

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the August 8, 2003/Sravana 17, 1925 (Saka)

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and Forests;
Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development; Ocean
Development; Railways; Science and Technology; Steel;
Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions—155

Reducing edible oil imports

2078. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

- (a) whether edible oil imports are projected to hit well over the 41 per cent mark which reached in 2001-2002;
- (b) whether edible oil imports is likely to rise more than the last year;
- (c) if so, the total edible oil imports made during the last year;
- (d) to what extent it will be more during the current year;
- (e) whether the Ministry had opposed a reduction of duty on imported palm oil and palmolein by the Finance Ministry; and
- (f) by when the efforts would be made to see that the production of edible oil in the country is improved, so that imports are reduced?

Formulating national livestock policy

2079. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

- (a) whether alarmed at the decline in fund allocation for animal husbandry and fishery, the Centre and the States have favoured quick formulation of a National Livestock Policy

to step up investment, check cheap imports and protect farmers' interests under WTO regime;

- (b) if so, whether the State Ministers' Conference on animal husbandry was held in February, 2003;
- (c) if so, what were the main points discussed; and
- (d) what were the decisions taken?

Drought relief in Rajasthan through NGOs

2080. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large number of voluntary organisations and other NGOs from foreign countries had come to Rajasthan recently for the distribution of drought relief to BPL families;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the names of those foreign voluntary organisations and NGOs who had visited Rajasthan alongwith the places where they had visited and the nature of drought relief that had been distributed; and
- (c) how far such drought relief had helped to redress the problems of the drought affected people of Rajasthan?

Depletion of livestock

†2081. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that livestock in the country is depleting continuously;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to formulate a policy or enact a stringent law in order to protect livestock;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Ban on use of endosulfan on plantation crops

2082. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that endosulfan has been classified as 'highly hazardous' to health and banned in many countries;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that endosulfan is still being used in the country particularly in Karnataka and Kerala on cashew plantations and has been linked to hundreds of cases of birth defects, psychiatric illness, cancer etc.; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban the use of endosulfan on plantation crops in the country; if so, the details thereof?

Effectiveness of Jalkumbhi compost

†2083. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that compost made of 'Jalkumbhi' a typical water plant is more effective than manure for enhancing agricultural yield;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any step to promote its use; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Effect of pre-monsoon rains on kharif crops

2084. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the below normal rains in the pre-monsoon season and the delay in the onset of South-West monsoon had affected sowing of early kharif cereals and rice;

(b) if so, whether this would have any adverse impact on production of these grains; and

(c) if so, the likely fall in the production of these grains?

Development of Agriculture in Arid Zones

2085. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the arid zones in various States;

(b) the scheme presently being implemented for the development of agriculture in those arid zones; and

(c) the details of allocation made to various States during the last three years for the development of agriculture in those arid zones?

Production and procurement of potatoes

†2086. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that production of potatoes is continuously increasing in the country for last decade;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that alongwith the increase in the production of potatoes, its cost of production is also increasing;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that due to non-availability of proper arrangement for marketing of potatoes, the potato growers are facing financial crises?

Post production loss in agriculture sector

‡2087. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 per cent of post production crop is assessed to be lost in agriculture sector of the country;

(b) if not, facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such loss could be minimized with the use of advanced technology; and

(d) if so, facts in this regard and how it compares with loss in agriculture sector at international level?

Assessment of benefits of Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana

2088. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the progress and benefits of Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana scheme to farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Dead palms in Karnataka

2089. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of dead palms of coconut in Karnataka due to drought;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has sent any proposal seeking financial assistance to farmers for replanting;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action, if any, taken by Government to sanction compensation to farmers in this regard?

Oil seeds production

2090. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI M.V. RAJA-
SEKHARAN:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of oil seeds has declined in the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantum of oil seeds produced in Karnataka during the last three years?

Stepping up of agricultural loans

2091. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a opinion that agriculture loans must be stepped up where liberalisation has opened up new opportunities;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Ministry has taken up the issue with banks to provide agricultural loans to the farmers to make it a global competition;

(c) whether the reluctance of commercial banks to offer credit to agricultural sector at lower rates has forced Government to consider a proposal for a separate PLR for the sector; and

(d) if so, what are the other decision Government propose to take to provide funds for agricultural sector to improve the same?

Seeds Regulation Act

2092. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that a faulty provision in the Seeds Regulation Act, 1997 has affected the interests of the farmers throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the farmers to amend the Act suitably; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Agricultural production

2093. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any policy for increasing the Agricultural production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether agricultural produce is being exported/imported;

(d) if so, the item-wise details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to ban the imports of agricultural products?

Revival of National Crop Insurance Scheme

2094. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to revive National Crop Insurance Scheme for increasing the participation of farmers and making the scheme more efficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from Maharashtra Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

Agriculture lending rate

2095. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Minister had agreed to give a new deal for agriculture;

(b) if so, whether this proposal of the Finance Ministry to provide a new deal to agriculture has not been released, so far;

(c) if so, the main programmes of action the Ministry has decided to provide for promotion of agriculture in the country;

(d) whether due to slow rate of private sector investments in agriculture, the Ministry has urged for separate agriculture lending rate on the pattern of weaker sections and other such categories; and

(e) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Task force report on National Policy on Co-operatives

2096. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force appointed to implement a National Policy on Co-operatives has discussed the need for a single legislation for Co-operative societies; and

(b) if so, by what time the task force is likely to submit its report?

Encouraging agriculture on hilly land

2097. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to encourage agriculture on hilly land in the country where rain-fall is in abundance;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes in the North-Eastern States;

(c) how many new varieties of crops for the hilly area have been discovered with details on achievements; and

(d) what would be their extent of productivity?

