

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the March 9, 2006/Phalguna 18, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Prime Minister; Atomic Energy; Coal; External Affairs; Non-Conventional Energy Sources; Ocean Development; Overseas Indian Affairs; Panchayati Raj; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Power; Science and Technology; Shipping, Road Transport and Highways; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Urban Development; Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions — 155

Atomic Energy Production

1781. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to set up more Atomic Energy Plants with the latest safeguards available in the international market;

(b) the details of the plans to increase atomic energy production in the next five years;

(c) the obstacles in increasing energy production from atomic energy sources; and

(d) the steps proposed to improve the sector?

Recommendations of Kirit Parikh Panel

1782. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kirit Parikh Panel has recommended that nuclear energy

is critical for long term energy security for the country;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the panel; and

(c) whether the country would be short of indigenous uranium to be used as fuel in support of a vastly enlarged nuclear power programme that would be consistent with the obligation to contribute to the campaign against global warming?

Thorium as basic Atomic Energy

1783. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA
NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Commission has pointed out that thorium, which is available in abundance in the country should be the base for the country's nuclear energy programme and not imported nuclear fuels; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

Captive coal mining blocks

1784. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited has total 136 captive coal mining blocks;

(b) the location of these coal mining blocks, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that about 200 million tonnes of coal would be produced from these blocks;

(d) whether Government have made any efforts to increase productivity of our coal mines; and

(e) the steps proposed to set targets which would increase coal production in the country?

Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation

1785. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation is paying less rate of interest than the Employees Provident Fund Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for different rate of interest payment by the two organisations; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure uniformity in the rate of interest payment?

Arrears to coal workers

1786. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a deep resentment is prevailing among the coal workers all over the country for non-payment of arrears of the Seventh Bipartite Agreement signed last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in payment of arrears;

(c) whether the unions in coal industry have informed the Coal India Ltd. that they would go on strike if the payment is not made earlier; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure early payment of arrears?

Disinvestment in Neyveli Lignite Corporation

1787. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to make disinvestment of 10 per cent of Government's equity in Neyveli Lignite Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided on capacity expansion of various open cast projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Rising coal stocks

1788. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal

India Ltd. finds itself saddled with rising coal stocks;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at least five of its seven coal producing subsidiaries are carrying an inventory that might be the highest in a decade; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by CIL to liquidate this rising stock of coal?

Committee on revision of royalty on Coal

1789. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee that has been set up to look into the Revision of Royalty given on coal has submitted its report;

(b) the recommendations made by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister with regard to payment of royalty on coal at *ad-valorem* basis or the tonnage basis;

(c) whether it is also not a fact that the Mines and Minerals Act, 1957 obligate the Central Government to revise the royalty in every three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons for Government not increasing the royalty automatically after every three years?

Coal blocks in Andhra Pradesh

1790. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of coal blocks in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the annual production of coal from the above blocks during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether any amount of coal from

these blocks is reserved for the use of the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereon; and

(e) the total estimated tonnes of coal in proven category, indicated category and in inferred category in all the blocks of Andhra Pradesh?

Diplomatic relations with Mangolia

1791. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have celebrated fiftieth anniversary of diplomatic relations with Mangolia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of new decisions taken recently?

Website of Haj Committee

1792. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a separate and independent website has been created for the Haj Committee of India;

(b) whether it is fact that Haj Committee of India has received several complaints/suggestions to amend its website;

(c) if so, by when Government propose to take remedial action and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it would make a better sense if the website is launched under NIC since the Haj Committee of India is not meant for any commercial purpose?

Recognition of Hindi in UNO

†1793. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Institution relating to Hindi in India has demanded for working in Hindi/recognition of Hindi in United Nations Organization;

(b) if so, the action Government are going to take in this regard;

(c) the specific problem to accord recognition to Hindi in United Nations Organization; and

(d) the number of languages in the world which enjoy recognition in the United Nations Organization?

Indian and Pakistani prisoners in the two countries

1794. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian and Pakistani prisoners, POWs and civilians, held captive in respective jails at present;

(b) the number of prisoners released by both the countries during the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to release other prisoners?

Forging of Indian Passport

1795. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forging of the Indian Passports, mainly substituting digitally embossed photographs, is becoming rampant in the Gulf;

(b) whether it is also a fact that just

within six months the emigration authorities at Thiruvananthapuram alone detained 77 persons on the charges of using fake passports; and

(c) what measures Government are taking to control this menace?

SAARC Summit in Dhaka

1796. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese proposal to join the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation came up for consideration at the recent SAARC Summit in Dhaka;

(b) if so, whether India supported the move, if so, on what items; and

(c) what was the consensus that reached on the issue in the SAARC Summit?

Electric detonators with Indian nationals

1797. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indian nationals were carrying 61,858 electric detonators for L.T.T.E. on 25th January, 2006; and

(b) whether there is any co-relation between this and off loading of six containers of explosives in sea by MV Egria in December, 2005?

