

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the December 8, 2005/Agrahayana 17, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Coal; Communications and Information Technology; External Affairs; Labour and Employment; Ocean Development; Overseas Indian Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Science and Technology; Shipping, Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions —155

Generation of employment Opportunities

1647. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 lakh
additional employment opportunities are
to be generated during the Tenth Five Year
Plan period;

(b) if so, the target achieved so far,
year-wise; and

(c) whether any survey has been done
to know if this employment generation
has checked migration of rural labour to
cities?

Losses to KVI

†1648. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industry
are running at a loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
(c) the measures taken to prevent this
loss?

Bank loans under REGP

1649. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will
the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the
village artisans cannot set up village
industries by bank-loans under REGP
schemes, because they cannot provide
security required for that loan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the real
spirit of Khadi schemes is lost to a great
extent for this reason;

(c) whether Government propose to
introduce the system of grants in creating
entrepreneurship in village industries;

(d) if so, the time-frame thereof; and

(e) if not, the alternative thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Loans lying with State KVIBs

1650. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans lying with the State Khadi and Village Industries Boards from the Central Khadi and Village Industries Commission, State-wise;

(b) the names of the projects that benefit the rural people where financial assistances are transmitted through State Khadi and Village Industries Boards; and

(c) the number of these projects that are actually in operation and how many have already ceased to run, State-wise?

Electricity power houses using atomic energy

1651. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of electricity power houses where electricity is generated through the use of atomic energy, State-wise;

(b) whether there is some proposal under active consideration of Government to set up more such power stations in the country;

(c) if so, the details of such power stations to be set up in Uttar Pradesh and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether at the time of setting up such power stations, leaking of atomic electricity till "Chechnya" (in the then USSR) shall be checked properly?

Fund to accomplish Coal Vision-2025

1652. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need for Rs.2,84,692 crores to accomplish Coal Vision 2025;

(b) if so, the main activities Government propose to under-take to achieve the goal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that an additional Rs. 95,000 crores is required to carry out the open cast mining activities to increase production from the present 300 mt. to 902 mt. by 2025; and

(d) if so, in what manner Government are planning to pool the resources?

Mining of coal

1653. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has more than 1,60,000 million tonnes of coal reserves that cannot be mined;

(b) whether India proposes to tap this unrecoverable coal reserve through underground coal gasification process which is already in operation at Australia's Chichilla Project;

(c) whether India has the requisite technical expertise to build coal gasification plants; and

(d) if not, whether India is scouting for overseas technology/expertise for such projects?

Supply of coal to Kothagudem Power Project

1654. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received for supply of coal to the proposed Kothagudem Thermal Power Project State-VI;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether SCCL is going to open cast mines at Sattupally in Khamman District of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, whether Government would instruct SCCL to supply coal to Kothagudem Thermal Power Project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Specifications for coal mines

1655. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any specifications, to govern extraction, production and transportation of coal from coal mines;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments or Non-Government agencies undertaking the mining operations, are following the same;

(c) if so, the reasons behind mishaps happening so frequently in our country; and

(d) the number of such mishaps happened during 2004 and the number of persons died in these mishaps?

Coal deposits in the Country

†1656. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the mine-wise and company-wise details of the coal deposits in the country;

(b) what would be the estimated demand of coal at the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan respectively;

(c) whether Government have any plan to meet this demand;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether temporary coal linkage scheme awarded to the companies is still continuing; and

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise?

Meeting the demand for coal

1657. SHRI EKANATH K.
THAKUR:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although India has the third largest reserves of coal in the world, the import of coal has been high and rising due to high ash content and also due to Government's restrictive policies in the coal sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are turning its attention to promote acquisition of coal mines abroad to meet the country's growing demand for coal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Action against non-productive companies

†1658. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3729 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th April, 2005 and state:

(a) the action taken against the companies who have not started production in spite of allotment of coal blocks;

(b) the companies which have already started production and whether they have been authorized to sell coal to other companies;

(c) if so, the amount of coal that is being sold by the private coal producing companies every year in the said period; and

(d) if not, the details of action taken against them?

Coal Wage Agreement for Singareni Collieries

1659. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Coal Wage Agreement VII has been finalized for Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.;

(b) whether the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry have issued any directions for giving interim relief @ 15% of the basic wages;

(c) if so, the date from which the interim relief has been released; and

(d) the reasons for delay in finalizing National Coal Wage Agreement VII?

Damage to shovel machines

†1660. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to negligence of Deputy Chief General Manager and concerned Mine Officer in Western Section of Jayant Project in N.C.L. Singrauli, a new P & H-8 shovel machine worth Rs.8 crore has perished completely;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that shovel machine worth Rs.8-10 crores belonging to Kharia Development Project was damaged completely in an accident during the last year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decline registered in production; and

(e) the details of the action taken so far by Government/Department against the culprits in both cases?

Irregularities in SECL Gevra/Dipika Mines

†1661. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that enquiry has been conducted by various agencies regarding irregularities in Gevra/Dipika Coal Mines under SECL;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Vigilance Officer of Coal India Ltd. has accepted these as serious irregularities;

(c) whether the CBI has expressed its unawareness regarding the said irregularities in its first report;

(d) whether the CBI has suggested some measures to check such irregularities in its second report;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) whether the coal secretary has written to CBI for reconducting a thorough enquiry of the same; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Repair of machines in Jayant Project Singrauli

†1662. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on repairs of Ganga Dragline and Saraswati Dragline Machines in Jayant Project of N.C.L. Singrauli since 1st April, 2001 to till date;

(b) whether most of the repair work has been carried out by a local company of inferior standards and not from the original manufacturing company and the spare-parts used were also of local make so that repair work is required to be done time and again;

(c) whether the works of Ganga Dragline was done by Government Employees and the material for it was taken from the store of Jayant Project;

(d) whether Government will take proper action against the culprits by getting the whole matter inquired by vigilance wing; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Sixth Conference of Communication Ministers of NAM countries

1663. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sixth Conference of

Communication Ministers of NAM was held in Malaysia recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussion held and decision taken in the Conference; and

(c) the Government's reaction to the suggestions put forth in the Conference?