Programmes of Agricultural and Technological Universities of ICAR

2098. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes/programmes of Agricultural and Technological Universities funded by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Union Government in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of funds allocated during the last three years;

(c) whether there is any mechanism for evaluating the achievements; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Assistance to H.P. from contingency fund

2099. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre had decided to release more funds from the contingency fund to help the drought, flood, thunder, landslide and snow affected areas of Himachal Pradesh for relief efforts in view of the fact the funds from the calamity relief fund are not enough to meet its demand; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

Mission for medicinal plants

2100. SHRI R. KAMARAJ:
SHRI THANGA TAMIL
SELVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any adhoc mission for researching medicinal plants throughout India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any measure to check exploitation by foreigners who are visiting India in the name of research study and importing medicinal plants at a huge cost in the name of foreign origin; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Growth of agriculture sector

2101. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meaningful growth in the agriculture sector is expected in 2003-04; if so, what is the basis therefor; and

(b) whether Central and State Governments are contemplating fresh investments in the irrigation facilities to bring additional areas under agriculture and whether Government is considering crop diversification so as to make agriculture more remunerative for farmers?

Assistance to Arunachal Pradesh

2102. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount granted to Arunachal Pradesh for development of agricultural sector in the State during the last three years;

(b) the total amount utilized by the State Government against the allocated amount, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure cent per cent utilization of the released amount for the purpose?

Assistance to Kerala for weils disease of coconut trees

2103. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance released to Kerala during the last year for the prevention of weils disease affecting coconut trees;

(b) whether Kerala Government utilised the fund allotted for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details of amount utilised and left un-utilised by the State Government;

(d) whether Government have discontinued the assistance due to the non-utilisation of fund; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of fodder

2104. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of fodder in the country owing to recurrent drought condition, with details of cattle lost directly on account of drought and resultant loss of agricultural produce in each State during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to replenish the fodder stock in each State during the last three years, year-wise?

Spurious seed manufacturing companies

2105. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of dealers/producers of seeds whose seeds were found to be of sub-standard quality during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by Government against such dealers/producers; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to provide quality seeds to farmers?

Fodder banks and fodder kits

2106. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amounts allocated to the States for setting up of fodder banks and fodder kits during the year 2002-2003;

(b) whether the fodder banks and kits have been sanctioned duly to the States where the drought situation is prevailing; and

(c) if so, the allocation made to Andhra Pradesh in 2002-2003 for setting up of fodder banks and fodder kits?

Foodgrains to drought affected States

2107. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much foodgrains have been allotted to the worst drought affected States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) what is the actual value of the foodgrains allotted to these States during the last three years; and

(c) what is the criteria adopted by Government for such allotments?

Setting up of fodder banks in Tamil Nadu

2108. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 63.12 lakhs has been provided to certain States for setting up of fodder banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance has been extended or proposed to be extended for setting up of fodder banks in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof;and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Making agriculture remunerative

† 2109. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculture in regions like Haryana, Punjab, Western Uttar Pradesh and in almost all the areas of the country is constantly turning into non-remunerative;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any concrete steps to make agriculture remunerative in these areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Cancer drugs under DPCO

2110. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Cancer Care Foundation and others are demanding for putting cancer drugs under Drug Price Control Order; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction?

Processing of farm product

2111. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to take up farm product processing is under the consideration of IFFCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to facilitate IFFCO's entry into this field?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Promotion of indigenous pharma

2112. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether new drugs coming out of indigenous R & D have been taken out of price control regime;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other steps taken and proposed to be taken to promote indigenous pharma R&D?

Special courts for environment related cases in Maharashtra

†2113. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have issued orders to open special courts in Maharashtra for speedy disposal of environment related cases;
- (b) if so, the fresh steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) by when such special courts are likely to be established?

Inclusion of Ganga and Gangotri pilgrimage in Ganga Action Plan

†2114. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the place of origin of Ganga-Gangotri pilgrimage is also included in the Ganga Action Plan;
- (b) if so, whether he is aware of the fact that thousands of pilgrims and Kanwarias going to Gangotri dump thousands of tonnes of garbage there every year;
- (c) if so, whether his Ministry has made

any plan on the line of public movement going on in Uttarkashi to clean the Gangotri and to protect the glacier; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

National River Conservation Plan

2115. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) what was the criteria of selection of rivers under the National River Conservation Plan;
- (b) what were the steps taken by Government for cleaning of rivers under this plan so far;
- (c) whether Government propose to include some more rivers and towns under this plan;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) what is the improvement made so far in the water quality of the rivers?

