

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the May 9, 2003/Vaisakha 19, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

Import and prices of edible Oil

5107. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:

SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate of production of oilseeds
during the current crop season and the
production achieved during the last year;

(b) whether the fall in production will
result in rise in edible oil imports this year;

(c) the quantity of edible oil likely to be
imported this year;

(d) whether it would effect the prices of
edible oil; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure that
prices of edible oils do not rise?

Development of Golden rice

5108. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT
RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether any vitamin "A" enriched
new Golden rice variety has been developed
to prevent blindness;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to popularise the
variety?

Foodgrain for Rajasthan as famine relief

†5109. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will
the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of wheats or
other foodgrains are available in the Central
Food Stores;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains allocated
to Rajasthan as famine relief, so far;

(c) whether any per capita limit is set for
wheat to be provided by the Centre to famine
affected States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

KVKs in Karnataka

5110. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to
state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has
approached the Central Government for
financial assistance to set up eleven Krishi
Vigyan Kendras;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has
also requested for financial support to set
up an Agricultural College in Bijapur
District;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) in view of the need to set up such Kendras in the newly created Districts and Agriculture College in Bijapur whether the Central Government have considered the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Growth of GDP

5111. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Agriculture has recorded a negative growth in this fiscal year impacting the GDP and reducing it to 4.4 per cent against a large of 7 per cent; whether this has been attributed to a poor monsoon after thirteen years of normal rainfall; and

(b) if so, what are Government plans in this regard?

Production and consumption of mustard

†5112. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether produce of mustard has registered a decline during the year 2002-2003;

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

(c) the details of production and consumption of mustard during the last three years in the country, State-wise?

Comparative yield of main crops

†5113. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the yield of the main crops in India is less in comparison with the international average;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

Alleviating drought fears

5114. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report that appeared in the media recently indicating the possibility of drought this year too;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the situation; and

(c) the steps taken, including the grant sanctioned, to face the drought situation during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

Reviewing drought allocation norms

5115. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the norms of allocation for drought hit States; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

Drought mitigation efforts

5116. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drought has pulled down foodgrains output by 13 per cent as reported in the media, recently;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the efforts made by Government to face drought during the year;
- (d) whether efforts made by Government last year borne fruit;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Sugar quota in European Union

5117. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are pressing European Union to open its sugar quota and allow imports of at least one lakh tonnes of the commodity into its member countries;
- (b) whether this demand was made by the Agriculture Minister to the EU Trade Commissioner during latter's visit to this country;
- (c) if so, what is the reaction of the EU Government; and
- (d) to what extent the EU has agreed on the suggestions made by India?

Effect of climate change on agriculture

5118. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-
CHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to study the impact of climate change on agriculture in view of long bout of freak weather in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details of measures need to be adopted to protect hilly areas, coastal ecosystem, fisheries and rain fed crops?

Competition in Export market

5119. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the challenge from the Agricultural Exporting giants under the WTO regime, Government have drawn out any strategy to help Indian farmers and plants to effectively compete in the World Export Market;

- (b) if so, the details of the strategy; and
- (c) the steps taken being/are taken in pursuance thereof?

Announcing MSP of crops before sowing

5120. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are contemplating to announce policy of Minimum Support Price of grains prior to sowing of crops by farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Foodgrains to tribal people

5121. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 15 to 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains is eaten by rats;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that huge number of Adivasis/tribal people are not getting foodgrains for their livelihood; and
- (c) if so, the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Remunerative prices for cotton in Orissa

5122. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the distress sale of cotton in some parts of Orissa and particularly Rayagada district;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure remunerative prices for cotton in that part of Orissa?

Employment opportunity in agricultural sector

†5123. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which success has been achieved in the creation of employment opportunities in the agriculture sector in Uttaranchal, so far, and to what extent;

(b) its percentage at the National level as well as the State level, separately;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to create the employment opportunities in this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Decrease in oilseed production

†5124. SHRI KAPIL SUBAL:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oilseed production in the country was 24.75 million ton during 1998-1999 which has now come down to 15.44 million ton;

(b) if not, Government's assessment in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that lack of incentives in this field is the reason for the continuous decrease in the said production; and

(d) if not, the incentives given by Government to the oilseed producers during the said period?