Removing regulatory barriers to bring down per-minute cost

1664. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is divided into 23 different telecom service areas and further there are 322 long distance charging areas and 2643 as short distance charging areas;

(b) if so, does this not create complications in call charge calculations and deployment of extra man-power, thus ultimately subscriber being asked to pay; and

(c) whether a Concept Paper on 'One India' being considered for removing a number of regulatory barriers to bring down per-minute cost of providing telecom services?

New towers of BSNL

1665. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to poor quality of receptivity and audibility, the BSNL has planned to energise 1000 new towers across Karnataka to widen its mobile network;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether BSNL has planned to build 300 new towers for Bangalore urban area to cater to the increasing number of BSNL cellular connections; and

(c) whether BSNL has set any deadline for installation of these towers and if so, the details thereof?

Release of pre-paid mobile connections in Bangalore

1666. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far by the BSNL to widen its mobile network in Karnataka;

(b) the steps taken to increase the availability of pre-paid sim cards in Karnataka and particularly in Bangalore; and

(c) the number of pre-paid mobile connections to be provided in Bangalore by the end of March 2006?

Broadband subscribers in the country

1667. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set a target of three million broadband subscribers by the end of December this year;

(b) whether the said target has been achieved so far;

(c) what percentage of the target has been met by the PSU operators BSNL and MTNL; and

(d) the details of incentives Government consider to give to the subscribers in the coming years?

Action against service providers for sending unwanted messages

1668. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the cellphone service providers have been using unfair means to cheat their subscribers with repeated messages and offers;

(b) if so, whether it is not an undue interference in the personal life of the subscribers to constantly knock on the cellphones; and

(c) the details of action Government propose to take to stop the service providers from sending unwanted messages?

Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh

1669. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh which have been decided to be low graded or closed;

(b) the reasons for closure or low gradation of those Post Offices; and

(c) the details of the Post Offices which were closed or low graded during the previous year?

Provision of phones in villages

1670. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the provision of phones in villages has suffered because of dilution of the Telecom Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government were unable to persuade private companies to provide connectivity to Rural India and the entire social obligation was being borne by the BSNL; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Computerization of post offices

1671. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the 26,000 post offices across the country would be computerized to create a network infrastructure for the postal services;

(b) whether the Prime Minister and the Planning Commission have agreed to extend the financial support of Rs.625 crore for this purpose; and

(c) the initiatives proposed to re-orient the mail services to meet the competitions of private mailing services?

Surrender of MTNL phones

†1672. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of subscribers of MTNL who have surrendered their basic telephone, WLL and mobile phone connections in the last three years and till date, year-wise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that MTNL and BSNL are lagging far behind as a result of tough competition posed by private companies;

(c) the annual loss being suffered by MTNL as a result of decline in the number of subscribers and the amount of loss suffered so far during the year 2005; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to improve the position?

Universal Service Obligation Fund

1673. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Universal Service Obligation Support Fund is not limited to Government Companies like BSNL/ MTNL;

(b) if so, whether private telephone operators are eligible for support from Universal Service Obligation Fund; and

(c) if so, the contribution of private telephone operators in the rural tele-density?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Expenditure on advertisements by BSNL

1674. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of expenditure incurred on advertisement by BSNL during the last three years;

(b) out of this, how much was spent in Tamil Nadu alone;

(c) the list of institutions/establishments/medias/press which advertisements were issued and the value of such advertisements in each case;

(d) whether it is a case of abuse of power and authority in favouring unduly a selective few organizations belonging to one single family or closely knitted family group; and

(e) will this undue favouritism continue or stop forthwith?

Improvement of rural tele-density in Orissa

1675. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has set up Rs.6,500 crore rural telephony subsidy and sharing of infrastructure by service providers, to improve rural telephony;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to improve the rural tele-density in Orissa State under the above project?

Waiting list for land line and mobile connections of BSNL

1676. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for landline and BSNL mobile connections during the last three years;

(b) the reasons behind the delay in installing landlines and providing mobile connections; and

(c) what steps are being taken to expedite the process?

Telephone facility in Jharkhand villages

†1677. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facility has since been provided in all the villages of Jharkhand;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have fixed any target in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

VRS for Group 'C' & 'D' workers in MTNL

1678. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Nigam Limited (MTNL) has offered Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to its group 'C' and 'D' workers in the years 2004 and 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the voluntary retirement benefits offered to the workers;

(c) the number of workers of MTNL who have so far opted for VRS;

(d) whether MTNL proposes to make VRS more attractive to enable more workers to opt for it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Waiting list of telephone connections

1679. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons in the country in the waiting list for telephone connections as on 1st January, 2005;

(b) the number thereof in the rural areas and the urban areas separately;

(c) by when telephone connections are likely to be provided to all persons in the waiting list;

(d) whether it is proposed to give Wireless in Local Loop (W.L.L.) telephone connections in rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Website for information on countries of the world

†1680. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided

to create a website for providing information pertaining to our country and other countries of the world;

(b) whether it has been also decided to launch the above site in Hindi and other regional languages; and

(c) if not, the reasons taken to provide the benefit of this facility to the far flung areas and rural areas of the country?

