

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, the March 9, 2005/Phalguna 18, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Commerce and Industry; Defence; Home Affairs; Non-Conventional Energy Sources; Power; Rural Development; Textiles)

Total number of questions — 155

Industrial clusters at sanctioned in Karnataka

766. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
has agreed to sanction Machine Tool Cluster
at Bangalore and Foundry Cluster at
Belgaum in Karnataka;

(b) what is the project cost of the
industrial cluster and the extent of financial
assistance released by the Government of
India;

(c) whether there is any proposal
pending with Government for establish-
ment of Valves Cluster at Dharwad and a
Cashew Cluster at Mangalore; and

(d) when will the final orders be issued
to handover the land?

Package for development of tea industry in Assam

767. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-
CHARJEE: Will the Minister of
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assam
Government has given a memorandum to
the Central Government urging to expedite
the special package for development of the
tea industry since it is a revenue earning
industry for the State;

(b) whether Government are aware
about the crisis of the workers in this
sector;

(c) if so, whether any steps are being
considered by the Central Government to
remove the plight of the workers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Incentives for industrial units in SEZs

†768. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the industrial
Units under Special Economic Zones in the
country are provided special concession;

(b) if so, the details of facilities provided
to such units; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the estimate of average annual financial aid to such units through these facilities in the country?

World Economic Forum

769. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he led a delegation of industrialists and others to the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland in January, 2005;

(b) if so, what are the major issues discussed at the Forum;

(c) whether he has received assurances from the international industrial community on increased foreign direct investment into the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of Indian coffee by Coffee Board

770. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board is not actively promoting Indian coffee in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Coffee Board has not opened its coffee shops or outlets in major cities;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is aware that the private sector is very active in such marketing techniques; and

(e) the steps proposed by the Coffee Board to create a franchise of its Coffee Board restaurants in interest of selling and promoting Indian coffee?

Import of coal by MMTC from China

771. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation is importing coal from China presently;

(b) if so, the details of such import of coal;

(c) whether the imports of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation will have any negative impact on Indian Coal;

(d) the amount of coal in quantity and financial terms that is being imported by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation from China in current financial year; and

(e) the plans to import coal from China by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation in the next fiscal year?

Proposals of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council

772. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) has submitted a policy paper to take an aggressive competition from world market majors in international market by domestic industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(c) what are the objective, constitution and functions of the council;

(d) whether Government has considered the recommendations of NMCC and taken a view on the opening up the non-traditional retail sector to FDI especially in branded stores;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the benefit expected for domestic industries and non traditional retail sector by such a decision?

Foreign companies operating business in India

†773. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign companies operating their business in various States of the country as on 31st January, 2005;

(b) the areas in which the said companies have entered into an agreement with our country for operating their business during the last three years togetherwith the conditions laid for such contract; and

(c) the role of these foreign companies in giving suitable benefits to the common people of the country?

Interpretation of Press Note No. 18

774. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revised norms pertaining to Press Note No. 18 still remains ambiguous and open to contradictory interpretations with the words 'Same field' and 'Defunct' etc.;

(b) whether under the revised norms, all activities within automobile as a sector would be considered 'Similar' or would go into product categorisation as per National Industrial Classification Code; and

(c) with the BIFR going to be defunct soon, how the status of undertakings under BIFR as 'Defunct' or 'Sick' can be declared?

Export of wheat

†775. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to export wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of countries from which proposals have been received in this regard?

Export of products from SEZs

†776. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the units working in Special Economic Zones set up in the country export the products;

(b) if so, the value of such exports by these units during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and first six months of 2004-05;

(c) what is the percentage of this export to the total exports in the country during the above periods; and

(d) what is the value of products sold in indigenous market by these units during the above periods?

Export of foodgrains

777. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains exported from our country during the last three years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of facilities being provided to the exporters; and

(c) the details of target fixed for export of foodgrains during the current year?

Violation of export policy by iron ore exporting companies

†778. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many iron ore exporting companies are grossly violating the export policy and some companies have been found guilty for it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government against the guilty companies so far; and

(d) the concrete arrangements being made by Government to ban the export of high quality iron ore in future?

New export promotion scheme

779. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a meeting between the Ministry and all the Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards and other bodies in the country recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government announced a new export promotion scheme in place of the existing Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in view of the objective of doubling India's trade share in the global market, in terms of percentage, by 2004, the Ministry has set up an ambitious target of achieving 16 per cent export target; and

(d) if so, the details of (a), (b) and (c) above?

Agreement to promote Indo-Nepal Economic and Trade Cooperation

780. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister to New Delhi, an agreement to promote Indo-Nepal Economic and Trade Cooperation was reached;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to implement the same?

Enactment of law regarding crimes in SEZs

†781. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to enact a special law regarding crimes committed in Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether special courts would be constituted for the same?

Proposal to set up an International Trade Promotion Centre at Bangalore

782. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to establish an International Trade Promotion Centre at Bangalore, similar to Pragati Maidan of Delhi;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the project and the shares of the State Government in the project;

(c) whether other cities has also been planned for similar project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Suggestions of experts on Intellectual Property Rights

783. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experts on Intellectual Property Rights urged the Government of India to have separate courts to deal with issues connected with patents and intellectual property rights in the light of the new patent regime invoked from 1st January, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the request made by experts;

(c) whether any action has been initiated in this direction by the Government of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Export of agricultural products

†784. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural products being exported during last three years;

(b) whether India is lagging behind in the export of agricultural products as compared to other countries;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and the steps taken to increase Indian share in international market;

(d) the share of India in the agricultural products in the international market; and

(e) the total export made since January, 2004 till now?