Availability of improved seeds for pulses and oilseeds

†5125. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses any provision has been made by Government to provide improved seeds to the farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the provision alongwith the names and quantum of seeds of the said produces provided during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, in the country under the said provision, separately?

Target for pulses and oilseeds production

†5126. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of oilseeds and pulses in the country is less than the requirement;

(b) if so, the assessment of the requirement for the consumption of the said products in the country till date since 1998-99, respectively;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what was the actual production during the said period separately; and

(d) the target of production fixed by Government for each of the said years?

Investment in farm infrastructure

5127. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to formulate and unfold guidelines for incentives that would be provided to induce corporate and big companies for farm infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to extend facilities to big companies to invest in farm infrastructure, processing, packaging, storage, R&D and agricultural extension to enable them to become producers instead of being traders and processors;

(c) if so, the details of the guidelines prepared; and

(d) the details of the projects that would be undertaken by them?

WTO farm draft

5128. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WTO farm draft has neither been welcomed nor opposed by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry;

(b) if so, whether they have pointed out that it is inadequate and may not go far enough in liberalising the distorted agriculture trade;

(c) whether the revised draft in its current form does not reflect completely the spirit of Doha Declaration for reforming the distorted agriculture trade;

(d) if so, what are the drawbacks; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

Hike in prices of full cream milk by Mother Dairy

†5129. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mother Dairy have hiked the prices of full cream milk in the recent past;

(b) if so, the extent to which the same have been hiked;

(c) the annual additional amount estimated to be obtained by the Mother Dairy thereby; and

(d) the reasons for the hike in the prices of full cream milk?

Agriculture Insurance Company

5130. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly registered Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited is going to become a bone of contention between the Union Finance and Agricultural Ministries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Promotion of herbal and medicinal plants

5131. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the programmes being implemented by Government for the promotion of herbal and medicinal plants; and

(b) the percentage of production during the last three years?

Research on drought resistant crops

5132. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any research conducted by any Agricultural Institute in the country on crop yield using less water;

(b) if so, the details of research conducted along with the names of institutes;

(c) if not, whether Government feel the need to direct all Agricultural Institutes in the country to conduct such research as most of the States suffer from drought every summer or similar conditions; and

(d) if so, by when Government would respond in this direction?

Availability of water for agricultural production

5133. SHRI RAS KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has been experiencing poor rains during the last five years;

(b) if so, the man made reasons therefor and the rain prospects this year;

(c) whether Government have assessed the impact of poor rains on rural income and its purchasing power;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure sufficient availability of water for agricultural production?

Strike in ICAR

5134. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the staff of Indian Council of Agricultural Research has gone on a strike from 22nd April, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what sincere steps have been taken to resolve the issue?

Studies regarding promotion of oil-seeds based bio-diesel

5135. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive Action Plan is being prepared to launch pilot projects in different areas of the country to promote the use of oil-seeds based bio-diesel as an alternative fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the results of any preliminary studies carried out for the proposed projects;

(c) the details of specific varieties of plants identified for large scale planting for extraction of bio-diesel; and

(d) the details of any known similar projects underway in other countries, especially in Asia?

Floriculture promotion

5136. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the Central scheme introduced by Government to promote floriculture;
- (b) the States where the schemes have been introduced; and
- (c) the details of allocation made for the development of floriculture in those States during the last three years?

Farmers' Assistance Centres in A.P.

5137. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Farmers' Assistance Centres functioning in Andhra Pradesh, location-wise;
- (b) whether Government propose to set-up more such Centres in Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) if so, names of Districts/Mandals/Villages identified for this purpose;
- (d) by when the new Farmers' Assistance Centres are likely to start functioning; and
- (e) details of guidelines under which these Centres would function?

Import of garlic

5138. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) when country is expected a bumper crop of garlic, as per the reports arriving from garlic producing States, if so, why Government are bent upon importing garlic this year; and
- (b) whether it is a fact that Director General (foreign trade) has serious objections on the import of garlic which would badly hurt the interest of farmers?