Opening of new post offices in rural areas

1681. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post offices located in rural areas are very less when compared to the urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the average area being served by a rural post office and an urban post office in the country;

(c) the number of new post offices opened in rural and urban areas of the country during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(d) whether more post offices are proposed to be opened in rural areas of the country in the near future; and

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

TRAI's suggestion for improving rural mobile telephony

1682. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerned over rising gap

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in urban and rural communication facilities, telecom regulator, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has favoured offering incentives for telecom service providers to increase competition in rural areas, so that, growth in urban areas could be replicated thereto;

(b) whether the last decade saw tremendous growth in the telecom sector;

(c) if so, the main suggestions made by the TRAI for improving rural mobile telephony;

(d) by when these are likely to be introduced and implemented; and

(e) whether any concrete action plan has been prepared therefor?

Recommendations of Supreme Court on unsolicited phone calls

†1683. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given any decision regarding unsolicited phone calls;

(b) if so, the main recommendation of the said decision;

(c) whether the Department of Communication are complying with the said recommendations; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the harassment of subscribers due to unsolicited phone calls?

Under sea cable between India and middle east

1684. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) is planning to set up an under sea cable system between India and middle east;

(b) if so, the details thereof with quantum bandwidth on the route with total investment of the project and total capacity being planned on this route;

(c) whether BSNL also propose to share the infrastructure with private telecom operators at mutually agreeable fee; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Laying of cable between Chennai and Singapore

1685. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an over supply scenario on the India-Singapore submarine cable route where BSNL is planning to build its cable;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that as many as 3-mega capacity cables would be operational between Chennai and Singapore shortly;

(d) if so, the reasons for laying of cable connecting Chennai and Singapore by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and to what extent it would be beneficial to subscribers; and

(e) whether any feasibility study has been conducted by BSNL keeping in view the costly infrastructure and if so, the details in this regard?

Reduction of licence fee for long distance service

1686. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing to reduce the licence fee for long-distance service providers;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the move will have current level of Governments revenue directly to the tune of Rs.500 crores;

(c) if so, in what manner Government are thinking of filling this revenue deficit; and

(d) whether Government have decided to reduce the licence fee for new entrants in the NLD services and it is the reason for controversy which has resulted in demanding compensation by the three major players which comes to Rs.2800 crores?

Depth of tower for receiving network

1687. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what should be the ideal depth of

the tower for receiving the network without any disturbances;

(b) whether the required depth are being maintained; and

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

Appointment of foreign nationals in telecom sector

1688. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is ambiguity with regard to appointment of top foreign national executives in telecom sector companies after the raising of FDI ceiling;

(b) if so, the action taken to clear the ambiguity;

(c) whether foreign nationals working in Indian telecom companies would continue to hold same positions after the issue of guidelines on FDI ceiling; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Poor Services by MTNL to mobile users

1689. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL's more than five lakhs mobile phones were standstill throughout day during the last week of October, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of precautionary measures taken or proposed to be taken

for providing best and uninterrupted services of MTNL mobile users?

Export of computer software

†1690. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the export of computer software from India during the last couples of years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the contribution of India in the industrial software market across the Globe?

Procurement norm for private operators

1691. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. had sought a level playing field procurement norms that would necessitate private operators also to source equipment from vendors having manufacturing facility in India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Telephone services in Madhya Pradesh

1692. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone services

provided to the rural and urban areas of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the details of the action taken to improve the telephone services provided to the tribal areas in Madhya Pradesh?

Setting up of Electronic Hardware Technology Park

1693. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government has planned to set up an Electronic Hardware Technology Park near new Bangalore International Airport (Devanahalli);

(b) the extent of land required for the formation of this Technology Park;

(c) whether there is a proposal to acquire agricultural land belonging to farmers for this project; and

(d) whether the excess land already acquired for the Bangalore International Airport been earmarked for the purpose?

BSNL/MTNL projects

1694. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some vital projects of BSNL and MTNL are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the time schedule fixed for completion of BSNL and MTNL projects;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to rectify the situation?

Delayed projects

1695. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to vacant posts at the senior level in BSNL, crucial projects are running way behind scheduled time-frame;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter as far as expansion of Cellular, CDMA and Basic Network of BSNL and MTNL is concerned; and

(c) the action taken by the Central Government to adhere to the time-frame fixed for completion of these projects?

Free land-line connection of MTNL

1696. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL are offering a free land-line connection for a period of one year to subscribers who have a land-line connection for at least a period of one year;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether any alternative option like reduction in tariff has been given to those eligible subscribers who do not want another free land-line connection; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Inadequate cell sites in NDMC area

1697. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a faulty coverage of cellular phone in NDMC area; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the faulty coverage is due to inadequate number of cell sites against the minimum required number of 156; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the inadequate number of cell sites is due to obstructionist attitude adopted by NDMC in delaying/refusing permission for cell sites; and

(d) whether Government have examined the whole issue; if so, with what results and if not, the reasons therefor?

Construction of BSNL mobile towers

†1698. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile towers proposed to be installed by BSNL, district-wise, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) by when these mobile towers would be installed in the country;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that signals are not received at BSNL mobiles on Bulandshahr-Shikarpur route in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) whether mobile towers are proposed to be installed on the said route by BSNL and if so, by when?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Primary National Telecom Policy

1699. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Primary National Telecom Policy, 2005 envisages for sweeping changes in the inter-connected norms to set up competition in the national long-distance space and define a roadmap for increased availability, management and vacation of radio spectrum;

(b) the problem Government are facing in merging ADC and USO since both are meant for beefing up of rural telecom penetration;

(c) whether any committee with the experts of DoT has been set up to review the matter and thrash out some of the issues to make up National Telecom Policy, 2005; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Funds allocated for telecom services in Rajasthan

1700. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated for providing telecom services in Rajasthan for each of the last three years and the current financial year, district-wise;

(b) whether the telecom circles have achieved their targets;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the target is likely to be achieved?

Ex-service-men as security personnel in BSNL, Kerala

1701. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ex-service men employed as security personnel by BSNL in Kerala are not permanent employees and they are thrown out any time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what Government propose to do on the matter?