Acquisition of land for foreign mission

1798. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during 2003-04, there have

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

been gross lack of diligence by his Ministry in the matters of acquisition of properties abroad as well as in India for its missions and sub-ordinate offices;

(b) whether Government have also failed to acquire land in Addis Ababa and Algiers on reciprocal basis from Government of Ethiopia and Algeria;

(c) whether Government have in place a mechanism to exercise effective control over missions/posts abroad to ensure avoidance of irregular expenditure on rented accommodation in excess of prescribed rental ceilings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Land for Regional Passport Office

1799. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka had gifted land measuring more than three acres in Bangalore in 1994 for the construction of the Regional Passport Office which was kept vacant and idle for almost ten years;

(b) whether the RPO has been functioning on rented accommodation all these years entailing recurring expenditure on rent; and

(c) whether Government would draw a time-frame for the development/completion of the project and if so, the details thereof?

District passport cells in Karnataka

1800. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangalore Passport Office has taken steps for reactivating district passport cells in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Insult of official of IFA at Karachi

†1801. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of Indian Football Association (IFA) were insulted at Karachi Airport and sent back;

(b) if so, the date of the incident and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have discussed the matter with Pakistan Government and the details thereof?

Trade and business with Pakistan

1802. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in one of the recent press meetings President of Pakistan has said that Pakistan would not consider to increase the trade and business with India;

(b) if so, Government's is reaction thereto; and

(c) whether such statement by Pakistan President would adversely affect the peace process which is being accelerated by Government?

Implementation of Indo-US deal

1803. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Foreign Secretary during his visit to Washington in December last discussed the strategy for implementation of the Indo-US nuclear deal of July 18, 2005;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the strategy chalked out for separation of civilian and military nuclear sites; and

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

Visit of Japanese Foreign Minister

1804. SHRIMATI SUKHBUN KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what advancement has been made towards establishment of relationship for strategic cooperation with Japan during the recent visit of Japanese Foreign Minister during the first week on January 2006; and

(b) whether proposal for disarmament/non-proliferation were discussed during the visit, if so, the outcome thereof?

Declaration of civilian nuclear power

1805. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sign declaration for civilian nuclear power with other developed countries;

(b) if so, the step taken for the same and the countries approached/discussed for the above purpose;

(c) if so, the details of terms and conditions under discussion/finalized with the above countries;

(d) if so, whether above agreements/terms and conditions suggest the separation of various nuclear energy utility services; and

(e) if so, the details including the countries/country that suggested above conditions?

Talks on nuclear agreement with USA

†1806. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Secretary level talks were held between India and America on the issue of implementation of the Nuclear Cooperation Agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether nuclear issue of Iran was also discussed in the above meeting;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any road map has been prepared with respect to implementation of the Nuclear Cooperation Agreement; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Resolving Sri Lankan ethnic crisis

1807. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan President during his recent visit to India sought greater Indian involvement in resolving the Sri Lankan Ethnic crisis and in the economic development of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the specific proposals and issues that were discussed during the talks; and

(c) the outcome of the talks on each issue?

Visit of French President

1808. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of France visited India, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the bilateral and multilateral issues that figured in his talks with Indian leaders;

(d) the outcome of the talks;

(e) whether any agreement was signed during the visit; and

(f) if so, the salient features of each agreements and the benefits to be accrued to the country as a result thereof?

Commission on Netaji's whereabouts

1809. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NC Mukherjee, the third Commission set up to find out Netaji's whereabouts, has submitted its report, recently;

(b) if so, the revelations made by the Commission in its Report;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian Embassy in Russia was not cooperating to the Mukherjee Commission; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Boundary issue with China

1810. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the developments that took for the last two years on boundary issue with China;

(b) where do the talks stand now; and

(c) whether there's a solution expected?

Indian Embassies in the Gulf countries

1811. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received

representations for appointing Malayalam knowing staff in Indian Embassies in the Gulf countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of Keralites are facing a lot of hardships due to language problem; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to solve this problem?

Setting up of wind energy programme in Orissa

1812. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to add 1200 MWs from wind energy during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a project is also proposed to be set up in Orissa State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Popularization of solar energy

1813. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiatives are being taken by Government to educate and encourage the people to make use of more and more solar energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Funds allocated for promotion of solar energy

†1814. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main object to promote non-conventional energy is to protect the forest covered areas;

(b) if so, whether the solar energy system is found successful to protect the forests;

(c) if so, the quantity of energy produced and distributed during the last three years under the Solar Photo Voltaic (S.P.V.) and Solar Thermal Electric (S.T.E.) programmes by Government in Himachal Pradesh;

(d) whether Government propose to allocate more funds to promote solar energy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Bio-fuel as alternate energy

†1815. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of materials that are actually being used as bio-fuel in the form of alternative energy in the country as on 31st January, 2006;

(b) the names of materials together with their quantity permitted to be used for blending with diesel and petrol;

(c) whether any actual benefit has been derived out of these alternatives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Electrification of remote areas

1816. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Common Minimum Programme of Government envisages electrification of all households by 2009;

(b) if so, the steps taken for electrification of 24,418 remote villages and remote hamlet where grid electricity is unlikely to reach by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the funds allocated for the same?