Vision Statement on the problems related on environmental health

2116. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently the Ministry have issued a Vision Statement on the problems related to environmental health and how to deal with the adverse effects of increasing hazardous and bio-medical wastes, radiation, climate change etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and/or time bound plan drawn up, if any, to check the adverse effects of increasing hazard to environmental health; and
- (c) the machinery established for close coordination with the States to monitor implementation of these specific plans?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Grant to NGOs for afforestation	Health problems due to contaminated water
†2117. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: (a) the number of NGOs which were sanctioned the grant by the Central Government during the year 2002-03 for afforestation and the details thereof, State-wise; (b) the action being taken by Government against the NGOs who have not utilized the financial assistance given by Government for afforestation and details thereof, State-wise; and (c) the rules laid down for the recovery of the amount from these passive organisations?	2119. MISS MABEL REBELLO: SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that as per WHO report 80 per cent of health problems and 1/3rd of all deaths in the country are on account of contaminated Ganga water; (b) whether as per reports contaminated river water reaches into the ground water system affecting water supply and agriculture; and (c) what is hampering the action plan to cleanse the waters, control pollution, save the crops from contamination etc.?
National River Conservation and other Environmental Schemes	Increase in bird trade
2118. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: (a) the details of amount released to various States under National River Conservation Programme and other Environmental Schemes for the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02; (b) whether the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have forwarded any proposal for release of funds under National River Conservation Programme to take-up the work of Environment Action Plan for Hyderabad and Bangalore city; and (c) if so, the details of the projects and the action taken by Government in this regard?	2120. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that bird trade is on the increase; and (b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to check this menace?
	Animals in circus companies
	2121. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: (a) what are the number and names of circus companies in the country; (b) the number and type of animals with each one of them; (c) the number and type of animals rescued by Government during the last three years; and (d) the manner in which Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

have rehabilitated the animals rescued from the circus companies?

Status of cleaning of rivers across the country

2122. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI CHO S. RAMA-SWAMY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount spent so far in cleaning of various important rivers including Ganga and Yamuna across the country;

(b) what is the situation at present after the project of river cleaning was taken up;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is shortage of funds for this scheme;

(d) if so, whether the cleaning project has come to a stand still; and

(e) what steps are being taken to monitor this cleaning process across the country?

Saving Kaziranga Sanctuary from flood

2123. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kaziranga, the abode of the world famous, one horned rhinoceros is on the verge of collapse at the height of flood waves;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the ravage by the floods has become an annual feature which destroys wildlife of the sanctuary regularly and if so, the short-term and long-term measures proposed to be taken to save the sanctuary from the flood waters causing havoc every year?

Tribals residing in protected forest in Tripura

2124. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several thousands of tribal people have been residing in the Reserved Forest and Protected Forest of Tripura from the time immemorial;

(b) whether it is also a fact that those people have not got the order of settlement on account of the Forest Act of the country; and

(c) what steps will be taken to ensure them their right to forest land intimately connected with their ways of life?

Adverse impact on environment and health due to pollution

2125. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree that phenomenal growth of industries in non-conforming areas in Delhi has led to a severe adverse impact on the environment of Delhi and health of the residents;

(b) if so, whether air pollution is responsible for the emergency hospitalisation of patients with breathing and heart problems; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken or are taking to save people from adverse impact of pollution?

Loss of trees and forest due to Delhi Metro Railway

2126. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trees felled and cut down and the forest area cleared in

connection with Delhi Metro Railway, area-wise;

(b) whether environmental clearance for the project had been obtained and the total estimated loss of trees and forest area involved;

(c) on what conditions clearance was given, if any; and

(d) the number of trees planted, transplanted or replanted to make good the loss, and replacement social forestry created or planned to be created in this context?

Legalizing wildlife products

2127. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the owners of wildlife products can legalise the possession of these items under any amnesty provided by Government;

(b) if so, what are the complete details thereof with the name of wildlife products;

(c) whether Government have issued a notification on 18th April, 2003 laying down the rules for amnesty to declare and legalise wildlife products; and

(d) if so, the complete details of the notification and how many persons have legalised their wildlife products?

Threat by parasitic plants to flowers of Himalayan region

2128. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a standing threat due to infection from parasitic plants to the famous valley of flowers in the Himalayan region;

(b) if so, the intensity of the threat and the reasons thereof;

(c) what steps are being taken to protect the valley of flowers; and

(d) whether Government propose to set up any technical group to protect the environment from degrading?

Pollution in Ganga and Yamuna rivers due to sewage and drainage

†2129. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to check flow of nallahs carrying sewage and drainage into Ganga and Yamuna rivers and polluting them as a result thereof;

(b) whether Government are planning to double the expenditure being incurred at present for protecting Ganga and Yamuna from pollution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Ozone cell

2130. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to scrap the "Ozone Cell";

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been no activity emanating from this cell;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have taken up some schemes to ensure that India meets international standards and agreements to control release of certain chemicals etc.;

(d) if so, how Government would implement its assurances in this regard; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the agreements made internationally in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

National Rivers Conservation Plan

2131. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the works undertaken by the National Rivers Conservation Plan (NRCP) during the last two years and the progress made in the works; and

(b) by when the projects are likely to be completed?

Unauthorised construction on forest land

†2132. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unauthorised construction on forest land has increased on a large scale and the incidents of poaching of wild animals have also increased due to the absence of Forest Guards in sufficient numbers;

(b) if so, whether a large number of key posts in Forest Departments of the States are lying vacant; and

(c) the details of the steps to be taken by Government in this regard?

Increase in endangered species of birds

†2133. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bombay Natural History Society and 'Bird Life International' have sounded a warning that the number of endangered species of birds in India is increasing at an alarming rate;

(b) if so, whether these bodies have indicated that birds like Pinhead duck, Forest

outlet, Zardones Coorser, Himalayan Mountain Qualea Sarascrane and two species of vultures are also included amongst the birds facing extinction and there is need to protect them; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to protect these birds?

Pollution in rivers due to municipal waste and sewerage

2134. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rivers in the country are becoming more and more polluted due to discharge of municipal waste and sewerage;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take steps as the Traditional Japanese never discharged waste into the rivers; and

(c) the details of the cost that may be required for such projects?

National Environment Action Plan

2135. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVU-KKARASU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new National Environment Action Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the difference between the new and old 'Action Plan';

(d) whether any provision has been made for providing funds to SPCB under new action plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Installation of incinerators in hospitals

2136. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding installation of incinerators for bio-chemical waste disposal in hospitals under Indo-Italian cooperation has been cleared by Government;
- (b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and
- (c) by when the proposal is likely to be approved?