BTS mobile towers in Eastern U.P.

†1702. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise number of BTS mobile towers installed in the Districts of Azamgarh, Mau, Sultanpur, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Gazipur, Faizabad and Ambedkar Nagar till 31st October, 2005;

(b) whether they are aware that most of the BTS towers are not working properly and as a result there is no availability of mobile network;

(c) what directions are being given by Government to the concerned General Managers regarding smooth functioning of BTS mobile towers; and

(d) the locations in these districts where there is a provision to install the towers during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

False case of abduction of son of Pak High Commission employee

1703. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the matter of concocted false allegation of abduction of son of Pak High Commission employee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received promise/assurance from Pakistan Government to not repeat such cases in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard?

Difficulties in getting passport forms in Punjab

1704. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether charges of passport application forms have been increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that people of Punjab are facing difficulties in obtaining passport forms; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ease the problem?

Abduction and murder of Indian driver in Afghanistan

1705. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian driver with the

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) involved in construction of highways in Afghanistan has been abducted alongwith three Afghan co-workers by the Talibans on 19th November, 2005 and murdered later;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the demand put forth by Talibans to release the Indian driver; and

(c) the measures which had been taken by Government for his safe release before he was murdered and also to check recurrence of such incidents?

Holocaust Memorial Day

1706. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 1st November, 2005, the UN General Assembly passed a Resolution, declaring '27th January' to be observed from next year as 'Holocaust Memorial Day' to commemorate liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, Poland, which had witnessed killing more than one million people;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has not registered its support to this UN Resolution;

(c) if so, the rationale behind the said stand of Government; and

(d) which other countries have restrained from supporting the Resolution at the UN General Assembly?

Pre-conditions for repatriation of Abu Salem

†1707. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

any conditions for repatriation of Abu Salem from Portugal, who is the main alleged in Mumbai bomb blast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken steps for repatriation of other wanted criminals; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Passport applications in Karnataka

1708. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received every day through direct submissions, speed posts, district passport cells and passport application collection centres in Karnataka;

(b) the average number of days taken to issue a passport;

(c) the special facilities provided for those who opt for Tatkal Scheme; and

(d) the other people-friendly measures taken up at Bangalore Passport Office?

Indian companies engaged in reconstruction work in Afghanistan

1709. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian public sector and private sector companies engaged in reconstructions of Afghanistan;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects where Indian companies are engaged;

(d) the number of employees of these companies engaged therein alongwith the steps taken for their security;

(e) whether Indian national working in Afghanistan were kidnapped and murdered during November, 2005; and

(f) if so, whether Government have any proposal for adequate compensation to the aggrieved workers and their families working in Afghanistan in case of such mishaps?

Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage

†1710. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilgrims who visited Kailash-Mansarovar during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total amount spent on this annually and facilities provided to the pilgrims by Government;

(c) whether Government propose to provide subsidy to the pilgrims going on Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage on the line of Haz pilgrims;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Services of lobbyist to push Indian case in USA

1711. SHRIMATI MOHSINA
KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to hire

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the services of Venable LLP, the lobbyist firm, to push its cases in USA; and

(b) if so, what distinct advantage will accrue to India thereof by the engagement of the firm when we have a full fledged comprehensive Indian Embassy in USA supported by three Consulates?

Talks between India and Pakistan

1712. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY;
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan had rounds of talks to discuss a host of issues including bus services and aviation agreement between two countries ahead of third round of composite dialogue process scheduled in January next year;

(b) whether two countries have planned about 30 meetings in next three months;

(c) if so, whether any agreement in regard to flights by private airlines have also been agreed upon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Passport application received through district passport cells

†1713. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2561 given in Rajya Sabha on 18th August, 2005 and to state:

(a) the year-wise number of applications received through district passport cells for issuing passports from each district in Chhattisgarh from January, 2002 to 31st December, 2004; and

(b) the details of applicants from Jashpur district, out of above, alongwith the details of persons to whom passports were issued actually?

Denial of access to Mukherjee Commission in Moscow

1714. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mukherjee Commission, probing the disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, had been denied access to archives in Moscow; and

(b) if so, what diplomatic initiative had been taken to persuade Moscow to allow the Commission to have access to its archives?

Pendency of passport applications in Kerala

1715. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending in Kerala as on date;

(b) the average time taken to issue a passport after submitting the application; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce this time period?

Discussion on Iran issue with US President

1716. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue of Iran nukes was discussed with US President during Prime Minister's visit there in September, 2005;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what has been India's stand thereon?

Agreements with IAEA

1717. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US administration has stipulated that India sign a more restrictive safeguard agreement with IAEA than the other nuclear weapon States including US has done;

(b) whether India has made any alteration on its stated stand on this issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of Government to the US stand?

Simplification of passport form

1718. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not been able to design simple passport application form;

(b) whether the present form contains repetitive questions and also are ambiguous, etc;

(c) whether people face severe harassment in getting a five year passport extended to 10 years; and

(d) the steps Government propose to simplify the application form and also make it easier to get the tenure of the passport extended without too much harassment?

Denial of Russian visa to Indians

1719. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many prominent Indian industrialists have been denied visas to Russia inspite of personal guarantee from Indian Ambassador to Russia;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with the names of industrialists having denied visas;

(c) whether Indian Government have lodged serious complaints as India has expressed interest in sourcing oil and gas from Russia in long term bilateral agreement; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

Peace process between India and Pakistan

†1720. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: SHRI SURENDRA LATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the common statement released after talks between President of Pakistan and him in New York was an expected diplomatic ceremony;

(b) if so, whether even after agreement of both countries to enhance peace proces, the mention of Kashmir issue in the General Body Meeting of UNO by the President of Pakistan would not sabotage the peace process; and

(c) if so, whether India wish to carry on the process of peace restoration with Pakistan inspite of such obstinacy on the part of President of Pakistan?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Joining of International
Thermonuclear Experimental
Reactor by India**

1721. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the British Prime Minister to New Delhi the question of India joining the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project came up for discussion;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the outcome of the discussions;

(c) whether the European Council has already recognised India's proven scientific capabilities in the area of thermonuclear reactors;

(d) whether India had already fulfilled all conditions for joining the project, including support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty; and

(e) the decision taken on Government's application in the US-EU meet on September 13, 2005?