Assesment of Indo-Pak trade during 2004

†785. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth in Indo-Pak trade during 2004 has been assessed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas where growth has been registered and quantum of growth expected in ensuing years?

Increase in India's exports

†786. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export has constantly been increasing over the years in the country;

(b) if so, what is the annual percentage of increase in export as average basis, during the last five years;

(c) whether Government have identified those 10 products which have been maximum exported during the above years; and

(d) if so, what are the names of such products and what is the export percentage of each of the above products to the total exports?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reasons for high export growth

787. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports crossed US Dollars 60 billion in the first ten months of this fiscal year;

(b) whether it is a fact that this figure is 26 per cent higher than the figure of exports for the corresponding period last fiscal years;

(c) to what extent is this high export figure due to the falling value to the US Dollar;

(d) what were the actual exports in rupee terms for this 10 month period; and

(e) steps proposed to carefully encourage exports in such sectors which are not dependent on oil for their production?

Profit and loss making foreign investors

788. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and size of foreign investors in India making profit and the percentage of foreign investors who have reached break even; and

(b) the number and size of foreign investors who make losses?

Measures to improve the tea industry

789. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the measures adopted by Government to improve the sick Tea

Industries in Assam, West Bengal, Tripura, Karnataka and Kerala;

(b) whether Government has made any in-depth studies regarding claims of various tea garden managements on causes of the sickness of their companies; and

(c) if so, what are the findings?

Ban on duty free import of pepper for export

790. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has banned duty-free imports of pepper for export production under the Advance License Scheme as per media reports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Import of fish and fish products from Thailand

791. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government accorded permission for the duty free import of 82 (eighty two) varieties of fish and fish products from Thailand; and

(b) whether Government propose to review the above decision?

India's deliberations at World Economic Forum, Davos

792. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which deliberations took place with Indian delegation at the recently concluded World Economic Forum in Davos;

(b) the details of such deliberations; and
 (c) the details of advantages accruing to India due to participation in the forum this year?

R & D in Defence Sector

†793. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
 SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps Government propose to take to start/speedup development and research in defence sector; and

(b) the project-wise details of investment Government propose to make in this regard?

Defence Research and Development Programmes

794. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
 Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is spending Rs. 10,000 crores on three ongoing Defence Research and Development Programmes which include the Light Combat Aircraft and an airborne early warning system; and

(b) if so, the details of three projects and their specialities?

The US Coast Guard proposal to share intelligence

795. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
 Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Coast Guard has invited its Indian counterpart to

take part in an intelligence sharing programme that would involve real time coastal surveillance, using remote controlled spy planes to improve the maritime domain awareness of aligned nations; and

(b) if so, the details of the offer made by the US?

Establishment of Defence University

796. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to set up a Defence University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had entered into any Memorandum of Understanding with any University in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Anomaly in facilities to ex-servicemen

†797. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while there is similarity in facilities being provided by Central Government to ex-servicemen in the country there is a big difference in the facilities being provided by various Governments;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the separate cell/departments of ex-servicemen, which has been created in the Ministry of Defence to bring about uniformity in these facilities and what has been the results thereof; and

(c) in what manner Ministry of Defence ensures that ex-servicemen get uniform facilities from State Governments also;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government propose to set up National Commission for ex-servicemen; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Broad policy on National Security

†798. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a broad policy on National Security; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Border fencing along LoC

799. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after fencing of a 700 kilometres stretch of the LoC, the army has undertaken the work of erecting another fence along the Zero Line to act as first line of defence against infiltration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of money earmarked for the purpose and the targets set for completion of the work?

Financial support by public sector undertakings

800. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Public Sector Undertaking had sought financial support from the Government to implement four vital projects costing Rs. 675 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the timely clearance is required from the Government to extend the export proposals received by the Public Sector Undertakings producing defence related equipments; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to clear the export related proposals on priority basis?

Permission to services personnel to appear in Civil Services Examinations

801. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that personnel of other ranks of Air Force and other services are not permitted to appear in Civil Services Examinations etc., now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider this decision and permit them to appear in these examinations as before?

Acquisition of fighter aircrafts for IAF

802. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to acquire 126 new fighter aircrafts for Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had taken a decision not to phase out the MiG's; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Purchase of ship chandlers for Indian Navy

803. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ship chandler purchases in the Indian Navy was made from middlemen instead of from the original equipment manufacturer at Visakhapatnam's Eastern Naval Command;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the officers concerned;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian Navy incurred a loss of several lakhs of rupees on account of procurement of substandard equipments for air conditioning plant in the logistic department; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the officials concerned?

Re-examination of one-rank-one-pension proposal

804. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to re-examine the issue of one rank one pension to ex-servicemen; and

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

Increase in infiltration in J & K

805. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the pull out of military from Jammu and Kashmir there has been a spurt in infiltration from Pakistan side;

(b) if so, the details of incidents of infiltration since December, 2004; and

(c) the steps being taken to stop infiltration from other side of border in Jammu and Kashmir?

Indian soldiers in Pakistani jails

†806. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian soldiers detained in Pakistani jails;

(b) the offence for which these soldiers have been detained; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to bring these soldiers back to the country?