Horticulture Development

5139. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds spent by Government for the development of horticulture during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the extent to which the target of the development of horticulture has been achieved, as a result thereof; and
- (c) the funds allocated to the States particularly Gujarat and Maharashtra for the purpose during the current financial year, State-wise?

Composition of CACP

5140. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the composition of Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission at present; and
- (b) when it was last constituted and what is its term of office?

DMS losses

5141. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the main reasons for monetary losses suffered by Delhi Milk Scheme during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (b) how Government propose to make up the losses?

Irrigated agricultural land

5142. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of fully irrigated

agricultural land in different States of the country;

(b) how much percentage of this irrigation has been done by the surface water and how much by the underground water;

(c) whether Government have made any assessment of effects incurred by the lifting of underground water;

(d) if so, the details of the measures that have been contemplated; and

(e) the details of the new projects of irrigation to be undertaken during the year 2003-04?

Assistance to A.P. for controlling animal diseases

5143. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central assistance is being provided to Andhra Pradesh for control of animal diseases in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) how the State is controlling the animal diseases with the names of agencies etc., if any associated with it?

Assistance for Senile Cashew Plantation in Andhra Pradesh

5144. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central assistance has been provided to Andhra Pradesh for replanting of Senile Cashew Plantations with improved high yielding varieties;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the total area of Senile Cashew Plantations in the State which have been replanted with improved varieties, so far; and

(d) whether any target has been set for this year, in this regard?

National livestock policy

5145. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a National Livestock Policy;

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

(c) whether the new policy makes adequate provision for generating employment opportunities in the agricultural sectors and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being contemplated to secure greater budgetary allocation during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Investment on R and D in Agriculture

5146. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-
CHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to invest more on research and development in agriculture to reduce import bill of edible oils; and

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

Policy on GM crop and food

5147. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to redraft the policy on GM crop and food;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the GM crop and food policy adopted earlier was ineffective to deal with the various problems faced by Government;
- (d) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (e) whether Government are inclined to develop GM food in the country; and
- (f) what is the opinion of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee on GM food?

Excess potato problem of UP

5148. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that the Central Uttar Pradesh has a bumper 102 lakh tonnes production of potatoes this year;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that the potato farmers in Central Uttar Pradesh are devastated because neither NAFED nor the State Government have come forward to buy the potatoes inspite of assurance given earlier; and
- (c) the action Government propose to take to prevent the wastage of potato?

Promotion of organic farming in Karnataka

5149. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken so far, by Government to promote organic farming in Karnataka;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there has been great demand for organic manure in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to provide financial assistance to Karnataka under the National Project on Organic Farming during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Fertilizer utilisation by States

5150. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 460 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th December, 2002 and state the quantum of fertilizer utilisation (Total) by all the States of the Union?

Price of Medopar

5151. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently Government have increased the price of medicine 'Medopar' by more than 68 per cent;
- (b) if so, what are the details of import prices and why such a steep price increase is allowed by NPPA; and
- (c) whether this medicine is available indigenously, if so, the price thereof?

Production cost of urea

†5152. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

measures to reduce the cost of production of urea;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken during the last three years;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether cost of production is increasing because of extravagance of the officers; and

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

Assam Gas Cracker Project

5153. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of developments made, in chronological order, on Assam Gas Cracker Project from the time of conceptualization, laying of foundation stone, year-wise progress, present status and target fixed;

(b) details of original commitments made by oil companies, basis of availability of gas resources, details of deviations made by oil companies on their commitments, solution found out, likely time of arriving at a final decision on this issue; and

(c) list of public commitments made by Prime Minister and Petroleum Minister from time to time on this issue till date?

Bulk drugs in DPCO

5154. DR. M. N. DAS:
SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had lost Court case over the inclusion of several bulk drugs in the Drugs Price Control Order;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of bulk drugs and what is the status of the case in the judiciary?

Cheating case against multinational drugs manufacturing company

†5155. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have registered a case of cheating against the multinational drugs manufacturing company Johnson & Johnson and N.R. Jet Enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by CBI in this regard?