Development of forests by NABARD Funds in M.P., Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra

†2137. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NABARD has sanctioned funds for development of forests in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any scheme has been formulated with regard to spending of funds for protection of forests if so, the amount utilised by the States so far?

Plantation of foreign trees

†2138. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign trees, like euclyptus have been planted throughout India during the last 15 years;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that a large

scale ground water depletion has taken place due to these trees;

- (c) whether it is also a fact that even today only thorny, non-shady and non-fruit bearing trees are planted on the road-sides, in parks and near railway lines; and
- (d) the action Government are taking to plant fruit bearing trees like eugenea, neem, mangoes etc. after getting the abovesaid trees destroyed?

Assistance for FPIs

2139. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the schemes under which Government provide financial assistance for the development of food processing sector;
- (b) the release of financial assistance during the last five years to the above sector; year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that infrastructure facilities in the food processing industries is standing as an obstacle for the growth of this industry; and
- (d) if so, the steps that are being taken or proposed to be taken in this direction by Government?

Setting up of NIFT

2140. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are setting up a new food research body-the National Institute of Food Technology (NIFT)-with the aim of providing cutting-edge technological intervention to the food processing industry; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what are the details of the project?

Vision document for FPI

2141. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vision document for development of food processing industries during the next ten years is under preparation;

(b) if so, the important features thereof; and

(c) by when the document will be ready?

Integrated food laws

2142. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: DR. M.M. DAS:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 697 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted to propose legislative and other changes for preparing a modern integrated food law and related regulation has made recommendations to Government; and

(b) if so, by when a legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced?

Quota for admission of Indian students in CTSA Schools

2143. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 10 per cent quota has been fixed for the admission of Indian students in CTSA Schools in violation of Article 29 of the Constitution and ruling of the Apex Court;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to rectify the mistake;

(c) whether Government have propose to fix the responsibility and taken action against the concerned officers for violating Apex Court's orders; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Unemployed educated youth in J and K

2144. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed educated youth particularly graduates and post-graduates in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) what steps the Central Government propose to take to provide employment to these unemployed youth within a time frame; and

(c) whether Government are aware that in the face of continued violence and militancy prevailing in the State, the educated youth are soft targets?

Balika Samridhi Yojana

2145. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the aims and objectives of Balika Samridhi Yojana;

(b) the amount that has been released to the State of Andhra Pradesh under this scheme since 2000-2001; year-wise; and

(c) the allocation made for this programme in 2003-2004?

Power to foreign universities

2146. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that UGC would be amending its statute to power over the foreign universities which have branches in the country;
- (b) if so, what prompted the UGC to think in this direction;
- (c) whether the UGC has received complaints from student's parents against foreign institutes in India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Objectives of National and State Women's Commissions

2147. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the objectives of the National and State Women's Commissions;
- (b) the details of the State Women's Commissions in the country;
- (c) whether the NWC is endowed with statutory powers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government consider taking measures for granting statutory powers to the Commission in order to make the Commission more effective;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of guidelines of Supreme Court in Vishakha case

2148. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of guidelines laid down by the hon'ble Supreme Court in 1998 in the Vishakha case;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the National Commission for Women has brought the implementation of guidelines to the notice of Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action proposed by Government thereon?

Siphoning Government grant by non-existent NGOs

2149. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the evaluation studies on Central Sector Scheme of Creches/Day Care Centre have found that Government grant is siphoned by non-existent NGOs;
- (b) if so, the details of such studies, the names of the evaluating agencies, major findings and the action taken by Government thereon;
- (c) whether the evaluating agencies have provided comprehensive revised application forms and guidelines as well as evaluation indicators to revise the scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Setting up of a New University in Orissa

2150. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Orissa propose to set up a new university over a plot of land of 100 acres entailing an outlay of Rs. 50 million for meeting the expenses;

(b) whether this would be a new knowledge-based University and Centre would provide financial aid to help the State in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

History, Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology as identical subjects

2151. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC treats History, Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology as equivalent/identical subjects-disciplines; and

(b) if so, why did it set up separate centres of advanced study at Kolkata and Aligarh?

Proposal for setting up of a Campus in Sri Lanka by IIT Chennai

2152. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai propose to set up a Campus in Sri Lanka to train and offer technical assistance for establishment of an institute at par with IITs in that country;

(b) whether Government have contributed for this project;

(c) if so, the amount given for this project; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

Failure of CSWB

2153. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that 50 years after it was decided to help poor women and children, the programme run by the Central Social Welfare Board have failed to make a mark;

(b) if so, whether this was also revealed in the latest report of the CAG of India;

(c) whether the report states that Social Welfare Boards have also proved to be ineffective and should wind up;

(d) if so, what are the other objections raised by the CAG; and

(e) whether the Centre has taken up this seriously and taking necessary steps in this regard?

Social Watch Report

2154. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have perused the observation in the first ' Social Watch Report' compiled by the National Centre for Advocacy Studies (NCAS), Delhi, that plan per capita allocation on education has declined from 30 paise in 2002-2003 to a meagre 18 paise for 2003-04;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to this observation;

(c) the rationale behind such massive

reduction in public investment in such a pivotal social area; and

(d) would not such reduced investment in education sector impede realisation of the objectives envisaged *inter alia* in the 'Sarva Siksha Abhiyan' programme?

Quality of education

2155. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how does Government rate the quality of higher/university education in the country;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to improve the quality of higher/university education; and

(c) how far has Government succeeded?