Relaxation in physical standards for recruitments

†807. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some relaxations in the physical standards prescribed for recruitment in the defence services of India were available to the Garhwali, the Kumaoni and the Gorkha youths;

(b) whether some of these relaxations have been withdrawn;

(c) if so, since when;

(d) whether Government is aware of the fact that this step of the Defence Ministry has led to grave discontentment in these regions which have a martial tradition; and

(e) if so, whether Government is willing to restore the above relaxations as before?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Throwing out of passengers from the Farakka Express by armymen

808. DR. M.A.M. RAMA-SWAMY:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some armymen had thrown five passengers out of the Farakka Express at Sikohabad in Firozabad district in Uttar Pradesh on 23rd January, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Army has ordered a court of inquiry into the incident;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the inquiry report has since been received; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the accused armymen and the compensation paid to the next of kin of the victims?

Expansion plans of Coast Guard

809. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coast Guard has ambitious expansion plans for 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) whether the Coast Guard will also train its personnel during this period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Coast Guard is aware that a higher level of professionalism is needed for its personnel; and

(e) the steps proposed to improve the sensitivity and dedication in personnel of Coast Guard?

Satellite for the Army

†810. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Army needs to have its own satellite to modernise it;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering of providing satellite to the Army;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of Amphibious Warfare Training School

811. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a new Amphibious Warfare Training School, for forging closer ties between the Army, Navy and Air Force in training and operations;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter and the progress so far made in that direction; and

(c) whether the recent Tsunami relief operations underlined the need for quick and joint action between the Armed Forces and for forging the spirit of jointness among the three arms of the defence forces?

Facilities for youth at recruitment rallies

812. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of Kannadigas in the Indian Army;

(b) how many youths from various parts of Karnataka attended the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

recruitment rally held in Bangalore in November, 2004;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that these youths had to sleep on the footpaths as no arrangements for their stay etc., had been made by the Defence authorities in Bangalore; and

(d) if so, will the Government take steps to provide accommodation, toilet, bathing and other facilities to the youths who come from different parts of Karnataka for Tests in Bangalore?

Recommendations of Ajai Vikram Singh Committee

†813. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the recommendations of Ajai Vikram Singh Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that army doctors, veterinary doctors and dentists have been ignored in these recommendations due to which there is great resentment among them; and

(d) the arrangements being made by Government to do justice with the army doctors, veterinary doctors and dentists?

Implementation of Ajai Vikram Singh Committee Report

814. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to implement the Ajai Vikram Singh Committee Report to ensure more younger officers to command field, in so far as Army wing is concerned by creating 750 additional vacancies at the Colonel rank upgraded

from Lieutenant Colonel rank, introducing a system of time bound promotion at 13 years for Lt. Col. and 26 years for Colonel, the first promotion to captain rank being after 2 years instead of 4 years and to Major after 6 years instead of 10 years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and being taken to ensure younger officers with respect to the Air Force and Naval Wing?

Promotion prospects in the Army

†815. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Army is far behind in the matter of promotion as compared to civil services;

(b) if not, the comparative details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the youths are disinclined to join Army due to difficult situations and lack of opportunities as well; and

(d) if so, the details of the efforts being made by Government in this regard?

Kidnapping of school children

†816. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the kidnapping incidents of school children in different States including Bihar in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check such incidents and the number of cases in which CBI probe has been ordered?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Harassment of Indian traders in Nepal

817. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepals' Maoist extremists have targeted Indian-origin traders along the Indo-Nepal border in Gonda in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether several families of traders settled in Nepal had migrated to nearby areas of UP following ransom demands and harassment by Maoists in Nepal; and

(c) whether India has taken adequate steps to prevent the entry of extremists/anti-social elements from Nepal to India?

Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

†818. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of terrorist activities have come down in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the strength of the troops of Central Polices Forces deployed for the safety of citizens in Jammu and Kashmir have now been reduced by Government; and

(c) whether the number of troops of Central Police Forces deployed at present in Jammu and Kashmir is adequate to provide security to the people of Jammu and Kashmir?

Jail inmates in Delhi

819. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jail inmates men and women, separately in Delhi beyond the age of 60 years who have been in jail for periods

more than the maximum period of sentence related to the crime allegedly committed by them; and

(b) the steps contemplated to expeditiously dispose of their cases?

Report of Task Force on Internal Security

820. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Task Force Report on Internal Security has reported that 45% of India's geographical area, covering 220 districts, is in the grip of insurgency;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the last 20 years around 64,000 people were killed in terrorist violence; and

(c) what are the salient recommendations of the Task Force and how far these have been implemented to control terrorist violence?

Policy for collecting money/material for victims of national disasters

†821. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any policy dealing with collection of money and logistics by various State Governments and NGOs for extending assistance to the victims of national disasters;

(b) whether any incident regarding non-utilization of money collected by State Government or any other organisation for this purpose, has been reported to Government; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the action Government propose to initiate against such organizations or State Government?

Trial prisoners in Kerala

822. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many trial prisoners affiliated to Kerala based Political Parties are detained in Coimbatore Prison connected with any case;

(b) whether any complaints received from the relatives of prisoners alleged that adequate treatment facilities are not extending to such prisoners in Coimbatore Jail;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and;

(d) whether Government consider to intervene in to the matter and enquire into the alleged violation of human rights if any, against the trial prisoner?

NHRC guidelines for arrests

823. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has issued comprehensive guidelines on the arrest of a person; and

(b) if so, what are the details and the Centre's reaction thereto?