**Intimidation of Indians in
Bangladesh**

1722. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent incident, wife of India's Deputy Commissioner to Bangladesh was intimidated in Dhaka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are being taking to protect and promote right of minority communities in SAARC countries?

Pakistani visa to Indian pilgrims

1723. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have impressed upon the Government of Pakistan to grant visas to Indian pilgrims who propose to visit Hindu temples at Kataraj and other places in Pakistan on reciprocal basis as Indian Government issue large number of visas to Pakistanis to visit places of pilgrimage in India;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the action thereon is likely to be taken?

**Amendments in Plantation
Labour Act**

1724. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started the process of making necessary amendments in the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 and make it more relevant to the current industrial scenario;

(b) by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(c) the main amendments proposed and to what extent it would be helpful?

Rate of EPF Contribution

1725. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of contribution of Employees Provident Fund being transferred to Pension Fund at present;

(b) whether it is proposed to transfer greater amount towards 'Pension Fund' so that, employees can get higher pension on superannuation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Contract labour in SEZ's

1726. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been raised for contract labour in Special Economic Zone, export oriented units, small and medium enterprises involved in export as a part of time bound strategy to make them globally competitive;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Child labourers

1727. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of child labourers have been liberated in Maharashtra and several other States this year;

(b) if so, the details of child labourers liberated from different industries in different States, district-wise;

(c) the industries and from what conditions they have been liberated; and

(d) the steps taken to rehabilitate them?

Educated unemployed in the country

1728. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated total number of educated unemployed in the country, with break-up, of Higher Secondary/ Intermediate, Graduate/B.A., Postgraduate/ M.A./M.Sc. Engineering diploma holders, Engineering degree holders, Doctors/B.D.S./ M.B.B.S., Teachers/B.Ed./M.Ed., M.B.A.; and

(b) what steps Government are considering to solve the burning issue of growing unemployment of the educated in the country?

Condition of labourers in unorganised sector

†1729. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers in unorganized sector at present in the country as per recent report of ILO;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite economic liberalisation policies status of these labourers is just like that of contractual native labourers under British Rule if so, the details thereof;

(c) the existing provision in the economic policies for livelihood, medical facilities and education for the poor/ labourers; and

(d) the factual details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Insurance scheme for agricultural labourers

1730. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the insurance scheme for agricultural labourers was extended only to 50 districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof district-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether this scheme has been closed now; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Private employment/placement agencies

1731. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of private employment agencies are in operation as placement agencies;

(b) whether Government have any control over them; and

(c) whether it is a fact that these agencies earn a fortune through business of human beings, particularly minor and young rural girls?

Increase of unemployment in rural and urban areas

†1732. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed persons in the country have

increased in the year, 2004 in comparison to the year, 2003;

(b) if so, the respective increase in the rural and urban areas; and

(c) the individual number of unemployed persons in urban and rural areas during, 2003 and 2004?

Registration of private employment exchanges

†1733. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the private employment exchanges or placement service centres being run at present;

(b) whether there is any provision to get these centres registered under any rule State-wise; and

(c) whether any intimation regarding providing employment through these centres is given to Central Government or State Government?

ILO report on working conditions in unorganised sector

1734. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether authorities are aware of the '2005 report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)' entitled "The Other India at Work" regarding abysmal working conditions in the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details of action taken/to be taken based on the above report, if any;

(c) if so, the steps taken/to be taken so that all the units in the unorganized sector would be registered; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the number of men and women employees working in unorganized sector, for the last three years, sector-wise, State-wise and year-wise?

Agricultural Labourers in Andhra Pradesh

1735. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of agricultural labourers in the States of Andhra Pradesh and its percentage to the total population of the State;

(b) the steps taken by Government for their welfare at the State and Central levels separately; and

(c) the extent of work done in this respect in the State of Andhra Pradesh in the last one and half year?

Reforms in labour policy

1736. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to reform the labour policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal envisages allowing employers to contract all types of jobs by amending Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, etc; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Benefits of textile quota

1737. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that International Labour Organization has warned that if India does not accelerate reforms, the benefits of textile quota would remain confined to a limited number of sub-contractors; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are going to take in this regard?

ILO report on unorganised sector in Northern India

1738. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an International Labour Organization report on unorganized sector in Northern India has highlighted the abysmal working conditions in this sector and the absence of social security for its workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per the report, the elements of job quality like job security, good working conditions, remuneration commensurate with the work etc. are missing in the informal sector; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to improve the working conditions for workers?

Early warning system for Tsunami

1739. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up early warning stations/systems in the seas surrounding the country for warning on Tsunami;

(b) if so, the number and places where such early warning systems/stations are proposed to be set up and the time by which the work in this regard would be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Live squid in wild sea

1740. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japanese scientists have observed a giant live squid in wild sea;

(b) if so, the detail thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Indian scientists on the observation of Japanese scientists?

Punishment to corrupt officers

1741. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission had recommended a major punishment for certain officials who were found involved in corruption cases during the year 2004 but the concerned Department have not taken action against them;

(b) if so, the details thereof pertaining to each Ministry/Department; and

(c) Government's reaction in regard thereto and whether Government propose to fix up the responsibility on the officer concerned for letting off the guilty officers involved in corruption cases?