Change in present education system

†2156. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that present education system has failed to develop prudent citizens;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any effective policy to bring a concrete and comprehensive change in the quality and standard of present education system; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Hearing-speech impaired children

2157. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hearing-speech impaired children in the country;

(b) whether Government have formulated certain schemes for providing education to these children;

(c) if so, the details of the schemes;

(d) what steps Government have taken to integrate hearing impaired children in mainstream schools; and

(e) whether Government plan to instruct public/private schools also to accept children with learning difficulties and develop suitable infrastructure to provide quality education to these children?

Janashala programme

2158. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had launched 'Janashala' programme in collaboration with United Nations for implementation of the 'Education for All' resolution;

(b) if so, the salient features of the 'Janashala' programme;

(c) the Blocks/Districts of Jharkhand covered, if any, under the programme;

(d) whether any review of implementation of the 'Janashala' has been carried out in Jharkhand; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Centrally sponsored schemes

†2159. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing Centrally sponsored schemes in the field of Human Resource Development in the country, number-wise and State-wise;and

(b) the details of the Central Assistance

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

provided to Bihar for this purpose during the last three year, year-wise?

Kendriya Vidyalayas in Manipur

2160. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of existing Kendriya Vidyalayas in Manipur;
- (b) whether Government are aware of its popularity and heavy rush for admission in the Vidyalayas; and
- (c) whether Government contemplates to open Kendriya Vidyalaya in each of the districts to provide quality education to local boys and girls?

Immoral trafficking

2161. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether human trafficking is a serious crime under the Constitution with at least seven years imprisonment under the ITPA 1956 Act (Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act), and whether in most cases, as per UNI reports, the culprit goes scot free or with minor punishments;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

Minority institutions

†2162. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of minority institutions (Technical and Non-Technical) working in the country, State-wise;

- (b) whether financial assistance and other facilities are being provided by Government to these minority institutions; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

CAG's observation on function of CSWB

2163. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recent report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (2001-2002) has observed serious lapses on the functioning of Central Social Welfare Board;

- (b) whether the report says that the Board has failed to enforce accountability over the improper functioning of NGOs/ Voluntary agencies entrusted with the delivery of DWCD sponsored projects/ programmes; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that there is lot of overlapping and duplication on the efforts of DWCD because of many parallel schemes in operation sponsored by other Ministries?

Changes in NCERT books

†2164. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: SHRI MOTILAL VORA: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the classes whose courses were changed and new books recommended by N.C.E.R.T. during the last three years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that new books

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

were not made available to the students before summer vacation which has affected adversely on their studies;

(c) if so, the persons responsible for the same and action taken against the culprits; and

(d) the concrete arrangements made by Government to ensure easy availability of the books to the students in future?

Removal of Hindi from primary schools syllabus of CTS

2165. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindi has been removed even from primary school syllabus of all Central Tibetan Schools;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the future destiny of Indian children studying in Tibetan Schools who will remain a stranger to Hindi and Other Indian Languages; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to safeguard the future of those children who will require to spend their lives in Indian environment?

Representation of Hindi writers in World Hindi Conference

2166. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian delegation to the recent World Hindi Conference at Surinam did not represent large sections of Hindi writers;

(b) whether there was a strong protest by several writers in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Female literacy rate in Orissa

2167. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the female literacy rate in Orissa;

(b) the reasons for low female literacy rate in some districts of Orissa; and

(c) the fresh steps proposed to be taken in consultation and coordination with the State Government of Orissa to rectify the situation?

UNESCO Doot

2168. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Hindi Directorate of the Ministry published two lakh copies of "UNESCO Doot" during 1996—2001, whose one lakh and thirty six thousand copies remain uncirculated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against those responsible for non-circulation of the said book to school children on time?

Land for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Champawat

†2169. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government have provided cost-free land for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya sanctioned for Champawat (Uttaranchal);

(b) if so, whether construction work of premises of this school would be started during this year; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details of the amount sanctioned for this purpose and the date of the completion of the construction work?

Upgradation of Lakhimpur Post Graduate Training College, Assam

2170. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal under Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teachers Education towards upgradation of Lakhimpur Post Graduate Training College, Assam was received by the Ministry;

(b) if so, by when, it is likely to be cleared;

(c) the list of colleges already cleared under this scheme in Assam; and

(d) the status of the proposal for creation of a Jana Siksha Sangathan in the Jorhat District of Assam by MIPADC and when it is likely to be cleared?

Computer education under Central Scheme in U.P.

†2171. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of Uttar Pradesh Government has been approved for computer education under Central Scheme in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Posting of husband and wife at the same station

2172. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have not been adhering to the provision of posting husband and wife at the same station invariably contained in and published through Memorandum (DOPT) number - 28034 / 2 / 97 - Estt.A dated 12th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) steps taken/contemplated to execute the provision scrupulously?