Special Force Command

824. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Army has decided to bring Special Forces under one umbrella with the objective of carrying out highly

coordinated swift and preemptive wartime strikes or anti-terrorism operations;

(b) whether Army top brass have finalized concept of Special Force Command and Government has given its go-ahead including of all important financial commitments;

(c) if so, what are details of proposed project prepared by Armed forces for creation of Special Force Command; and

(d) by what time it is likely to be formed and to what extent it will be helpful to meet terrorist activities anywhere in the country?

Statehood to Pondicherry

825. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to accord Statehood to Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Network of Maoists and Naxalites

†826. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the network of Maoists and Naxalite militants is rapidly expanding in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it could endanger internal security of the country;

(c) whether Government identified the areas where Maoists and Naxalite terrorism is prevailing; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government so far to combat the Naxalite and Maoists militant organisations and what are State-wise details in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Organisations banned under various Acts

827. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) which are the organizations banned by Government under various security Acts *e.g.* POTA, MOCCA; and

(b) what types of security measures have been taken by Government to eliminate the activities of these banned organizations?

Law to deal with criminal violence

828. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a model comprehensive law to deal with increasing "Criminal Violence" for guidance of all States etc.; and

(b) if so, whether draft legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced during the current Session of Parliament?

Fire in some busy markets of Delhi

829. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that properties worth crores of rupees have been gutted in the devastating fire erupted in some busy markets in the Capital;

(b) whether the firemen faced hurdles for bringing the fire under control due to heavy encroachments by the shop-keepers on both sides of the road;

(c) whether measures have been taken to avoid such incidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Terrorist attacks in J&K

830. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a spurt in terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir after the ceasefire;

(b) the details of incidents of terrorist attacks and the number of security personnel, civilians and terrorists killed in these incidents; and

(c) the steps being taken to flush out terrorists from Jammu and Kashmir?

Stampede at Mandhar Devi temple, Maharashtra

†831. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people died in a stampede during annual worship function in Mandhar Devi temple in Satara district in Maharashtra recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to prevent recurrence of such accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Special assistance for tackling militancy in North-Eastern States

832. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give special assistance to upgrade and expand infrastructure to tackle the problem of militancy and insurgency in the North-Eastern States; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Crimes in the country

833. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of kidnapping, eve-teasing, murders, dacoity, kidnapping, bomb-blasts etc., committed in different States of the country during the last three years and till date; and

(b) the details of steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Central Government to improve and control the situation in these States?

Killings by Naxalites

834. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR
SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Naxalite menace has been spreading its wings in several States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka and other States;

(b) if so, what is the number of persons killed by Naxalites in these States during each of the three preceding years; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any strategy to tackle this menace and if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

Sending of troops without request from States

835. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to empower the Central Government to send troops to

States without waiting for a request from them is under consideration;

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

(c) whether the proposal has been discussed with the State Governments; and

(d) if so, their responses thereto?

Dual citizenship

†836. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended the right of dual citizenship to all Non-Resident Indians, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all Non-Resident Indians residing in various countries worldwide would be benefited from the same and if so, the positive results thereof;

(c) since when this right of dual citizenship is in force and the number of Non-resident Indians willing to draw its benefit who have applied for it; and

(d) the prime reasons for extending the right of Indian citizenship to Non-Resident Indian of any country?

Commission for Centre-State relations

837. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to set up one more Commission to take a new look at the Centre-State relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was no consensus in the Inter-State Council on many recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Image of India as soft-State

†838. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consequent upon the hijack of IC-814 in 1999, India has got the image as a soft-State;

(b) if so, whether Government intend to draw some guidelines to take more decisions for getting rid of such incidents in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

New Commission to look into Centre-State relations

839. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite phased implementation of most of Sarkaria Commission recommendations on Centre-State relations, the Centre-State ties still remain strained at times;

(b) whether the Centre has decided to set up one more Commission to look into the Centre-State relations, post-Sarkaria Commission report; and

(c) if so, the reasons prompting setting up of a new Commission?

Manufacture of illicit liquor

840. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many people have died during 2004 by consuming illicit liquor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that illicit liquor is generally manufactured by using industrial methanol;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent availability of industrial methanol to illicit liquor manufacturers and destroy their distilleries; and

(d) whether SHO of every police station will be made personally responsible for existence of any illicit distillation of liquor and sale thereof in his areas and that SHO is vested with powers to discharge his responsibilities?

New law to contain naxalism

841. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether naxalite activities have increased in many parts of the country;

(b) whether such incidents have increased after repeal of Prevention of Terrorism Act;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal for a special law to curb naxalite activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Salaries drawn during suspension period in MCD

842. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 1000 employees of Municipal Corporation of Delhi who are under suspension and are facing inquiries following their involvement in illegal activities and corruption, are still drawing salaries;

(b) if so, what is the precise number of such employees at present; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose to take any decision for the stoppage of their salaries during the period of their suspension and if so, by when?

Naxal activities in States

†843. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that naxal activities in various States have increased in recent times and the concerned States have apprised the Central Government of this development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to contain naxal activities in the States?

Prisoners in Tihar Jail

844. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of prisoners, including women, above the age of 65 years, presently lodged in various jails in the country and particularly in Tihar Jail in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that these prisoners have become very weak;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to release these aged prisoners on humanitarian grounds; and

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

Talks with ULFA

845. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have expressed its willingness to talk to

the outlawed ULFA on its own terms;

(b) if so, the terms set by the ULFA; and

(c) what were the Centre's constraints in accepting the ULFA's conditions unilaterally?