Judgement on appointment

1742. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent landmark judgement if a candidate from the reserved category applies for an appointment in the general category, he cannot thereafter apply for the reserved category and *vice-versa*;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Assistance to missing pension holder's family

†1743. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether regular financial assistance cannot be provided to the spouse or heirs of missing pension-holders Government employee before seven years since the date of his going missing;

(b) if not, whether one-third pension-salary could be given to his family in case the police issue missing and not found certificate after two years considering that the period is far too long and the destitute family has to worry and search for the missing family head and at the same time face hardship; and

(c) whether the stipulated seven years period could be reduced to five years?

Second Administrative Reform Commission

1744. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2nd

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Administrative Reform Commission has been constituted on 31st August, 2005 to suggest measures for comprehensive administrative reform within one year of its constitution;

(b) if so, the details of the work undertaken, so far, *vis-à-vis* each item of its mandate;

(c) whether the commission will prioritize any item of the mandate and submit an Interim Report for early implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Suspension of corrupt officers

1745. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers belonging to various services and various Departments and Ministries etc. suspended or otherwise proceeded against for charges of corruption during last one year;

(b) whether it is a fact that still there are large number of officers who have assets disproportionate to their known sources of income but have managed to evade the anti-corruption net; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps contemplated in this regard?

Hurdles in enforcing RTI Act

†1746. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI MANOJ

BHATTACHARYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the law regarding right to

information has been implemented throughout the country w.e.f. 12th October, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that attention of Government has been drawn to certain hurdles in enforcing this law;

(d) if so, the hurdles brought to the notice of Government so far; and

(e) the names of the States wherein the said law could not be implemented, so far?

Raids by CBI

1747. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI conducted country-wise raids at about 200 places and in 54 cities on the 30th September, 2005 against corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of officers of various departments raided by CBI and the unaccounted wealth detected;

(d) the departmental and other action taken against these corrupt officials;

(e) whether it is a fact that the plans for the CBI raid was leaked out a day prior to the actual raid; and

(f) whether the CBI has instituted any probe into the leak and if so, the findings thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Vacancies for SCs/STs

1748. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH
PILANIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of reservation for SC, ST and OBCs in services, under Central Government and various States/Union Territories, at present;

(b) the number of posts in Central and State Government services vacant for Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes and OBCs during the years 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the vacancies are filled within the time bound framework?

Placement of meritorious SC/ST candidates in reserved list

1749. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even those SC/ST and OBC candidates who qualify for placement in the general category are being placed in their reserved category in Civil Services and other examinations conducted by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would review the rules and accommodate such candidates from reserved category to the general category for which they have qualified?

Legislation to regulate writing of ACR

1750. SHRI SHANTARAM
LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any legislation to

regulate the writing of Annual Confidential Reports of the Central Government employees;

(b) if not, nature of law presently followed to regulate Confidential Reports;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce any legislation in this regard; and

(d) the names of States, if any, having any legislation in this regard?

Publication of manual for RTI Act

1751. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Right to Information Act mandates that departments publish their organizational and functional details within 100 days of the enactment of Act;

(b) if so, whether Central/State departments complied with the directive publishing the details;

(c) whether any lapse/delay noticed by Government in this regard by any Central/State department; and

(d) if so, State-wise and department-wise details with particular reference to Kerala and Delhi?

Reply to letters received from MPs

†1752. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the guidelines of provisions made in proceeding of replying the letters of the Members of Parliament, the action against the employees of the State Governments is not taken;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the action Government are taking so that employees of the State Governments may be covered under these provisions resulting in quick reply of the letters of the Members of Parliament?

Stagnation in the cadre of UDCs in reserved category

1753. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a heavy stagnation in the cadre of UDCs as many personnel have not got the promotions since 5 years in the reserved category like SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of posts filled during the last ten years in the category of non-gazetted personnel in SCs/STs;

(d) the number of posts still vacant for SCs/STs;

(e) the reasons for not filling up the posts even though lying vacant; and

(f) the steps to be taken by Government to fill up the vacant posts?

Reservation in services

1754. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after 57 years of Independence, the Group 'A' & 'B' Posts meant for SCs and all the posts meant for STs have not been filled up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had provided relaxations and concessions to these communities in respect of employment in above posts?

Reservation in *in-situ* promotion

1755. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that reservation is applied only in regular and *ad-hoc* promotion and not in *in-situ* promotion/ personnel upgradation and ACP Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the reasons as well as the major differences between *ad-hoc* promotion and *in-situ* promotion/ personnel upgradation and ACP Scheme?

Contract workers

1756. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that under the contract system, workers employed in Central Government offices in various capacities are not being paid the whole sum which the contractors are drawing from Treasury on their account;

(b) whether the contractors are also not giving to employees full monthly quota of working days thus denying them the full wages;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial action taken by Government in this regard?

Meeting of NDC

1757. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the decisions taken by the National Development council in its meeting held in

June, 2005 and the areas in which decline in growth rate has been noted;

(b) whether Sub-Committees for providing relief on agriculture and States loan have been set-up;

(c) if so, by when the said Committees would submit their reports to Government; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to implement the decisions taken by National Development Council?

Disenchantment among the public about non-profit organisation

1758. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a concern about growing disenchantment among the public with non-profit organisations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Planning Commission sponsored study had called for proactive monitoring mechanisms that are inspection and performance driven; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Amount spent by farmers families

†1759. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge gap has been found in the amount to be spent by the families of farmers in various States of the country for their subsistence;

(b) if so, the estimated amount of per capita monthly expenditure of the families of farmers in each State;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this amount of expenditure is also related to the income of families of farmers; and

(d) if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

Per capita expenditure of farmers

†1760. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per capita monthly expenditure of the families of farmers of rural areas in the country was Rs. 503/- in 2003;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this amount is Rs. 75/- more than the criteria of poverty line;

(d) if not, the criteria fixed for poverty line; and

(e) the average number of the families living below the poverty line in the country?