Accommodation to KV teachers on transfer

†2173. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that teachers/ employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan who get transferred to North Eastern Region are entitled to retain their accommodation at the place from where they have been transferred on payment of licence fee at normal rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this facility has been extended so far only to the teachers/ employees of K.Vs located at Delhi during last two years; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that this facility is discretionary on the part of the officers/principals, if so, the justification thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

<p>Applicability of orders from MHA in Railways</p> <p>‡2174. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:</p> <p>(a) the reasons for not accepting the order number 12/02/97/OL/s of Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs by Ministry of Railways even though it applied to all the Ministries of Government of India;</p> <p>(b) if the said order of MHA is not applicable to the Ministry of Railways then how does the annual programme of official language apply to Ministry of Railways; and</p> <p>(c) if instructions of Department of Official Language of MHA, do not apply to Ministry of Railways, the name of the body whose directives are followed by Ministry of Railways for holding meetings of Hindi Salahkar Samiti as also for conduct of business for propagation of official language, alongwith complete details thereof?</p>	<p>is no direct train available from Bhubaneswar to Bhopal despite commissioning of Talcher-Sambalpur BG Link which has reduced the distance considerably;</p> <p>(b) if so, whether Railways propose to extend Bilaspur Bhopal Express upto Bhubaneswar <i>via</i> Sambalpur and Talcher keeping in view the popular demand;</p> <p>(c) if so, by when; and</p> <p>(d) if not, the reasons therefor?</p> <p>Safety related training</p> <p>2177. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:</p> <p>Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the action taken to upgrade safety related training facilities in Railways and implementation of anti-collision device on major Railway Zones for customer satisfaction?</p>
<p>Proposals of sub-committee on bridges</p> <p>2175. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:</p> <p>(a) what were the main proposals of the sub-committee on rebuilding of old oil railway bridges; and</p> <p>(b) whether any of those proposals have been accepted by the Railways; if so, the details thereof?</p> <p>Train from Bhubaneswar to Bhopal</p> <p>2176. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:</p> <p>(a) whether Railways are aware that there</p>	<p>Import of locomotives</p> <p>2178. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:</p> <p>(a) when the eighteen 6000 HPWAG-6 locomotives were imported by Government and the cost thereof;</p> <p>(b) whether periodical overhaul of these locos could not be undertaken resulting in premature stabling leading to a loss of Rs. 77.37 crore towards their earning capacity;</p> <p>(c) if so, the reasons therefor;</p> <p>(d) whether an amount of Rs. 18.43 crore was also lost on account of avoidable procurement of stores; and</p> <p>(e) if so, the facts and reasons therefor?</p>

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Acts of ommissions and commissions after accident

2179. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several grim railway accidents have occurred in Andhra Pradesh recently in quick succession;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that members of the Standing Committee on Railways held early this month pointed out several lapses of ommissions and commissions in this regard wanted Government to adopt concrete steps relating thereto; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

Replacement of railway engines

†2180. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway engines in the country;

(b) the number of such engines which are being run even after completion of their designated age;

(c) whether Government propose to replace these engines at the earliest keeping in view the possibility of accident in running such engines; and

(d) if so, by when?

Sanitation by private companies

†2181. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to

take services of private companies for sanitation work in passenger trains and at railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of railway stations for which decision has been taken to get sanitation work done by private companies at first instance?

Rail lines connecting major cities of Karnataka

2182. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI M.V. RAJA-
SEKHARAN:
SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many new rail lines connecting major cities of Karnataka with neighbouring States have been approved in Railways budgets but very meagre amount was allocated for work;

(b) if so, whether any time-frame has been fixed by Railways for completion of these projects; and

(c) if so, the details of such projects and reasons for very less allocation of amount to these projects?

Beautification of suburban railway stations in Mumbai

2183. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has identified some of the suburban local railway stations for beautification in Mumbai; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the names of the Stations and the details of the Plan for each station?

Internet facility on trains

2184. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:

SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have provided internet facility in trains;

(b) if so, names of the trains starting from Bangalore with internet facility on them;

(c) whether more number of passengers are utilising this facility;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some tests were conducted regarding providing internet in some of the trains in the North-East Railway Zone; and

(e) if so, the results of the tests?

Double standard in disbursal of compensation

2185. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT
RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have adopted double standard in disbursal of rescue and relief measure;

(b) the number of cases of compensation of Khanna, 1998 tragedy which are still to be settled and number of cases of Rajdhani Express tragedy, September 9, 2002, still to be settled, and

(c) the action proposed to direct payment of compensation within three months to the next of kin of all victims?

Mehsana-Taranga MG Line

2186. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mehsana-Taranga Hill conversion of Metre Gauge line is under consideration;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Ambaji being a pilgrimage centre, lakhs of people come to worship and being an Industrially developed area Mehsana-Taranga railway line is being extended upto Ambaji; and

(c) if so, what will be the estimated cost and by what time the proposal will be completed?

Computerised reservation counter at Chitradurga and Challakere in Karnataka

2187. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for the establishment of computerised reservation counters at Chitradurga and Challakere Railway Stations in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Ministry considers this fact as important; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Rail line from Modasa to Shamlaji

2188. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have promised to extend the Railway line from Kapadvanj, Modasa to Shamlaji;

(b) whether Government have given any assurance that within six months the work will executed; and

(c) if so, the progress in this regard till date and by what time it will be fully executed?

White paper on Railway Safety

2189. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the recent white paper tabled by the Railway Minister in Parliament neither accorded fire safety much priority, nor mentioned about enforcement measures to effectively control carrying by passengers of articles like crackers, LPG cylinders and inflammable material, thereby contributing towards accidents like Fire in Frontier Mail on 15th May; and

(b) how Railways proposes to eliminate such criminal negligence endangering lives of passengers?

Baggage checks by RPF at Railway stations

2190. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many passengers that carry inflammable materials with them concealed in their baggage;

(b) if so, whether RPF is entitled to conduct surprise baggage checks at all major railway stations;

(c) if so, the number of checks conducted by RPF at Delhi stations in the last one year and the details of questionable/objectionable items confiscated by the RPF during these surprise checks; and

(d) how many cases were booked after such checks for questionable/objectionable items?