Dual citizenship

846. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give dual citizenship to all overseas indians immigrated after January 26, 1950;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the citizens of India migrated after 1950 can enjoy all privileges of an Indian citizen except the voting rights;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not giving voting rights;

(d) whether Government of India have expanded the list of 16 countries which it notified earlier; and

(e) if so, by when Government are going to amend the citizenship Act for this purpose?

Dual citizenship

847. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to grant dual citizenship to those indians who left the country after January 26, 1950;

(b) if so, what rights persons of Indian origin (PIOs) are expected to enjoy who opt for dual citizenship for their own country or abroad;

(c) the countries at present who have adopted dual citizenship laws/treaty facilitating the same;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) by when Government is expected to announce registration procedure in this regard; and

(e) whether Government are contemplating to scrap soon 1950 cut off date in order to extend this facility to all Indians residing abroad?

Discrimination in distribution of relief materials to Tsunami victims

848. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SCs/STs and Dalits are kept away whenever officials and NGOs come with assistance to distribute food, water and clothes etc. to the Tsunami affected families;

(b) whether any enquiry has been made in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Persons released after scrapping of POTA

†849. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons released after scrapping of POTA who were detained under this act; and

(b) the details of the crime for which arrests were made under POTA alongwith the names of these persons?

Prisoners not released despite orders by competent court

850. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought any report from the States about the

prisoners ordered to be released by the competent court but not actually released for one reason or the other;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government are contemplating in such cases?

Infiltration from across the border

851. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate steps are being taken to check infiltration from across the border (s) in consultation with the border States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Law and order situation in States bordering Nepal

†852. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view, the increased sensitivity of the Indo-Tibet border, the law and order situation in border States has been assessed;

(b) if so, whether these States have sought any Central Government assistance for strengthening the police force and safety of the border; and

(c) if so, the details of the assistance sought by these States and the assistance provided to them?

Dialogue with naxalite groups

853. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the unilateral decision of the Naxalites to withdraw from the Peace talks with the Government of Andhra

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pradesh and Government of India later on issuing directions to State Government to continue the dialogue, there has been any positive progress so far; and

(b) as Naxalite problem is not confined only to Andhra Pradesh, whether Government of India propose to widen the scope of dialogue by including all groups of naxalite of different States so that ultimately uniform modalities could be evolved towards solving the long-drawn irritation between Naxalite groups and the State Governments?

Crime reports on TV channels

†854. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TV channels are telecasting crime reports;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any action against the culprits shown in the crime reports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Commission to review Centre-State relations

855. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a Commission to review Centre-State relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the terms of reference, tenure and composition of the proposed Commission;

(c) by when the announcement is likely to be made; and

(d) what is the status of Sarkaria Commission?

Missing women in metropolitan cities

856. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent Report of a team of experts under the aegis of Human Rights Commission mentioning that 3,200 women remain untraced every year in the six metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, how many reports about missing of women are registered every year in the metropolitan cities and what is the percentage of those recovered; and

(c) whether the existing laws for protection of women are adequate and what is the percentage of cases where conviction is done by the courts in such cases?

Lottery Scam

857. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to CAG, the lottery scam involving fictitious prize-winners, selling of excess tickets, under-reporting of its business is running into some thousand crores;

(b) whether most of the unregulated business is running in North-Eastern States;

(c) whether the business, supposed to be State-run has been handed over to private players;

(d) if so, whether Government have enquired into this; and

(e) if so, the results thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Suicide cases

858. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every day 297 Indian citizens commit suicide;

(b) what are the reasons for committing suicides and increase in rate of suicide; and

(c) the suicide committed by Indian citizens in last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

Donations by religious institutions

859. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Churches, Gurudwaras, Masjids and Temples donate crores of rupees to different social institutions and N.G.Os etc.;

(b) whether Government have control over such donations as to whether donations are used for proper purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to take steps to keep control over such donations?

Ban on bull fighting

860. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 13 people have lost their lives and more than 150 have been injured in bull fighting on the eve of Pongal Celebrations recently in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu, where it is very popular on the line of foreign countries like Spain and France;

(b) whether Government are proposing to impose ban on such dangerous practice of bull fighting; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Assistance to the next of kin of victims of stampede at Mandhardevi temple

861. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have provided any help to the next of kin of the victims of the stampede at the Mandhardevi Temple in Wai, Maharashtra on the 25th January, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government have also provided financial help for development of Mandhardevi Temple; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Terrorism in NE States

†862. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have controlled the increasing incidents of terrorism in North Eastern States;

(b) the reasons for increase in the number of such incidents; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for prevention of these incidents alongwith details thereof?

Seizure of Uranium

863. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that enriched Uranium was found with a few people in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Izzatnagar (district-Bareilly), Uttar Pradesh State; and

(b) if so, what are the details and the action taken thereon?

Headquarters of banned militant outfit in J&K

864. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the headquarters of banned militant outfit named as Jaish-e-Mohammed is located in concrete bunkers, deep in the mountains of Tral-dachigam-Dara hills in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the security forces verified the information given by the captured militant Sajjad Ahmed Butt, that these bunkers were equipped with heavy weaponry including anti-aircraft guns; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Criteria to confer national awards

865. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the guidelines/criteria for selection of the people for conferment of 'Padma Shri' and other such national awards;

(b) the details of the people conferred such awards during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether awardees of such honours either decline to accept or offer to relinquish the awards in protest;

(d) if so, the details of such incidents during the last three years; and

(e) what measures are contemplated to ensure transparency and quality of

selection of the candidates, to ascertain prior consent of the potential recipients and thereby maintaining the dignity of the awards?