Power generated from solid waste

1817. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a project to generate power from the methane produced from domestic waste at dumping sites in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the project, indicating its cost, the amount of solid waste to be generated and utilized per day; and

(c) whether there are proposals to set up such plants based on the solid waste generated in different towns in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and other States also, if so, the details thereof?

Funds allocation for rural electrification in Andhra Pradesh

1818. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded schemes for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

electrification of remote villages through non-Conventional Energy Sources to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the total number of such proposal alongwith the amount involved therein;

(c) the action being taken thereon; and

(d) the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded to these schemes?

Loans for production of solar energy in Andhra Pradesh

1819. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loans disbursed for production of solar energy in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years; and

(b) the details of non-payment of loans of companies and the action taken on them including penalties for the last two years?

Demand for fossil material

1820. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are concentrating more on developing renewable sources of energy and minimize dependence on fossil fuels that were responsible for serious environment-related problems like global warming and ozone depletion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the demand for fossil material like oil, coal and gas would also go up in future, leading to more pollution in the atmosphere; and

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

Power production through sugar factories

1821. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report that more than 4000 megawatt power would be produced through sugar factories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to bring any scheme for encouraging sugar factories for power generation in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Fake recruitment agents

1822. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of difficulties faced by Non-Resident Indians being duped by fake recruitment agents;

(b) the steps and the measures taken by Government to protect NRIs' interests and book these fake Recruitment Agents; and

(c) the details of the interests served by stamping (Emigration Clearance Not Required (ECNR) status on the Indian Passport and how far they are useful in the present context?

Voting rights to NRIs

1823. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any steps to give voting rights to Non Resident Indians;

(b) the reaction of Government on to how the voting rights are proposed to be implemented and whether any steps initiated to amend the People's Representation Act for this purpose;

(c) whether any State legislatures has passed any resolution in this regard, and if so the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have any Statistics relating to the number of Non-Resident Indians are eligible for voting rights, if it is allowed?

Conference of NRIs

†1824. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a Conference of Non-Resident Indians held recently in Delhi, the subjects such as dual citizenship, making a congenial atmosphere of liberal economy and benefiting from it, had been discussed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Non-Resident Indians have made suggestions for overcoming administrative hassles and red-tapism in disinvestment; and

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

Indian workers in gulf countries

1825. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians that have been recruited through agencies to work in gulf countries and are denied protection of labour laws and plunged into violation of migration rules;

(b) the number of Indian migrants in the

jails of Gulf countries including Oman's Sohar jail and the steps taken for their release as on today, category-wise;

(c) the details of such recruitment agencies/racket related violations and the action taken against them for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to chalk out a comprehensive policy on migration for the benefit of Indians working in Gulf countries?

MoU with AAPI

1826. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been signed with the American Association of Physician of Indian Origin (AAPI) to improve the primary health sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the MoU and by when it is expected to be implemented?

Voting rights to NRIs and PIOs

1827. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to allow NRIs and PIOs to enrol themselves in electoral rolls and exercise voting right in various elections in India, including Parliamentary and Assembly elections; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with details of the criteria laid down for such enrolment and the number of NRIs and PIOs from different countries likely to avail this privilege, country-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development of Panchayati Raj Institution

1828. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any new method have been proposed in the last five years to further develop Panchayati Raj Institution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Grants to Panchayats

1829. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the 12th Finance Commission has recommended and released some grants to States;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that no grants have been released to Panchayats and Municipalities in the State of Andhra Pradesh whereas the funds have been released to States such as Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, etc.;
- (c) if so, the reasons for not releasing the funds to the Panchayats and Municipalities in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) the total amount recommended by the 12th Finance Commission for Panchayats for the period 2005-10?

Rural Business Hub Scheme

1830. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start 'Rural Business Hub Scheme' in the Panchayats of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government would consider this in Panchayat development programme in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Funds provided to Panchayats

1831. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided to Panchayats for the development of villages in each of last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a fund for the empowerment of Panchayats;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress achieved in this regard so far?

Prosecution of officials and politicians

1832. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of request from C.B.I. for the grant of permission for the prosecution of officials and politicians are pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not according permission for their prosecution in each case; and

(c) by when this sanction is likely to be accorded?

Five days week for Government offices

1833. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when was the five days week for Central Government offices was introduced;

(b) whether any study has been made about the advantages of the above system; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to switch over to six days week for Central Government offices in the country?

Procedure for writing of ACR

†1834. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision for changing the procedure regarding writing annual confidential report of officers;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that now their assessment would be done by a group of experts;

(c) what would be the selection procedure of these experts and from which fields these experts would be taken; and

(d) the reaction of the officers on the changed procedure?

Working of Right to Information Act

1835. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have analyzed the working of Right to Information Act, if so, the findings in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that Central Information Commission has given a questionable ruling by endorsing proposal to prescribe a standard format for the purpose of making an application; and

(c) whether the decision is contrary to the provisions to the Act, if so, the steps taken to correct the anomaly?

Floating of NGOs by civil servants

1836. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the specific service rules or regulation that allow civil servants to go on leave or float NGOs while in service, so that, they could continue their good work after retirement;

(b) whether Government have defined the specific kind of good work that could be done by such civil servants who want to prepare for retirement through such organizations;

(c) what steps would be taken by Government to end this ambiguous situation whereby civil servants spend their work time on nurturing NGOs in names of the children or relatives, etc; and

(d) the reasons for taking a lax attitude on this matter?