Special package for States and farmers

†1761. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to sanction a special package for Jammu and Kashmir, North Eastern States and farmers; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof separately, for each?

Identification of backward districts

†1762. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not identified the backward districts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by Government for the observance of the guidelines issued for the development of the backward districts?

Eradication of poverty and unemployment

1763. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved an action plan to eradicate poverty and unemployment within a period of ten years; and

(b) if so, the present status of the extent of poverty and unemployment in the country, State-wise and the strategy and the details of the plan of action contemplated?

NIMITLI scheme

1764. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that number of companies have been given funds under the New Millennium India Technology Leadership Initiative (NIMITLI) scheme;

(b) if so, what are the details of the grant and the names of the companies; and

(c) the steps taken for recovery of these loans and the cases where the loan have been written-off?

National Biotech Development Policy

1765. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) by when National Biotech Development policy to chalk out a roadmap for future growth of biotech industry is likely to be announced in the country;

(b) what are the other issues that the proposed policy is going to be addressed;

(c) whether it also include the industry-academic interaction so as to make our biotech sector more effective in the international market;

(d) if so, the details thereon; and

(e) the strategic plans the ministry have to achieve US 5 billion revenue by 2010?

Sea-level along western ghats

†1766. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by Indian Meteorological Institute, Ahmedabad revealed heavy rains and rising in sea-level along western ghats in near future;

(b) whether it poses any threat to Konkan railways; and

(c) if so, Government's proposed plan to combat this threat?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Technology for increasing paddy production

1767. SHRIMATI SUKHBUN KAUR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Information Forecasting Assessment Council has developed a technology, which having been tried in Bihar, resulted in trebling the production of paddy; and

(b) if so, whether the technology has been tried in other regions also, if so, the details thereof and the resultant increase in productivity thereby?

Bus services between India and Pakistan

1768. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bus services existing between India and Pakistan so far;

(b) the revenue earned so far in each case; and

(c) the passengers journeyed so far in each case?

Clearance of National Highway Projects

1769. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway Projects worth Rs. 482 crore are being thwarted for want of necessary clearance in northern and western regions of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that 62 projects of the northern region worth Rs. 133 crore

and 71 projects of the western region worth Rs. 349 crore are lying pending;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to expedite the clearances of the said National Highway Projects?

Six laning of 6500 Km of national highway

1770. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

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

(a) whether Government are considering Rs. 22,750 crore project to lay six lane roads covering 6,500 km of national highway;

(b) whether this proposal has been mooted on the direction of the Prime Minister;

(c) whether it would be implemented on the design build, finance and operate basis instead of the build, operate and transfer basis;

(d) whether the project would cover highways that carry traffic of 40,000 passenger car units a day; and

(e) if so, by what time the project is likely to be announced?

Branches of Inland Water Transport of India in eastern region

1771. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Inland Water

Transport of India is having its headquarters at New Delhi and there is no branch office in the entire Eastern region, which lacks coordination and delays the execution of the works;

(b) whether a proposal for establishment of its regional office at Bhubaneswar has been made by the State Government of Orissa; and

(c) if so, the status thereof and the time-frame within which this would be set up?

East Coast Canal

1772. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has identified East Coast Canal as a possible National Waterway of India, which includes the East Coast Canal integrated with the Brahmani and the Mahanadi rivers; and

(b) if so, what is the status of the proposal and the time-frame within which the above project would be approved as a National Waterway?

Introduction of waterways transport

1773. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce

waterways for transportation of goods from one city to another city; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

I.T. Corridor of Bangalore

1774. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government have sought assistance for the upgradation of 38 roads in I.T. Corridor of Bangalore; and

(b) if so, what is the present status of the above proposal?

Crew Training Institute

1775. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that Orissa State has only one Training Institute for launch drivers, serangs, masters etc., at Chandbali, in the entire Eastern region, which covers not only the students of Orissa but other States as well;

(b) whether the Orissa Government has submitted a scheme to the Inland Water Authority of India (IWAI) for development of Crew Training Institute at Chandbali at an estimated cost of Rs. 207.50 lakhs;

(c) if so, the status thereof; and

(d) the time-frame within which the funds would be sanctioned for the above project, if not already done?

Highways under Golden Quadrilateral

†1776. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of construction work
of highways completed so far under Golden
Quadrilateral project, State-wise;

(b) the length of road in kilometres
constructed in the State of Bihar under
Delhi-Kolkata Highway; and

(c) the length of roads in kilometres
constructed under the scheme linking major
ports with highways, the budget allocated
for the scheme and by when the work would
be completed alongwith status thereof?

Condition of National Highway No. 75

†1777. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

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

(a) whether National Highway No. 75
is totally damaged;

(b) whether there are so many pot-
holes on this Highway from Devari to
Satana;

(c) the total amount spent on the
construction of this road so far;

(d) whether despite the guarantee given
by the road contractor no measures of
maintenance are being carried out;
and

(e) what is the time-limit for completion
of work on this road?

Central assistance proposal from Maharashtra

1778. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL
APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

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

(a) whether Government have approved
the Maharashtra Government's proposal
for Central assistance worth around Rs.
195 crore under the National Coastal
Protection Project, and included it under
the first phase of this project in 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal
and the Central assistance sanctioned
therefor;

(c) the progress made so far in
implementation of the project; and

(d) the reasons for the delay and cost
escalation incurred so far on account of the
delay?