Working conditions of CISF personnel

866. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to improve the working conditions of Central Industrial Security Force personnel especially in view of the increasing trend of suicides among them and killing each others;

(b) the number of cases reported during the last five years; and

(c) the details thereof?

National Hydrogen Road map

867. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Government are preparing a National Hydrogen Road map and also thinking of launching a national mission on bio-diesel as a part of its efforts to encourage the use of alternative fuels;

(b) whether it is also true that Government have also identified the Ministry of Rural Development as the nodal Ministry for this purpose; and

(c) how the National Hydrogen Energy Board provide guidelines for making and implementing hydrogen energy?

Generation of Power by NES

868. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of power generated through non-conventional energy sources in the country, State-wise, giving each source separately;

(b) whether the target of power generation through non-conventional energy sources was achieved in the Ninth Plan period; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the target set in the Tenth Plan?

Wind energy for meeting power deficit

869. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wind energy sector in our country is emerging as an economically viable option to meet the current power deficit in different States;

(b) whether renowned Industrialists and other eminent personalities have been investing in this sector to exploit the potential;

(c) whether the installed capacity in this sector is increasing at a fast pace and that the nation could be one of the biggest wind power producers in the world; and

(d) if so, action plan of Government to harness the gains of this pollution-free source of energy?

Private participation in power sector

870. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Central Government to improve private participation in power sector;

(b) whether there has been certain road-blocks which are hindering private participation in power sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Central Government to remove these road-blocks?

Setting up of power projects in Assam

871. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up power projects in the State of Assam during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the projects set up so far in the State;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the necessary steps taken by Government in this respect?

Funds for electrification of villages

872. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in the country during the last two years, till date;

(b) the funds, allocated by Government during the period and spent by each State, year-wise;

(c) the number of villages targeted to be electrified during the current financial year, till date State-wise;

(d) whether Government have set any target for completing rural electrification in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount earmarked by Government to achieve the target?

Purchase of power from DPC by Maharashtra Government

873. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government has agreed to buy power from the Dabhol Power Company at Rs. 2.30 per unit;

(b) whether the plant is going to be handed over to a public sector operator such as the NTPC;

(c) whether a fresh power purchase agreement (PPA) is being signed for the purpose; and

(d) at what price will the power be sold to the final consumers?

Ratio of power generation in different sectors

874. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of power generation in hydro, thermal and atomic power sectors in the country;

(b) whether hydro power potential in the country was assessed recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Financial crisis of SEB in Andhra Pradesh

875. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial status of the State Electricity Board in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board is facing financial crisis; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in the last three years to help the State to tide over the situation?

Generation of power in thermal power sector

†876. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 80 per cent of power production in the country is done in thermal power sector;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost of power production in this sector is comparatively high due to use of excess amount of ash mixed coal as fuel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the cost of production?

Announcement of National Electricity Policy

877. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government of India are going to announce the National Electricity Policy;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that the policy provide guidelines for competitive bidding in the power sector and also for captive power plants;

(c) whether Government have finalized the rules for captive power plants in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Embargo on Indian Garment Exporters

878. SHRI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government has imposed an embargo on certain Indian garment exporters for forgoing documents in regard to export of goods in excess of their allotted quantities under textile quotas;

(b) whether Government have taken action on the errant export firms and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Indian Government have taken up the matter with US Government to lift the embargo since the quota system stand abolished from January 01, 2005?

Setting up power plants in Uttar Pradesh

879. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up power plants in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year;

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

(c) the necessary action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this respect?

Installed power generation capacity in UP

880. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual installed power generation capacity in the State of Uttar Pradesh and the actual generation in the State during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the demand of power in the State and how far it is met?

Slow pace of rural electrification in UP

881. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electrified villages in country, as on date, funds allocated by Government during the last three years and spent by the States, State-wise;

(b) the number of villages which are to be electrified during 2005-06, State-wise;

(c) whether Government are aware that Uttar Pradesh is lagging behind in terms of rural electrification in comparison to other States;

(d) if so, the details thereof specially in the context of Eastern UP with special reference to Azamgarh, Mau, Sultanpur, Jaunpur and Akbarpur; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to boost rural electrification in UP in general and in above districts in particular?

Amendments in Electricity Act, 2003

882. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present 92 per cent of the generation capacity in India is owned by State and Central Government and most of it is contracted through long term power purchase agreements for 15 to 30 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these long term contracts will prevent any short term transition to a competitive market based on power pools;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under these conditions some provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003 require a relook; and

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to make amendments in the Electricity Act, 2003?

Utilization of amount granted for power projects

†883. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry have failed to utilize the amount in full granted for power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for speedy execution of power projects in current financial year?

Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification Scheme

884. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to replace the existing "Accelerated

Electrification of One Lakh Villages and one crore Households" scheme with the new "Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification" Scheme;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the 'Accelerated Electrification of One Lakh Villages and one crore Households' scheme has failed to achieve its objective;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for replacing it with the new scheme?

Power crisis in the country

885. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire country is under power crisis and the industrial production has been affected adversely;

(b) if so, the names of States that are facing power crisis at present and the steps taken by the Government to remove the shortage of power in these States; and

(c) the details of the power projects awaiting clearance as on date, State-wise?