Development of coaches by RITES

2191. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited has been given permission to carry out study and develop crash worthy coaches for the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-frame has been given within which it should complete its study and submit its report for construction of coaches; and

(d) by when, the Indian Railways would introduce air break system in all coaches, wagons and locomotives?

Price variation clause in Railways

2192. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that orders placed by Railways for procurement of material and equipments contain a clause which is known as "Price Variation Clause";

(b) if so, the Railways suffer heavily as the suppliers manoeuvre to charge a higher price, particularly in case of long term contracts; and

(c) measures to be taken by Government to overcome this menace?

Trains passing through naxalite infested region

2193. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether special security measures

are being taken to ensure safety of rail passengers and regular running of train proceeding from Delhi to West Bengal, Assam and other States in Eastern India, and passing through the Naxalite and crime-infested region of Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Railways are receiving effective cooperation from the States concerned?

Funding of projects by World Bank

2194. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has approached the World Bank for funding projects under the National Rail Vikas Yojana;

(b) if so, the names of the projects on which the World Bank is being asked to provide loans;

(c) whether the World Bank has examined the proposals of the Railways;

(d) if so, the total amount agreed upon; and

(e) by what time the same is likely to be provided?

Safety hazards in tunnels on Konkan rail route

2195. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any safety hazards have been identified in the tunnels of the Konkan Rail route in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and safeguards provided by Konkan Railways?

Rail line between Tumkur and Chitradurga

2196. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minister of Railways have received any proposal to lay rail line between Tumkur and Chitradurga in Karnataka State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Late running and arrival of trains in SCR

2197. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains in South Central Railway which run late or arrived late during the last two years; and

(b) the action taken to improve punctuality of passenger services and strengthening monitoring mechanism for ensuring punctuality?

***Ex-gratia* payment**

2198. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 691 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 2003 and state the compensation or *ex-gratia* payments made to the victims or their next of kin?

Vendors moving with burning stoves in compartment

2199. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what specific measures have been taken to avoid fire accident in the trains;

(b) why does Railways allow tea/coffee vendors to carry burning stoves/chulahs in the compartments; and

(c) why there is no fire extinguishers existed in all compartments in Indian Railway even after many incidents of fire reported in the past?

MMTS in Hyderabad

2200. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) by when the Multi Model Transport System (MMTS) will be launched in Hyderabad;
- (b) whether Railways propose to introduce MMTS in other cities; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Increasing incidents of Negligence and Sabotage in Railway

†2201. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of incidents of negligence and sabotage have increased after the year 1999-2000;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the RPF can not take any legal action due to existing laws and it hands over the said cases to GRP; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to remove the anomaly in the existing laws and to make the RPF more responsible towards the public?

Linking of Bhiwadi with other railway stations

2202. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal under

the consideration of Government to link Bhiwadi in Rajasthan with other railway stations of the country;

- (b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the budgetary allocation for the project; and
- (c) by when the project is likely to be implemented?

Status report on Railway Projects

2203. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has submitted a status report on Railway Projects;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof; and
- (c) steps to be taken by the Ministry to complete the pending projects and to avoid cost escalation?

Doubling project between Tundla and Yamuna Bridge

2204. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that no techno-economic survey has been done for the doubling project between Tundla and Yamuna Bridge, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) whether the entire capital investment of nearly 20 crore has been rendered unproductive as it failed to enhance the charted capacity in the line, if so, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Approval of Planning Commission for rail project

2205. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mandatory approval from the Planning Commission is required for railway projects of Rs. 50 crore and above;

(b) if so, whether the mandatory clearance has been obtained before sanctioning the project "Neora-Shekhpara Rail Line in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Rail mishaps in Bihar

2206. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers killed and injured due to derailment of Patna-New Delhi Magadh Vikramshila Express near Buxar on 1st June, 2003;

(b) the number of rail mishaps during the last two years and details of those in Bihar; and

(c) steps being taken to ensure safe and secure train journeys in mishap prone areas, especially in Bihar?

Wagons for transportation of grains

2207. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Minister of Rajasthan has been requesting for making available railway wagons for transportation of grains for distribution among drought hit people of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not acceding to the request; and

(c) by when the wagons would be allotted to carry grains for the drought relief labourers in eleven districts of Rajasthan?

Dindigul-Sabrimala rail line

2208. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project of construction of Dindigul-Sabrimala new line has been dropped from the priority list due to the reason of negative rate of return;

(b) if so, the details of survey report thereof;

(c) on what basis a project is considered remunerative or unremunerative; and

(d) the standard procedures followed by the Railway in this regard?

A.C. coaches in Mangla Express

2209. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether A.C. coaches in Mangla Express and Krishna Express are not cleaned on the way and remain without water;

(b) whether inspite of complaints in mid-June Mangla Express remained without water and toilets strewn with faeces; and

(c) if so, the action proposed against those responsible for the lapse and creating lot of trouble to public while travelling even in A.C. coaches?

Improving efficiency of Railways

†2210. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

administration is considering to retire the employees after a certain age to improve the efficiency in railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it is considering to grant some relief to retiring employees; and

(d) if so, the details of the relief being considered to be given?

Railway Time-table

†2211. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule for publication of Railway Time-table; and

(b) the reasons for not releasing the Time-table by the Railways so far which is normally announced on 1st July every year?

Qualified drivers in Railways

2212. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of qualified railway drivers suitable for running long distance high speed mail and express trains;

(b) what is the present sanctioned strength of such drivers and their actual availability, zone-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to bridge the gap between requirement and availability of such drivers?