Recruitment on the basis of fake SC/ST certificates

†1837. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of persons belonging to the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes have got Government jobs on the basis of fake certificates;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of such cases found by Government so far;

(c) whether any charge-sheet has been filed by Government against guilty persons involved in these scams;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in this matter; and

(e) the steps to be taken by Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

Granting of Prime Minister Award

†1838. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started a scheme to grant Prime Minister Award under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to those bureaucrats who have done remarkable work in the field of public administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would also consider upon starting similar award scheme to increase the quality of work of Central Secretariat also?

Officials on deputation to PSUs

1839. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to frame new rules for Central cadre officials going on deputation to PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent, this would help to improve the working of the PSUs?

Development of industrially backward areas

1840. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has formulated any new schemes for the development of industrially backward rural areas in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for speedy development of backward areas of the country?

Health and welfare of child

1841. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per experts who deliberated at the two day National Consultation on Priorities for Children recently organized by the Planning Commission and UNICEF, the child health and welfare scenario is dismal, with the country nowhere close to achieving the targets set in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what strategy Government propose to evolve to remedy the situation in the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Bharat Nirman Programme

1842. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to create a "specific financing window" for the Rs. 1.74 lakh crore Bharat Nirman Programme through

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the model of delivery involves the Panchayats and the private sector as partners to speed up implementation of the programme for enhancement and management of the rural infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Requirement of improvement in different sectors

†1843. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that requirement for extensive improvement had been assessed with regard to the deplorable functioning in crude oil production sector, coal production and units of power and also mine production during the mid-term-appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether certain steps were suggested to bring about improvement in the above mentioned sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Assistance for National Coastal Protection Project of Maharashtra

1844. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the proposal received from Maharashtra for Central assistance worth Rs. 195 crore

under the National Coastal Protection Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the stage at which the project stands at present; and

(e) the cost escalation of the project, if any, on account of the delay in granting sanction for the same?

Growth parameters of Maharashtra

1845. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has recently examined all growth parameters of Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, the observations on the basis of these parameters in respect of that State; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra has been described as an example of a failed State; if so, the basis therefor?

BPL people in Andhra Pradesh

1846. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of people living below poverty line in Andhra Pradesh as per NSSO 2000;

(b) the percentage of people living below poverty line in Andhra Pradesh as on date; and

(c) whether Government have any specific concrete action plan to eradicate poverty from the State within a specific time period?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Special allocation to States

1847. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for providing special allocation to each State during the current plan period; and

(b) the names of the States that have asked for such special allocation?

Raising the hydel power capacity

1848. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise the hydel power capacity by 10,000 MW during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details including procedure if any, for the speedy sanction of hydel projects;

(c) the details including present capacity of hydel projects, State-wise, category-wise;

(d) the details of hydel projects including hydel power capacity, submitted by various States and yet to be cleared, State-wise, category-wise; and

(e) the proposed fund sanctioned or to be sanctioned to various States for raising hydel power capacity during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Non-utilization of funds

1849. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not fully utilized the plan outlay of Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of non-utilization of

earmarked funds on the ongoing and future power projects in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana

1850. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) since when the rural electrification scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana was launched;

(b) the number of villages of Rajasthan, electrified during the last three years under this scheme;

(c) the funds incurred there on during the period;

(d) the number of villages which remain yet to be covered up; and

(e) by when they are likely to be covered?

Rural electrification in Andhra Pradesh

1851. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years especially for BPL rural households, District-wise;

(b) the funds allocated for each District and utilized for each year so far;

(c) whether Government are facing any type of difficulty in electrification of villages in the State; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Energy Coordination Committee

1852. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a meeting of the Energy Coordination Committee has been held to find ways of feeding country's growing hunger for fuel;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of 38 per cent of natural gas and 7 per cent of coal supplies in generation of power;

(c) if so, in what manner Government are thinking of meeting the demand;

(d) whether Government are in the process of approving production of coal from ten more mines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Additional supply of power to Bihar

1853. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has sent any request to the Central Government for additional supply of electricity from the National Grid; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

Work on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh transmission line

1854. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Power Grid Corporation of India propose to work on

the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh transmission line; and

(b) if so, by when a decision in this regard would be taken and what would be the cost of the project?

Rural electrification programme in Bihar

1855. SHRI MANGANI LAL
MANDAL:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vast majority of rural population still has no access to electricity and is dependent on kerosene lamps and lanterns;

(b) if so, the schemes formulated for electrification of 25000 remote villages/hamlets;

(c) the reasons for not electrifying a single remote village of Bihar under remote village electrification programme as on 30.11.2004;

(d) the list of 273 remote villages of Bihar identified for electrification under remote village electrification programme, district-wise; and

(e) the progress made so far in this regard and the megawatt power required to provide electricity in all villages of Bihar alongwith the cost thereof?