Decrease in production of electricity due to decline in water level of rivers

†886. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been decrease in the production of electricity due to decline in water level in various rivers of the country during last several years;

(b) if so, the percentage of decrease in the production; and

(c) the details of the rivers in which water levels are declining?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Fly ash pollution

887. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans for compensating States like Orissa and Madhya Pradesh which have been severely polluted by fly ash due to substantial generation of thermal power; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Tariff structure in Power Sector

888. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the tariff in Power Sector;

(b) whether the recovery of capital costs in the power tariff would be front loaded or back loaded;

(c) the details about the tariff structure and its sudden impact upon the Power Sector; and

(d) whether common people are the ultimate bearer for the above?

Hike in electricity tariff

889. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how different States have increased electricity tariff every year based on fuel surcharge;

(b) which are the States that have increased the electricity tariff retrospectively and if so, under what circumstances;

(c) are there some States which are still charging electricity rates on approximation basis with a rise to increase at a later date; and

(d) whether there is any way by which tariff can be fixed in advance before the specific period starts so that no increase is involved retrospectively?

Programme for rural water supply in DDP areas of the country

890. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got any programme for supporting rural water supply in Desert Development Plan areas of the country;

(b) if so, the States and number of districts and blocks covered under the programme;

(c) the allocation of funds to these States during 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(d) whether Gujarat has not got adequate funds under the programme; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take to rectify the situation?

Villages devoid of a drinking water source

891. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages devoid of a drinking water source within reach in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, U.P. and other States as in the beginning of Tenth and Ninth Five Year Plan; and as in April, 2004; and

(b) the Tenth Plan targets in this regard, indicating Annual Plan break-up and how far the same have been achieved so far?

Funds for drinking water in rural areas of Karnataka

892. SHRI LALIT SURI:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka State had appealed to Centre for release of funds to the tune of Rs. 150 crores to provide drinking water in rural areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only Rs. 27.50 crores was released recently; and

(c) by when the balance amount will be released and the reasons for delay in releasing the amount?

Misutilization of funds by NGOs working in the rural sector

893. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 295 NGOs working in the rural sector have been blacklisted by CAPART for misutilization of funds, non performance, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of such NGOs State-wise including their blacklisted projects and funds;

(c) the preventive steps such as verification, monitoring and evaluation of projects undertaken or being undertake to check the further recurrence of fraudulent activities of NGOs;

(d) whether Government propose more changes in the existing guidelines to make NGOs effective partner in development; and

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

Indira Awas Yojana

894. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the year-wise and district-wise details of the target of the houses to be made in Maharashtra under Indira Awas Yojana?

Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

895. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are re-thinking on the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in its present form, for rectification or certain flaws in regard to routing of funds;

(b) whether apprehending leakage en-route to district administration (the collector) as originally envisaged, the Government now proposes to assign a major role of the village Panchayats; and

(c) whether the implementation at the village panchayat level will make it possible for the public to get access to documents like muster rolls of labourers and list of works etc.?

Implementation of Employment Guarantee Act

896. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a signature campaign for implementation of the proposed Employment Guarantee Act at the earliest;

(b) whether Government are also aware that this Act will go a long way towards protecting rural households from poverty and hunger and also slow down of rural-urban migration, empowerment of women and revival of Gram Panchayats;

(c) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to pass the Act immediately;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any reservation to some provisions are there; and

(f) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Funds allotted for Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme

897. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allotted to Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme has been utilized fully by the various States;

(b) if so, the details of funds allotted and utilized and employment generated under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme for the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether the allocation for Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme is to be replaced by any other identical schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Proposal for TSC from Tamil Nadu

898. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal relating to the Total Sanitation Campaign from the Tamil Nadu

Government for implementation of this programme;

(b) if so, the details and action taken thereon by Government; and

(c) the funds projected/allocated for the TSC programme during the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06?

Implementation of Swajaldhara Scheme in Jharkhand

899. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of project proposals submitted by Jharkhand for implementation of Swajaldhara Scheme since its inception and projects received approval;

(b) the funds allocated during 2002-03, 2003-04 and for the current year to Jharkhand for the implementation of the projects under the scheme;

(c) whether any fund has been allotted to the State for implementation of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme since its inception; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation of funds and foodgrains to States

900. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether during 2003-04 Tamil Nadu received 12.28 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under normal and special SGRY and over Rs. 314 crores cash from calamity relief and SGRY funds and Karnataka received 18.55 lakh tonnes of foodgrains and over Rs. 357 crores cash to implement anti-poverty and SGRY schemes in the drought affected areas, in particular;

(b) the district-wise details of families received relief and subsistence;

(c) the details of foodgrains and cash relief provided to the two States during 2004-05 and to Andhra Pradesh during 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(d) the details of other States which received foodgrains/funds for anti-poverty, drought and flood relief programmes?

Funds for rural development to Assam

901. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released to Assam for the rural development in the last two years;

(b) the actual position of the work execution;

(c) the number of schemes yet to be executed; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in execution?

Azamgarh, Mau and Sultanpur Road in Uttar Pradesh

902. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects sanctioned and money released under PMGSY to Uttar Pradesh in general and Azamgarh, Mau and Sultanpur in particular during last 3 years;

(b) out of the above, the number of projects completed and money utilized so far in above districts;

(c) the details of the roads in the above districts which are under construction and likely to be completed during 2005-06;

(d) the progress of Galibaha-Chamurkha-Jafrapur road in Kumbhar Block of Sultanpur district being constructed under PMGSY; and

(e) the reasons for delay, if any?

