway would pass through Orissa; if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have repaired the Highways in Orissa which were damaged during the last floods, supercyclone, etc.; if so, the details of the repairs and the amount spent on repairs or reconstruction etc.; and
- (d) whether some damaged highways are still to be repaired in Orissa and the State Government has shown its inability to share the cost for want of funds?

Tax collection in NER

- 2481. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government ar aware of the illegal tax collections on the National Highways in the North-Eastern States; and
- (b) if so, what steps have been taken to prevent such illegal practice?

North-South highways corridor in Tamil Nadu

- 2482. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the reasons for the delay in executing the North-South highway corridor, beyond

Tindivanam upto Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu;

- (b) by when the same would be completed; and
- (c) the places where road bridges are planned to be constructed?

Road damaged by earthquake in Gujarat

- 2483. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether most of the National Highways of Gujarat were damaged due to earthquake on the 26th January, 2001;
- (b) if so, the estimated loss on this account: and
- (c) the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to lay/repair new road of international standard in the State?

Maintenance of Highways in NER

2484. SHRI C. APOK JAMIR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the details of the amount allocated, released and utilised so far for construction of new National Highways and reparing as well as maintenance of present highways in NER particularly in Nagaland during the last five years, Highway-wise?

Sickness in SSI sector

2485. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the magnitude of sickness in the small

- scale industry sector since the initiation of economic reforms process, year-wise;
- (b) whether the sickness in the small scale industry sector is on the increase;
 - (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to solve the problem of sickness in the small scale industry sector?

Revival of small scale industries

- †2486. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of small scale industrial units in the country and the number of closed units and the steps being taken by Government to make them operational;
- (b) whether the banks are cooperating in reviving these sick units and whether the banks are following the instructions to grant loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs without any collateral security to set up any unit of small scale industry; and
- (c) whether Government are contemplating to enact any legislation to keep the small scale industry of the country alive?

SSIs in Tamil Nadu

- 2487. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of small scale industries in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) how many of them have been declared as sick;
- (c) how many workers were employed in these units;
- (d) how many workers have been rendered unemployed due to sickness/lock out of these units; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to revive these sick units?

Incentive to SSIs in Rajasthan

2488. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India and the Small Scale Industries Corporation has played any part in giving incentives to the Small Scale Industries in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the type of industries revived or newly set up by small scale entrepreneurs in the State; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ISRO's centre in Tamil Nadu

- 2489. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that ISRO has set up its centre at Kavalkinar in Tirunelveli

district of Tamil Nadu; if so, the details of the research work conducted so far, in the centre:

- (b) whether the research work is going on smoothly, without any hurdles;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof;
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether sufficient number of scientists and facilities have been provided in the centre for carrying out research activities; and
 - (f) if so, the details thereof?

Launch of 'GRAMSAT'

- 2490. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government intend to develop and launch a satellite 'GRAMSAT' to facilitate village level soil profiling, crop study, water level monitoring etc.;
- (b) if so, the likely date of developing and launching thereof; and
- (c) the cost projections and other details in this regard?

New Delhi;
The 2nd August, 2002
Sravana 11, 1924 (Saka)

R. C. TRIPATHI, Secretary-General.

550

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister : —

Agro and Rural Industries : 2336, 2337,

Atomic Energy : 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341,

Communications and Information

Technology : 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347,

2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365,

2366, 2367, 2368, 2369,

Consumer Affairs, Food and

Public Distribution : 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375,

2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399,

2400, 2401,

External Affairs : 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407,

2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425,

2426, 2427,

Labour : 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433,

2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445,

Parliamentary Affairs : —

Personnel, Public Grievances and

Pensions : 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451,

2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457,

2458, 2459, 2460,

Planning : 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466,

Road Transport and Highways : 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472,

2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484,

Small Scale Industries : 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488,

Space : 2489, 2490.

Statistics and Programme

Implementation : —

550

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