Departure and arrival of Shramjeevi Express

†2213. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates, during 1st January, 2003

to 15th July, 2003 on which Shramjeevi Express either departed late from Patna/ Delhi or got late on the way and arrived New Delhi/Patna late; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

Paucity of funds for developing Science and Technology

†2214. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to paucity of the funds in the field of development of Science and Technology, required results of development are not being achieved;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have set a target to spend upto 2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product of the country in this field; and

(d) if so, by when the target would be achieved?

Assessment for development of Science and Technology

†2215. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after acquiring the membership of world trade organisation for development of the country, the requirement for developing science and technology sector has been assessed;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the funds allotted to meet the said requirement during the Ninth and the Tenth Five Year Plans; and

(c) the actual amount spent during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

Schemes/programmes for promotion of Science and Technology

2216. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the centrally sponsored schemes and programmes for development and promotion of Science and Technology under implementation in the country, particularly in rural areas;

(b) the details of funds allotted to each State and Union Territory for these schemes during the last three years; and

(c) the details of funds utilised by them and the achievements made so far in this regard during the last three years?

Forecast by IMD

2217. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Meteorological Department has forecast below normal rainfall this year;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken steps to meet the situation; and

(c) whether State Governments have also been apprised of the key situation?

Financial Irregularities in CSIR and DBT

2218. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Audit Report for the year 2003 by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has brought out several financial and other irregularities in the functioning of organizations such as CSIR and Department of Bio-technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have already taken action or propose to take action to rectify the situation; and

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed/proposed to be fixed on the persons found guilty of indulging in financial and other irregularities?

Converting Plastic into biodegradable material

2219. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists of NCL have developed a technique to convert the commonly used plastic into biodegradable material;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the research work is completed and this technique can be applied for industrial use; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to market this technique to other countries?

AHEAD

2220. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Health Environment and Allied Database (AHEAD) registered (No. S/26497 of 1994) with Registrar of Societies, Delhi was associated with Publication of Wealth Asia CDs and received foreign contribution through Council of Scientific and Industrial Research after 1993;

(b) if so, the details including the CD-Rom published, amount, source and date of foreign contribution received from 1994 onwards;

(c) whether copy right of CD-Rom published by AHEAD rest with AHEAD; and

(d) whether competent authority granted permission,after 1993 to Asian Health Environment and Allied Data base to accept foreign contribution through Council of Scientific and Industrial Research?

Foreign investment in Science and Technology Projects

‡2221. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given its consent for foreign investments in the projects falling under Science and Technology sector during recent years;

(b) if so, the number of proposals of foreign investment approved by Government from 1991 to March, 2003;

(c) the number of proposals for which actual foreign investment has been made; and

(d) the amount invested in this regard?

Productions at VSP

2222. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vizag Steel Plant has reduced its production; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof with action plan to overcome the bottlenecks?

Steel Exports to China

2223. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China opened its doors for importing Steel from India and other countries of the world;

(b) if so, whether Beijing has issued any import quota for us;

(c) if so, for how long this quota system is valid;

(d) the total potential of Steel India can export to China before quota system closes; and

(e) how Government are planning to grab the opportunity of exporting steel to China?

Expansion of VSP

2224. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a blue print for the expansion of the Vizag Steel Plant (VSP) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam has been worked out which may involve the collaboration of the global steel majors;

(b) if so, whether the first phase of the expansion itself would cost Rs. 2500 crores which would enable the company's liquid steel production to be increased to five million tonnes from the existing three million tonnes;

(c) if so, the main features of the expansion plan; and

(d) by what time the proposed project is likely to be completed?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Performance of PSUs

2225. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial performance of public sector undertakings has improved and almost all the PSUs have registered profits during the last fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details of net profit earned by each PSU;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some loss making units have reduced losses substantially during 2002-03; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to maintain the *status quo* during the current financial year, too?

Pay to cricket selectors

2226. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National selectors in cricket and other sports field are not paid salary but are compensated with a very meagre sum of TA/DA which is a cause of their grievances;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration to pay them some salary to facilitate them to stay in good hotels alongwith the cricketers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Fund allocation for sports

2227. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds for promotion of sports, State-wise; and

(b) what is the ratio of utilization of sports grants in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years, ending on June 30, 2003?

Stadia and training centres in NER

2228. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a comprehensive plan for construction of some new stadia and physical training centres in the North Eastern Region for development of sports and youth activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of such schemes being implemented by Government in the region alongwith the funds granted for the same?

Restoration of Indo-Pak cricket ties

2229. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

SHRI G.K. VASAN:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Control for Cricket in India has approached Government for early restoration of Indo-Pak cricket matches;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon;

(c) whether it is also proposed to resume full series in both the countries; if so, the projected plan in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that a number of other Bodies on games of International standards have also approached Government for playing in Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; and the view taken by Government on each of such games?

Youth delegations abroad

2230. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines to be followed or bodies to be consulted while constituting youth delegations being sent abroad either against specific invitation or *suo-moto* by Government with a view to have transparency;

(b) if so, the details of these guidelines/ bodies; and

(c) if not, whether Government are thinking of issuing such guidelines, with a view to giving adequate territorial representation and varied interests?

Grants to NGOs

2231. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received from NGOs working in Nagpur, Maharashtra during the last two years;

(b) the action taken on the proposals;

(c) the number of proposals pending for clearance; and

(d) the reasons for its pendency?

Assistance for Sports infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh

2232. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Grants were provided to Andhra Pradesh for creating Sports infrastructure in the State during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the infrastructure completed/yet to be completed in the State as on date;

(d) whether Government propose to extend more Grants to the State for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 2nd August, 2003
Sravana 11, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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