Increase in the cost of power production

†1856. SHRI RAM
JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to rise in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

coal prices the cost of power production is also increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of the cost of coal in the total cost of power production at present; and

(d) the percentage of the same during 2003-04?

Role of private sector in Delhi and Orissa

†1857. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the conclusions drawn by the National Advisory Council on energy policy after the role of private sector in power sector in Delhi and Orissa;

(b) if so, the main features of the conclusion drawn by the National Advisory Council; and

(c) whether Government have decided to implement the above recommendations, if so, the facts in this regard?

Special purpose vehicles for Mega Power Projects

1858. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up four special purpose vehicles (SPVs) to pilot four mega power

projects with initial capacity of 800 MW each;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any of such project is also proposed to be set up in Orissa State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Budgetary allocations for Integrated Energy Policy

1859. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate an Integrated Energy Policy;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the budgetary allocation made during the year 2006-07, if any, in this regard?

Facilities for the displaced persons

†1860. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in accordance with the agreement reached following the acquisition of land from Himachal Pradesh for construction of Bhakhra Dam in the year 1948, a fair chunk of money provided by the Central Government for the welfare of displaced people was not spent for the welfare work such as construction of streets, bridges and roads, providing potable water, etc., as a result, the displaced people are forced to live in abject poverty to date; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to provide facilities for the welfare of the displaced persons in the wake of granting full State-hood to Himachal Pradesh?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Power generation and consumption

†1861. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total power generation being undertaken in the country at present against the total installed capacity of power generation from all the sources;

(b) the number and names of establishments engaged in generation of power, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) the details of per-capita power generation and consumption at present in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the target to be set regarding generation of power by the end of the Eleventh Plan and by when the country would become self-reliant in the field of power generation?

World Banks assistance for Power Grid Corporation

1862. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank recently approved a \$ 400 million loan to Power Grid Corporation of India to strengthen the country's transmission system and increase reliable power exchanges between the regions and States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have chalked out any plan to utilize the loan received from the World Bank;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the details of the projects that are proposed to be taken up in Orissa to improve the power position of this backward state?

Rural electrification in Assam

1863. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of electrified villages and households in the North-Eastern States, especially in Assam;

(b) the reasons for poor rate of growth in electrifying the villages and households; and

(c) the target year, if any, for completion of 100 per cent village and households electrification as envisioned in the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana?

Hydro-power potential in Assam

1864. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as part of exploration of hydro potential in the Assam region, the Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project (150 MW) and Upper Barapani Hydro Power Project (60 MW) were identified; and

(b) if so, by when these two projects would be commissioned to ease the power crisis in Assam State, if not, the reasons therefor?

Use of Assam coal for power generation

1865. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NTPC has agreed to use Assam coal for its Kunguri, Salakati NTPC project;

(b) whether Government have examined the possibility of transportation of coal, in an alternative way, in extreme cases, through the river Brahmaputra from Dibrugarh to Jogighopa to carry the coal rakes by ships for generation of power to the proposed 500 MW power project to be commissioned by NTPC at Kunguri,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Salakati, which is expected to be commissioned by 2009; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Per unit cost of power

1866. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the unit cost of power generated by private sector power plants is higher than the power generated by the public sector power plants;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to form a uniform costing policy for both sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Modernization of thermal power projects

†1867. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to get financial assistance from foreign countries for the modernization and renewal of thermal power plants;

(b) if so, by when and the expected amount of financial aid; and

(c) by when, this aid is likely to be received?

Additional capacity of power generation

1868. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total capacity addition of power targeted during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) in what manner it is shared by the Central Government, State Governments and private sector;

(c) how much it has missed during the year 2005-06; and

(d) if so, the steps that are proposed to be taken to attain in full the targeted addition capacity of power during 2006-07?

Financial assistance for Punjab SEB's

1869. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial loss suffered by the Punjab State Electricity Board during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the total financial aid given by the Centre to Punjab to strengthen the electricity board during the period?

Reforms in power sector in Punjab

1870. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial losses in the power sector in Punjab have been increasing over the years;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring reforms in power sector?

Functioning of power stations

1871. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Power Monitoring Centre for monitoring real time

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

data on the functioning of all power stations has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the performance of central power station has improved after setting up of the centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Demand and supply of power

1872. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power shortage is hampering industrial and agricultural growth;

(b) if so, the total demand and supply of power in rural and urban areas during the last five years, year-wise, State-wise and sector-wise (industrial, agricultural, commercial and domestic);

(c) the measures initiated and contemplated to meet the power-shortage and financial allocation made for the purpose;

(d) whether some proposals have been received for setting up ultra-mega power projects of 4,000 MW capacity each in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government have refused sovereign guarantee for such proposal from private companies; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

Grievances of Delhi citizens

1873. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi

Government propose to have an ombudsman to address the problems of Delhi citizens in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this body is also proposed to be set up in other sectors to address the grievances of Delhi citizens; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Demand of electricity in Rajasthan

1874. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand and availability of electricity in Rajasthan at present;

(b) the schemes to meet the electricity deficit in Rajasthan;

(c) whether the rural electrification programme is being implemented in remote areas of Rajasthan particularly in the bordering villages, and if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the details of minimum standard prescribed for the electrification of the bordering villages; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to expedite the said programme in bordering villages; and timeframe thereof?