Exemption of customs and excise duty on life saving drugs

5156. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry recommended to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) some months back that all life saving drugs should be completely exempted from customs and excise duties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the MoF thereto; and

(d) whether Government are aware that the drug users are being fully exploited by the wholesalers and retailers both of whom are taking the consumers for a ride and if so, steps proposed to be taken in this direction?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Criteria for essential and life saving medicines

5157. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued interim order asking Government to lay down the criteria to bring essential and life saving medicines under price control by May 2, 2003;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the interim order of the Supreme Court;

(c) whether Government are set to explore all options to push through the policy of progressive decontrol;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry has already consulted the Health Ministry and has sought the Law Ministry's opinion on this issue; and

(e) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Fertilizer units in Jharkhand

†5158. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fertilizer units operating in Jharkhand at present;

(b) whether these units are utilising their full capacity;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to enhance the production capacity of these units?

Rehabilitation schemes for victims of Bhopal gas tragedy

†5159. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for various schemes related to Bhopal gas victims in connection with (i) various rehabilitation programmes (ii) tank for water supply and construction of supply lines thereof (iii) construction of tragedy memorial (iv) provision of smart card (v) construction of a state of the art park (vi) construction of housing units for the destitutes; and the various schemes for the Bhopal gas victims along with the quantum of amount sought against each proposal; and

(b) quantum of amount provided by Government in this connection; if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Decontrol of chemical fertilizer industries

†5160. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been suggested to decontrol the chemical fertilizer industry completely;

(b) if so, when and by whom the same suggestions have been made;

(c) whether it is also a fact that following the adoption of liberalised industrial policy it is also mandatory to decontrol the industry; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

New Drug Policy

5161. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a New Drug Policy has been formulated by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date by which the Policy would come into effect?

Tibbati Deers

†5162. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) names of the places in India where Tibbati deers (Cheeru) are found along with their numbers;

(b) whether it is a fact that said deers are being hunted on a large scale for smuggling of their skin; and

(c) the effective steps taken by Government to arrest the poachers and to take stern action against them along with details of effective steps, if any, taken for protecting the deers?

Visit of green peace team to Orissa

5163. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a Team of Greenpeace India, an environmental organisation has visited Orissa with a view to educate the people and the industry on pollution control;

(b) if so, the details of the places and pollution centres visited by the team and

part played in control of pollution in the State, as appeared in media; and

(c) whether this team has also visited other areas for this purpose, if so, the details thereof with the message spread?

Illegal cutting of trees

†5164. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether Government have received any complaints from MPs regarding corruption in the Department of Forests and that of cutting down the trees against the rules by ignoring the environment in UP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard, so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Most polluted rivers

†5165. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) the names of the polluted and most polluted rivers in the country;

(b) the names of the rivers made pollution free and the expenditure incurred on this project;

(c) action taken by Government to ensure that these rivers would remain pollution-free in future; and

(d) the details of the rivers for which external assistance is being provided in making them pollution-free?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Vangrams in Chhattisgarh and
Madhya Pradesh**

†5166. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of "Vangrams" in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, zone-wise; and the proposal for number of Vangrams to be converted into Revenue villages sent to Government by the State Government;

(b) the reasons mentioned by the State Government for converting Vangrams into Revenue villages;

(c) whether people living in the forests are going to be benefited by the same; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken by Government in this regard?

**Approval to Musi River Pollution
Abatement Project**

5167. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded approval to the Musi River Pollution Abatement Project under the National River Conservation Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project together with funding pattern;

(d) the implementing and monitoring agency of the project; and

(e) by when work on the project is likely to be commenced and completed?

Market value of detained timber

5168. SHRI INDRAMONI BORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details with regards to all the timber wagons detained by Ministry during 1999-2000;

(b) the quantity of legal and illegal timbers found in detained wagons and its estimated market value at the time of detention, separately;

(c) total penalties imposed on all the wagons during proceedings by S.I.T. in details;

(d) the realisation of total sale value and penalties deposited from entire confiscated wagons;

(e) amount of direct/indirect expenses incurred on the physical verifications and auction sales of all the detained wagons; and

(f) reasons for auction sale of confiscated timber on "As is where is basis"?