Bangalore-Mysore Highway

1779. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have failed to
beat its deadline of 30th September, 2005
to complete the four-lane Bangalore-
Mysore Highway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the expected target date at
present?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Private participation in National Highways

1780. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether being unable to secure private participation in National Highway stretches in Bihar, North East and Jammu and Kashmir, Government's support is sought to be increased from 40 per cent to 60 per cent to ensure completion of work on National Highway on schedule;

(b) whether Government now considering the option to downgrade the work on affected National Highway stretches, where private participation is not forthcoming from four-laning to two-laning; and

(c) whether Government have also weighed the option to revert to engineering, procurement and construction mode for these stretches?

Per-capita highway ratio in Bihar

†1781. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per-capita highway ratio in Bihar;

(b) the length of highways in kilometres that were constructed and repaired during the last three years; and

(c) the amount of money allocated by Government to the State of Bihar for this purpose, the details thereof, year-wise and work-wise?

Speed-breakers on National Highways

1782. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether speed-breakers or any other construction on National Highways to reduce/control the speed of motor-vehicles on certain points permissible;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that construction of speed-breakers and the likes have led to the accidents involving two wheelers and caused considerable damage to the four wheelers; and

(c) the guidelines/rules in force in this regard?

Six-laning of highways

1783. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHAI intends to make some four-lane highways into six-lane highways in the country;

(b) what is the criteria being used to determine the four-lane highways that would be selected for six-lane conversion;

(c) whether it is a fact that density of traffic is not a prime criteria for NHAI to select such works;

(d) the steps proposed to carefully assess the need for making six-lane highways without the accompanying traffic; and

(e) the steps proposed to avoid unnecessary investments by NHAI?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Four laning of NH-52

1784. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project/scheme to construct double/four lane road on the existing NH-52 connecting with China Border in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) by when the West-East four-lane corridor road construction work in North East area is likely to begin; and

(c) whether there is any scheme to utilize rivers Brahmaputra/Barak as national/international waterways?

National highways damaged due to rains

1785. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of a number of National Highways has worsened following incessant rains in a number of States, particularly in the Southern States;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what measures have been contemplated to improve the conditions of the affected highways, with details of financial allocation made and time-frame set for completing the task?

Accidents involving Indian seafarers

1786. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a

rise in accidents involving Indian seafarers on Indian ships especially in Indian boundary;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons that in many cases enquiry/investigation are not initiated?

Development of ports in Maharashtra

1787. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had submitted proposals for the development of ports in the Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of these proposals which are still pending and the progress made so far in respect thereof; and

(c) when were these proposals mooted and the reasons for the delay?

Cost of Sethu Samudram Project

1788. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total estimate of the cost of Sethu Samudram project; and

(b) what is the amount allotted so far, and by when the project would be completed?

NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh

1789. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHAI has not responded positively to some representations pertaining to design and maintenance of some section of the NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that representation have been made to the NHAI regarding faulty design on NH-5 between the stretch from Rajanagaram to Annavaram in East Godavari district;

(c) the details of such representations pending with NHAI in the last two years and reasons for lack of action and response by NHAI;

(d) to what extent has the NHAI been un-responsive to demands and requests from responsible organizations, colleges and other institutions in that area; and

(e) the steps proposed for rectifying this type of negligence?

Rest areas on NH-5

1790. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Road Safety Forum of Andhra Pradesh had pleaded for specific Rest Areas on NH-5;

(b) if so, whether NHAI has made any effort to contact, discuss and communicate with the Road Safety Forum to develop such sites;

(c) what are the reasons for the lethargic approach of the NHAI in this matter; and

(d) what steps would be taken to complete such tasks initiated by the Road Safety Forum?

Ring road scheme in Varanasi

†1791. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposed ring road scheme in Varanasi has been cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons for not commencing work on this scheme so far; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed?

Challenges from Multinational companies

1792. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industries are facing challenges of competition from Multinational companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to help Small Scale Industries?

Employment generation in SSIs

1793. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reward the States on the basis of performance of scheme implemented to generate employment in Small Scale Industries Sector;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have prepared a list of States which are lagging behind in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to help these States for improving in performance of Small Scale Industries?

Schemes for SSIs

1794. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the important promotional schemes undertaken by Government to encourage small scale industries in the country;

(b) whether Government would continue the schemes announced by the previous Government or else new schemes with a fresh concept would be introduced to address the problems faced by SSIs; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to modify the RBI guidelines by making One Time Settlement (OTS) between loss making industries and the Banks?

Manned space mission by ISRO

1795. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ISRO studying needs for a manned space mission and providing him the habitation and environment to stay there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ISRO plans to put a human presence in space by 2012/2015; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Lunar mission

1796. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRIMATI JAYA
BACHCHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on a lunar mission; and

(b) if so, by when a space ship is likely to visit moon?

Achievement in targets

†1797. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the first five months of current financial year, country is lagging behind with regard to coal, steel and construction of roads, and handling of goods in major ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of targets in each field together with the reasons for lagging behind in achieving the targets?

Replacing of NSSO

1798. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating measures to replace the National Sample Survey Organisation with National Commission on Statistics;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) in that context what would be the responsibility of NSSO in the future?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Promotion of sports in Tamil Nadu

1799. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes sponsored to promote sports in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of sports persons from Tamil Nadu who represented at National and International level in various sports; and

(c) the total outlay, allocation and achievements made during the last three years?

Social security scheme for sports persons

1800. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce social security schemes for the men and women in the sports field; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Schemes under Rural Sports Programme

1801. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being run under the "Rural Sports Programme";

(b) the names of agencies through which the said programme is being undertaken;

(c) the criteria for allocation of funds for the implementation of the said project; and

(d) the details of funds allocated by Government for organizing rural sports programmes in Andhra Pradesh during the last one and half year alongwith the name of agency through which the funds have been allocated?

NEW DELHI;
The 2nd December, 2005
Agrahayana 11, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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