Average cost of power

1875. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made estimates of cost of power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the likely estimate regarding the average cost of power generation in each of the thermal, hydro and nuclear sectors in the country during the 2005-06 financial year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost of power-generation in the country is much higher than in other countries; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the average cost of power generation in the international market?

Investment on hydro-power projects

1876. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set any target for electrification of every village in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the capital investment made on for hydro power projects under construction and allocated in each State during the current year?

Completion of Parichha Power Project

1877. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the completion of Parichha Power Project in Jhansi of Uttar Pradesh is behind its deadline because of differences between different stakeholders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plan to take any action to resolve the matter and ensure speedy completion of the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Patent applications from India

†1878. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite

Government's claim of World-acclamation about India's progress in the field of science, the number of applications for patents being filed from India, have decreased;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that its main reasons are less allocation of funds for research in the Budget by Government;

(c) if so, whether Government would make any provisions in the ensuing Budget to increase the funds allocation being spent on research; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Biotechnology Policy

†1879. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the policy on bio-technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the said policy is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Interaction between India and US scientists

1880. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI R.K. ANAND:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Harvard and MIT scientists had recently interacted with the scientists of CSIR at a meet co-organized by the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of scientists from CSIR who have been able to translate their research work into successful commercial ventures with details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Plan allocations for scientific departments

1881. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that plan allocation for scientific departments have increased during the current financial plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether new schemes have been introduced in areas of Research and Development during the current financial plan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Tsunami devastation in Tamil Nadu

1882. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is not a fact that Tamil Nadu was the worst hit and severely affected State in terms of loss of lives, and damages during the unprecedented Tsunami disaster that occurred on 26th December, 2004;
- (b) if so, would it not be a hightime to establish Tsunami Warning Centre preferably in Tamil Nadu to forewarn the people living in coastal areas and to take up necessary mitigation measures;
- (c) whether there has not been a proposal from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to establish a Tsunami Warning Centre at Chennai; and
- (d) by when it could be established?

Area vulnerable to natural disaster

1883. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 54% of India's area is vulnerable to earthquakes;
- (b) the percentage of Orissa's land area vulnerable to earthquake, cyclonic winds and flood damage; and
- (c) the steps Government are taking for early alarming system for this and to strengthening the vulnerable houses which face highest risk of damage?

Improvement in the port and shipping sector

†1884. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to take any step to bring about infrastructural improvement in the port and shipping sector for increasing India's share in the global trade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the growth of export and import that is projected in the next five years?

Funds allocated for upgradation of roads in M.P.

†1885. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government of Madhya Pradesh have sent a proposal for obtaining sanction of about Rs. 13255

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

lakhs, under Central Roads Fund for upgradation of important roads;

(b) if so, whether this amount has been sanctioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Funds allocated for upgradation of National Highways/Expressways

1886. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a programme to upgrade/develop National Highways/Expressways across the country; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with details of the stretches of roads identified for upgradation/development, targeted date for completion of the projects and the allocation made for the purpose, State-wise?

National policy on dredging

1887. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present there is no policy on dredging;

(b) whether involvements in dredging is minimal;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to formulate a national policy on dredging;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Engagement of foreign companies for dredging

1888. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign cartels and consortia of dredging companies corner the bulk of dredging operations in India with exorbitant rates and thereby maintain their monopoly; and

(b) if so, the reasons for engaging foreign companies for dredging?

Models for highway safety

1889. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India had adopted model for highway safety; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

Poor condition of highways/roads leading to religious centres

1890. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor condition of the highways/roads leading to the various important religious centres of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps that are being taken by Government to improve the condition of these highways/roads so that no

inconvenience is caused to the pilgrims visiting them?

Progress of Indo-Bhutan border road

1891. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the actual status of progress of work of National Highway No. 152 connecting National Highway 31 at Patsalq to Indo-Bhutan Border area in Assam;

(b) the length of road already completed and total length of road yet to be completed; and

(c) the targeted year for the completion and organisation that has been engaged for the work?

Construction of East-West Corridor in M.P.

†1892. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places between which the East-West Corridor would be constructed and the target fixed for its completion;

(b) the current status thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that at present the construction work of East-West Corridor is going on in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, whether the concerned State Government is providing adequate security to the persons engaged in construction of corridor; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereon?

Buckingham Canal Network

1893. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific plans have been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government to review the Buckingham Canal along the East Coast of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal submitted by Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government have any plans to use the existing canal network to review the Buckingham Canal Network;

(d) if so, the specific time Schedule and route and other physical details of the revived Buckingham Canal Network in Andhra Pradesh, linking it to Chennai; and

(e) the funding earmarked for this project?

Upgradation of Belgaum-Goa highway

1894. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade and widen Belgaum-Goa highway;

(b) if so, the specifications of the proposed widening/up-gradation;

(c) the cost of the project involved; and

(d) the proposed date of completion?

Development of NHs in North-Eastern Region

1895. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and length of the existing National Highway in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) which of these roads are taken up/

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

would be taken up for development during the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(c) the names of the roads under construction for more than three years; and

(d) the plan to expedite these works?