Cultivation of cotton

5169. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cotton growers in North India are reluctant to cultivate the hybrid varieties of cotton and they will not be able to grow Bt. *Bacillus thuringiensis* cotton this season;

(b) whether the farmers are reluctant to cultivate hybrid varieties as the hybrids in use have now lost all their potency; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to encourage cultivation of cotton?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Eco-clubs in Karnataka

5170. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of eco-clubs which have, so far, been started in Karnataka;

(b) the amount released during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 for the functioning of these clubs;

(c) the number of Government and private schools in Karnataka which have been identified by the district level Committees for setting up of these eco-clubs;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up more number of eco-clubs in Karnataka, during 2003-2004; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Forest cover in Assam

5171. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the forest cover in Assam is drastically decreasing against its increase in the country;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a great paucity of funds in the State forest department to maintain the forest properly; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Centre in this regard?

CRZ clearance for construction of Fishing Harbour

5172. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

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

(a) whether Gujarat Government has

submitted a proposal for CRZ clearance for construction of a Minor Fishing Harbour at Dholai in Navsari District of Gujarat in September, 2002;

(b) whether the State Government replied to the queries raised by the Ministry in November, 2002; and

(c) in view of the difficulties faced by the local fishermen of South Gujarat, whether the Ministry would give the necessary clearance early so that the State Government can undertake construction of the fishing harbour early?

Quality norms for food articles

5173. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the emerging international market for traditional food articles;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to formulate stringent quality norms on the lines of internationally accepted codex standards for Indian Traditional products like pickles and 'Murabbas';

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Export of meat of other cattle

†5174. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries to which meat of other cattle was exported during the year 2000-2001 along with the names of the units and foreign exchange earned by them as per the page-24 of the annual report for the year 2001-2002 of the Ministry of Food Processing Industry;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether these units have set up their own slaughter houses or these units take meat from other centres and then export;

(c) if so, the location thereof; and

(d) the details of the animals included under the other cattle category?

Production of Video/Audio Programme on Fundamental Duties

5175. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NCERT has stopped production of Video and Audio Programme on Article 51A of the Constitution which was started by CIET (Central Institute of Educational Technology) as per the report of the Committee on Fundamental Duties; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Child labourers

†5176. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of child labourers in the country indicating their age-group;

(b) whether they come under B.P.L. category;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for employing child labourers on large scale in hazardous industries?

Problems of teachers

5177. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal to constitute a Committee to review the problems faced by teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, when was the proposal received and whether the Committee has been formed; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when the Committee would be formed?

Kendriya Vidyalayas in Bihar

†5178. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Bihar alongwith locations thereof;

(b) the criteria for opening of Kendriya Vidyalaya; and

(c) whether there is any scheme to open a new Kendriya Vidyalaya in the State; if so, the details thereof?

Kendriya Vidyalayas in Madhya Pradesh

†5179. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Kendriya Vidyalayas operating in Madhya Pradesh at present;

(b) whether Government propose to open more Vidyalayas from the academic session 2003-04 in that State;

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

(d) the criteria for opening new Vidyalayas?

Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sale price of admission forms

†5180. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the maximum and minimum sale price of the admission forms in various Universities and Governmental and non-Governmental institutions including IIT alongwith the unit costs thereof;

(b) the arrangements to stop the undesirable tendency of earning profit by selling admission forms in educational institutions; and

(c) the reasons for not distributing the admission forms free of costs?

Special employment cell

5181. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether JNU would announce a Special Employment Cell to provide job awareness and guidance opportunities as appeared in media;

(b) whether the same has been announced;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, when the same will be announced; and

(e) whether Government would consider announcing such cells in other Central Universities of the country?

Posts for Urdu

5182. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts for Urdu category have not been filled for last many years in NCERT; and

(b) if so, the details of posts, which are vacant and reasons for not filling them?

Surplus teachers

5183. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 2500 teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas have recently been declared as surplus and hence transferred out;

(b) if so, the Vidyalaya/category/subject-wise details of such surplus teachers; and

(c) the details of reasons for their being labelled surplus alongwith justification, if any?