Rural sanitation programme

†903. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rural sanitation programme is being launched in the country;

(b) the number of districts in the State of Gujarat covered under the above programme; and

(c) the amount allocated to the State of Gujarat for this programme during 2004-05?

Slow and tardy progress in PMGSY

904. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had launched some years back a massive road building programme, "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana" to provide better connectivity to the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress achieved so far in its execution;

(d) the delay, if any, in the execution and the reasons for its slow and tardy progress; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to expedite the tempo of the work so as to ensure timely completion of the project?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Swajal Dhara Yojana in Madhya Pradesh

†905. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Madhya Pradesh had sent a proposal for "Swajal Dhara Yojana" to the Central Government in January, 2004; and

(b) by when Government propose to accept this proposal?

Allocation of amount to RDRDA, Gujarat

906. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount has been allocated to Rajkot District Rural Development Agency, Gujarat for Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana, for the year 2004-05;

(b) how many check Dams were to be constructed from the allocation made as per (a) above and amount allocated to each Taluka of Rajkot District; and

(c) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent wages to be given as foodgrains to labourers, has not been given to beneficiaries and has paved its way to black marketeers through fair price shops?

People engaged in agriculture and non-agriculture sector in the rural areas

†907. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people living in rural areas of the country earn their livelihood by working in other areas besides agriculture;

(b) if so, the ratio of people working in non-agricultural areas to the people engaged in rural employment, as per the Government's assessment;

(c) whether the said ratio differs considerably in various States of the country; and

(d) if so, the number of people engaged in agricultural sector and non-agricultural sector respectively in each State of the country?

Success of villages around Chitrakoot in Madhya Pradesh

908. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 80 villages around Chitrakoot in Madhya Pradesh have zero unemployment, poverty, malnutrition and zero legal suits;

(b) if so, what is the secret of this exemplary achievement and what is the *modus operandi*; and

(c) what is the per capita income of these 80 villages, and from what source?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Allotment of houses to orphan and destitute children under IAY

909. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for allotment of Indira Awas Yojana houses for orphan and destitute children nurtured in State recognized institutions is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up industries in rural areas

910. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MNCs are not coming forth to set up industries in rural areas;

(b) the steps taken by Government to transfer the benefit of globalisation to the rural areas through persuasion of MNCs and industrialists by providing incentives; and

(c) the steps taken for rural industrialisation to reduce unemployment and poverty in rural areas?

Legislation for regulating the textile sector

911. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a legislation for regulating the textile sector;

(b) to what extent the new legislation will protect the domestic textile industry; and

(c) to what extent will the new legislation protect the consumer interests?

Export of cotton

912. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total cotton exports during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of getting 46 lakh bales of cotton as surplus this year *i.e.* 2004-05;

(c) if so, the amount of bales (in lakhs) that Government are thinking of exporting to various countries during 2004-05; and

(d) which are the main markets for Indian Cotton?

NIFT centres

913. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to open new National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) centres in the country;

(b) if so, whether the District of Karnataka included in view of their rich weaving background; and

(c) if so, the proposed date of commencement and the details of the project?

Target for export of textiles

914. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for export of textiles by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India has missed the opportunities of new capacities earlier during quota regime;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to meet the challenges in the sector from other countries?

Priority to handloom weaving industry

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

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether handicrafts and handloom weaving industry occupied a central place in national development policy about 20 years ago;

(b) whether recently economic reforms have made this sector weak and it has been totally ignored;

(c) whether only 7000 crores had been advanced to this industry in last five years as against the target of Rs. 25,000 crores; and

(d) whether Government propose to give preference to this sector?

Export of handicrafts

†916. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of export of handicrafts during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that export of handicrafts has increased during the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Closure of textile mills

917. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) Government of India have sanctioned the closure of 66 textile mills so far;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for welfare of workers of those 66 textile mills;

(c) the reasons for approving the closure of those textile mills; and

(d) the reasons for closure of another 65 textile mills?

Subsidy for modernisation of processing sector in textile industries

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

(a) whether Government propose to provide 10 per cent subsidy for investment on modernization of processing sector in the textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to set up clusters in the weaving and processing sectors; and

(d) if so, the proposed locations for setting up of the clusters and the cost implications of this project?

Development of textile cluster in Malwa region

919. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MP Government has approached the centre for help in developing a textile cluster in Malwa region;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of sops that are offered to the textile manufacturers in such clusters;
- (d) whether such a cluster is also proposed to be developed in other backward areas of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Sickness in textile mills

920. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many textile mills in different parts of the country

including Mumbai are facing various stages of industrial sickness;

- (b) whether the textile mill owners in Mumbai are allowed to sell land allotted under concessional rates;

- (c) whether there is any proposal to rejuvenate the sick textile mills;

- (d) if so, the details thereof;

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

- (f) the number of textile mills that are not working, the number of employees who lost jobs for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise?

NEW DELHI;
The 3rd March, 2005

Phalgun 12, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Commerce and Industry	: 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792,
Defence	: 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 824,
Home Affairs	: 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866,
Non-Conventional Energy Sources	: 867, 868, 869,
Power	: 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889,
Rural Development	: 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910,
Textiles	: 878, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920.