Development of Inland Waterways and Water Transport in A.P.

1896. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to develop inland waterways and inland water transport in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has studied the viability of the proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when Government are expected to formally announce the approval of the proposal?

Completion of National Highway No. 34

1897. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on National Highway No. 34 from Lucknow to Balia has not yet been completed in all respects;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that after completing the working from Lucknow to Sultanpur, the remaining distance from Sultanpur to Balia *via* Kazipur-Shahganj-Azamgarh-Balia, has been left over and no action has been taken since long leaving the road in dilapidated conditions and dangerous for vehicles; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government for immediate completion of this National Highway No. 34 from Sultanpur to Balia (U.P.) by converting it into double lane from Lucknow to Balia?

USA interest in Chandrayan-I Mission

1898. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in India's space mission to the moon during the last two years, along with its status as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that United States of America has expressed its interest in placing its own payload aboard first Indian spacecraft to moon, Chandrayan-I; and

(c) if so, Government's response to the same?

Engineers of DDA

1899. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around two thousand engineers of Delhi Development Authority are kept idle and Government are wasting huge expenditure on their salary and perks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether DDA's Engineers Association have made any representation for getting work responsibilities to them; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto and the details of the steps, taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Modifying MPLAD Scheme

1900. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering

a proposal to abrogate or replace or otherwise modify the existing MPLAD Scheme; and

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

Statistical system in the country

1901. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that statistical system in the country is still outdated and as a result the various statistics prepared by Union Government and its agencies fall short of accuracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to modernize statistical system in the country; and

(d) the results achieved/proposed to be achieved thereof?

Development proposals for Punjab

1902. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the pending development proposals submitted by State Government of Punjab; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the details of the action taken by Government on these proposals and the reasons for their pendency, proposal-wise?

Rain water management in Mumbai

1903. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Master Plan for rain water management in Mumbai has been prepared to avert a post July 26, 2005 cloud burst situation there;

(b) if so, the salient features and estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

Procedure for construction clearances

†1904. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of building in the cities of the country is required to obtain the approval from 25 to 40 Government departments;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that present procedure for obtaining approval for construction of building is so lengthy and ambiguous that the same itself encourage the illegal construction;

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

(e) the measures taken to streamline the above procedure?

Expenditure under NURM

†1905. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to incur an amount of Rs. One lakh crores for urban development

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

under National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) during the next seven years;

(b) if so, the date on which this decision was taken;

(c) by when this decision would be implemented in the country; and

(d) the details of the amount decided to be incurred year-wise, during the plan period of seven years?

Bio-medical waste unit

†1906. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government sought proposals for two hospitals each from every State for approval of bio-medical waste unit;

(b) the basis of this criterion; and

(c) whether it is not apt to set benchmarks of State population, the number of hospitals or the number of sanctioned beds in hospitals for the purpose?

Buildings collapse in Mumbai rain

1907. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the context of a number of buildings having collapsed following the heavy rains this year in Mumbai, Central Government had asked Government of Maharashtra to undertake identification of what they called “cessed” building, classified as dangerous in Mumbai and to have them vacated, pulled down and reconstructed;

(b) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had sought Central aid for the project;

(c) if so, the said sought, the number of dangerous houses so identified and classified, the number of persons and families displaced and the tenements evacuated and reconstructed; and

(d) the Central Government's response thereto?

Traffic on Delhi Metro's line III

1908. SRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Metro's Line III Barakhamba Road-Dwarka is drawing heavy traffic during peak hours to the level of suffocation;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to improve these services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof *vis-a-vis* the present arrangement and by when it is likely to be implemented?

Development of practically relevant Master Plan

†1909. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently made a suggestion to the States that more practical master plan be drawn up by them with a set time-frame for development in their States in the next 20 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the States thereto?

Jhuggis and encroachments in Gole Market

1910. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Jhuggi and encroachments have come up on Government colonies particularly DIZ area Gole Market;

(b) whether Government propose to remove the same; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

Gyms in DDA colonies

1911. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDA has decided to do away with the idea of providing gyms in colonies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the useful purpose that would be served by such a decision; and

(d) whether it is not the social responsibility of Government to provide infrastructure conducive to healthy society?

Environmental clearance for Vasant Kunj shopping malls

1912. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court in its order dated 19th August, 1997 stated that DDA was required to abide by all the conditions of obtaining the environmental clearance from the statutory authorities as required by law;

(b) whether the DDA did not implement the court's order and allowed the construction of shopping malls in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Urban Renewal Scheme

1913. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of

Andhra Pradesh have sought Rupees 500-600 crores fund for the development of Hyderabad roads under Urban Renewal Scheme; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

Construction of flats for lower income group

†1914. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of flats for lower income group has not been in the priority list of DDA now;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the applicants registered under the above category are in the waiting list for the last 25 years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which this waiting list would be exhausted;

(d) if not, the details thereof;

(e) the details of waiting list for various categories registered under various housing scheme; and

(f) the total number of flats allotted under various categories during the last 25 years alongwith the details thereof category-wise?