Women Commissions for the crimes against women

5184. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite rising crimes against women, Government have failed to establish Women Commissions in many States as only 20 States have separate Commissions to look into matters concerning women; and

(b) if so, the policy of Government in this regard and which are the States without Women Commission and by when all the State Governments are likely to set up such Commissions?

Literacy rate

5185. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that so far literacy

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

rates are concerned there are wide inter and intra State differences;

(b) if so, the details thereof with literacy rates among male and female separately; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation so far female literacy rates, especially in northern States are concerned?

International business institutions

†5186. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several International Business Institutions have started establishing the units for the pre-school primary education in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the MNCs which have entered the field till December 2002; and

(c) the names of the States and number of units established therein by these MNCs?

NRIs to invest on education and health

5187. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI :
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has not been able to convince the NRIs from USA to invest in India on education and health;

(b) if so, whether number of delegations from HRD Ministry visited to US to convince the NRIs for more participation especially in education and health;

(c) whether number of NRIs in USA have pointed out that the norms at present applied in India are not sufficient and require some modifications; and

(d) if so, what were the main hurdles that come in the way?

Abolition of child marriages

5188. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether women activists across the country are urging the Centre for abolition of child marriages;

(b) if so, whether the report from various places in the country, including the Capital has pointed out that despite child marriages being stopped on receiving news, the child marriages are still performed;

(c) whether Government propose to take any step to abolish the child marriages in the country;

(d) if so, what are the concrete suggestions made by the women activists; and

(e) to what extent they have been considered and implemented?

Publication of NCERT books

5189. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP
SINGH:

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

(a) whether the NCERT published its books for the current academic year in Hindi, Urdu and English;

(b) if so, the number of books which have been published in Urdu;

(c) whether it is a fact that last year NCERT books were not published in Urdu; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that NCERT is giving step motherly treatment to Urdu language?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Welfare of divorcees

5190. M^S. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have launched any special scheme for the welfare of divorcees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Encouragement for Pure Science

5191. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pure Science is losing popularity among students as a subject of higher education as opined by Prof. C.N.R. Rao in a recent newspaper article;

(b) if so, the main reasons for it; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated to encourage youth to take to Pure Science?

Less funds for basic education

5192. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the allocation of less funds for basic education is one of the main obstacle to bridge the huge gap in the next decade;

(b) if so, details of the allocation made and expenditure incurred during the last three financial years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rich-poor gap among the students at the primary and elementary school levels has also widened; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

Coverage of quality education

5193. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the proposed coverage of imparting of quality education by IIT/IIM faculty members to coach *via* the satellite from a Central studio through VSAT, and is the programme so structured will benefit majority of students all over the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this will be supplementing the existing system of education or supplementing it gradually?

Kendriya Vidyalayas in Punjab

5194. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas running at present in the State of Punjab, location-wise and district-wise;

(b) whether these Vidyalayas are less as compared to other States; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to open more Vidyalayas in the State?

Anganwadi Centres in Karnataka

5195. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Anganwadi Centres approved by the Ministry so far, since 1999, State-wise;

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has requested to sanction 6655 Additional Anganwadi Centres under ICDS to cover 27 districts of the State; and

(c) if so, the number of Anganwadi Centres which have been sanctioned?

**Moral education as short-term course
in school**

5196. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

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

(a) whether there is a need to include
Moral, Social and Ethical value education
in schools as a short-term subject;

(b) if so, whether Government intend to
introduce this new short-term subject and
by when;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there is a
greater need for teaching Moral, Social and
Ethical values to the young generation
keeping in mind the western influence on
our daily lives?

Mid-day meal scheme

†5197. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) the names of the States where 'mid-
day meal' scheme is being implemented in
Government schools as well as Government
aided schools;

(b) the funds provided by Government
to each State Government under this head,
during the last five years;

(c) whether Government's attention has
been drawn towards ruling of Supreme
Court with regard to the proper
implementation of the scheme; and

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

Amount for adult education in NER

5198. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH
SHARMAH: Will the Minister of
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount earmarked for
adult education in the North-Eastern Region
during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of amount spent on adult
education in the region during Ninth Five
Year Plan, year-wise; and

(c) the details of amount proposed to be
earmarked for the purpose during the Tenth
Five Year Plan?