Delhi Metro Rail fare

1915. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are actively considering to hike the Delhi Metro Rail fare;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, by when and the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which such a hike in fare shall have an adverse affect on the common people; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government not to increase the Metro Rail fare at all and to keep it within the reach of common man?

Schemes in Uttaranchal

1916. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing schemes of his Ministry in force in the country and the schemes in force in Uttaranchal; and
- (b) the financial assistance given to the State Government for various schemes, scheme-wise and year-wise and utilized during the last five years?

E-governance projects

†1917. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are going to implement e-governance projects in the municipalities and municipal corporations in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Violations in properties in Delhi

1918. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a thinking is going on in Government to protect need based

violations and not greed based violations in properties in Delhi;

- (b) the details of the concept and the type of properties on which it is proposed to be applied;
- (c) whether the concept covers flats/apartments also in Delhi; and
- (d) if so, the basis thereof?

Additions/alterations in DDA flats

1919. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the nature and extent of additions/alterations in DDA flats in different areas in Delhi;
- (b) the percentage of such additions/alterations that are authorized, *i.e.*, as per guidelines of DDA and with the sanction of MCD;
- (c) the reasons/circumstances under which unauthorized additions/alterations came up in such a big way;
- (d) the extent to which it is lawful for top floor allottee/owners to add residential units at the 3rd/4th floor or ground/middle floor allottees expanding sideways on/over Government land;
- (e) the accepted DDA/MCD norms/guidelines for such additions; and
- (f) the remedial steps proposed?

Employment in urban areas

1920. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people who have got

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

employment in urban areas during the last two years;

(b) the details of such employment State-wise; and

(c) the wages provided for each year, State-wise?

Urban employment under NREGA

†1921. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no provision for providing employment to urban unemployed people in Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating on bringing any other Bill for providing employment to urban unemployed people;

(c) if so, by when the said Bill would be introduced in the Parliament; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Alleviation of poverty in tribal regions

†1922. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have formulated any schemes to alleviate poverty prevalent in the tribal regions of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of welfare schemes in AP

1923. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken review of the implementation of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojna, Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojna, National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents, Integrated Low Cost Sanitation and Night Shelter for Urban Shelterless in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the conclusions thereof, indicating the achievements under these projects; and

(c) the number of persons/families benefited during the last three years from each of these schemes?

Percentage of BPL people

1924. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of people living below poverty line in India and the State of Rajasthan (urban and rural break-up);

(b) the percentage of families who have so far been assisted under SJSRY;

(c) the number of such families who could actually be brought above poverty level;

(d) whether Government have launched any new schemes for poverty alleviation in urban areas;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the salient features thereof including the amount allocated and utilized, scheme-wise;

(f) whether any achievements were made under the new schemes; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, particularly with reference to Rajasthan?

Slum Sanitation Programme

1925. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for grant from World Bank for Slum Sanitation Programme from Government of Maharashtra has been under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands and the action taken thereon so far; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

National Slum Development Programme

1926. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh requested the Central Government *vide* Letter No. 16863/UBS/2004 MA dated 24/1/2005 to increase the allotment to Andhra Pradesh under National Slum Development Programme and requested for the release of an additional amount of Rs. 50 crores in addition to existing allotment of Rs. 32.77 crores;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Preparations for Olympics

1927. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have made any assessment of the preparations/training being given to the athletes and players for the next Olympic Games;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Central Government to get/win medals in commensurate with the size of the country?

Sports in Concurrent List

1928. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for bringing "sports" under the Concurrent List; and

(b) whether Government propose to have a sports policy for promotion of sports in the country?

Centrally sponsored schemes for sports

1929. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored schemes for providing basic facilities for the development of sports in the country;

(b) the details of facilities being provided under these schemes in each State; and

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose during the last two years, State-wise?

Cost of Commonwealth Games

1930. SHRI PRASANTA
CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
have agreed to bear the entire cost of the
2010 Commonwealth Games, scheduled in
Delhi;

(b) whether a group of Ministers is
monitoring the preparations; and

(c) the details of the Budgetary
allocation for the Common wealth Games,
2010 thereof?

National Youth Policy

1931. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
formulate a National Youth Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Preparations for Commonwealth Games

1932. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared
any fast track decision making mechanism
and freedom to bring in foreign expertise to
speed up preparations for the 2010
Commonwealth Games in the Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of each project?

NEW DELHI;
The 3rd March, 2006
Phalguna 12, 1927 (Saka)

Stipend to players and athletes

1933. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will
the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND
SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of players and athletes
getting monthly stipend from Central
Government for their brilliant performance,
State-wise;

(b) the rates of different kinds of
stipends; and

(c) the manner in which it would help
to develop the standard of performances in
terms of the international yard-stick?

UK assistance for Commonwealth Games

1934. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the
Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND
SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United
Kingdom has offered to share expertise and
assist Delhi in its "legacy planning" for the
Commonwealth Games 2010 by proposing
the Manchester model of using the games
to boost tourism, investments and
infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the details of the offer received
and Government's reaction thereto?

Sports authorities and coaches

†1935. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sports
authorities and coaches in the country; and

(b) the details thereof, State-wise and
sport-wise?

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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