Permission to foreign scholars

5199. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will
the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry's
approval will be necessary before a foreign
scholar can take up any study/research on
any Indian subject; and

(b) if so, what purpose will it serve to
our country?

**Questions for 10th and 12th classes
based on other books**

5200. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the questions
set for the 10th and 12th classes for CBSE
students are mostly based on other books
rather than the NCERT books;

(b) if so, the parameters fixed for this
process; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the parameters are strictly followed while setting Examination papers?

Recognition to B.Ed. colleges

5201. SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several B.Ed. colleges in Andhra Pradesh were granted "No Objection Certificates" but are awaiting recognition from NCTE; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to grant early recognition as 20,000 students are eagerly awaiting to join the B.Ed. course?

National action plan for empowerment of women

†5202. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any national action plan for empowerment of the women;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) by when the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

Indian schools in gulf countries

5203. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many Indian schools in gulf countries recognised/controlled by the competent authority;

(b) if so, the details including the administrative/academic control as on today, category-wise;

(c) whether the competent authority is aware of any incidents related to malfunctioning of the above schools during the last three years;

(d) if so, year-wise and category-wise details thereof; and

(e) the details of action taken, if any?

Promotion in Central Hindi Directorate

5204. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers belonging to SC are being denied the benefits of due promotion to the post of Assistant Director under the Internal Promotion Scheme for a considerable period in Central Hindi Directorate;

(b) if so, the justification for such discrimination and the details of number of officers affected as a result thereof; and

(c) by when such officers would be given their due promotion and reasons for delay?

Mapping of living resources

5205. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Ocean Development was created *inter alia* to map living resources, prepare an inventory of commercially exploitable fauna and map and assess the availability of mineral resources from the deep sea;

(b) if so, the achievement made so far in these areas; and

(c) the plans set out for 2003-2004?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Contract to private firm for maintenance of railway stations

5206. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
PROF. M. SANKARA-
LINGAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a private firm would keep Old Delhi Railway Station and footover bridges clean as appeared in the media recently;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider awarding similar contracts for the maintenance and upkeep of prominent and crowded railway stations in different parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Renewal of contract of M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co.

5207. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 185 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the Contract for Bookstalls of M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. has since been renewed;

(b) if so, what are the Complete details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when it will be done?

Transportation of fodder to Gujarat

5208. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway rakes requested by Gujarat Government for transportation of fodder to scarcity affected areas in the last four months of December to March;

(b) what is the number allocated by the Railways against the above requirement; and

(c) in view of the acute scarcity of fodder in the scarcity districts of Gujarat, will the Railway Ministry consider the seriousness of the situation and allocate the required number of rakes?

Bookstalls at Railway Stations

5209. DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH
LIBRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new contract of bookstalls are allotted to eligible categories through normal set procedure by inviting applications through press notification;

(b) if so, whether the said set procedure is also being adopted in allotment of new and additional bookstalls to M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co.;

(c) if not, what are the detailed reasons therefor;

(d) what are the names of stations where the contract of bookstalls is held by M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co.; and

(e) the names of stations where the contract of bookstalls is held by Higginbothams Ltd.; Serva Seva Sangh Prakashan and Gita Press, Gorakhpur etc.?

Mobile exhibition by railways

†5210. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways propose to carry "Mobile Scientific Exhibition" in the country with the aim of giving the message of unity to the citizens of the country on the occasion of 150th anniversary of its inception;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to which parts of the country this exhibition will be carried to at first and by when the said exhibition is likely to be started?

Railway projects in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh

†5211. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of pending railway projects in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether these railway projects have been abandoned; and

(c) the reasons for not starting the railway projects of these States, which are pending for ten years?

Safety measures in ladies compartments

5212. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that the safety measures are inadequate in the ladies compartments of trains in Kerala;

(b) whether Railways propose to introduce adequate safety measures to protect the interests of women passengers;

(c) whether Railways propose to depute women police in the ladies compartments; and

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

Rail Projects in Tamil Nadu

5213. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new projects have been included for implementation during the last three years;

(b) State-wise details of the above projects and their budget allocation; and

(c) details regarding pending projects in Tamil Nadu, which are not included for implementation and reasons thereof?

Development of Railways in the country

5214. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to develop railways in the country;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 340 crores would be spent through the East Coast Railway Zone during 2003-04;

(c) whether railways have also agreed to provide more money under the non-plan head;

(d) if so, what are the major projects that are being considered under this programme; and

(e) to what extent Government have developed the railways during 2003-04?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Harassment of women on trains

5215. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to stop women's harassment on trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Commemoration of 150 years of Railways

5216. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways organised a year-long celebrations to commemorate 150 years of Railways in India;

(b) if so, what was the budget for the celebrations; and

(c) whether it involved all the Zonal Railways?

Downsizing in Railways

5217. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'human failure' behind rail accidents stems from the paucity of Group 'D' safety category staff and hence Government have decided to fill up 20,000 vacancies therein;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways operations are bound to be labour intensive;

(c) whether keeping in mind the safety aspect, RPF and RPSF have been exempted from Government's downsizing policy;

(d) if the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) are in affirmative how Government explains its policy of downsizing manpower by 2 per cent every year; and

(e) what are the reasons behind accepting the downsizing policy?

Failure to achieve production capacity by public sector units

5218. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the six public sector production units of Railways failed to achieve their production capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons behind the failure;

(c) what steps are being taken to revive the production capacity of these units; and

(d) whether it is a fact that more 'independence' would help these PSUs wriggle out of present condition?

ROB/RUB in Punjab

5219. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail under/over bridges in Punjab as on date;

(b) the number of rail under/over bridges which are under construction;

(c) whether there is any proposal with Government to construct more rail over/under bridges in the State;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Detection of missing rail clips

†5220. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) steps taken by Government to avert the accidents due to the increase in the incidents of missing/removing of rail-clips, fishplates;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of clips fixed on rail tracks had been found missing on 22nd February, 2003 in the Sultan Puri area of North West Delhi; and

(c) if so, names of the persons found responsible for the incident?

Shortage of wagons for wheat export

5221. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of wheat had been hampered during the last few months due to shortage of rail wagons;

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

(c) the number of wagons demanded by wheat exporting agencies during october-December 2002;

(d) the number of wagons supplied by railways, during the said period for export of wheat; and

(e) the measures taken by Railways to supply adequate number of wagons for wheat export?

Concession against vacant seat to senior citizens

†5222. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a senior citizens travelling on ordinary ticket in the train does not avail himself of the thirty per cent of concession in case of getting reservation against vacant seat;

(b) whether such a facility is available in the booking counter itself; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken to immediately do away with such a disparity and if not, the reasons therefor?

Benefits to senior citizens

5223. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the age limits prescribed for senior citizens (both male and female) and what are the benefits allowed to them for performing rail journey;

(b) whether Government are aware that wait listed tickets issued to senior citizens and other eligible for concessional tickets are rarely confirmed and preference to confirm the tickets is given to those who pay full amount for the tickets; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and whether the existing norms for confirmation of tickets are proposed to be modified to benefit the senior citizens and others?

New pension scheme in Railways

5224. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenses on pension and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

salaries of Railways employees during the last three years; category-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the Indian Railways proposes to join the new pension scheme;

(c) if so, what are the details of the new pension scheme and how this will benefit the Railways and its current and former employees; and

(d) what is the reaction of the employees to the scheme?

Infrastructure for enhancing the speed of trains

5225. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to break its current speed barrier and touch the 150 km per hour limit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether all infrastructure arrangements for ensuring smooth railway journeys at such speed have been adequately addressed and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the trains which have been selected to run initially on the revised speed?

Connecting of Barh to Barbigha

5226. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no means of transport including rails from Barh to Barbigha *via* Ajgara and Dehman;

(b) whether a large segment of people faces a lot of difficulties because of this;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to link Barh with Shekhpura *via* Ajgara and Dehman Barbigha by rail so that lakhs of people are benefited; and

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

Gauge conversion in UP

5227. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present status of gauge conversion works in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) how many kilometers have been converted so far into B.G. line during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether any additional funds are being allocated in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Transportation of Salt by rakes

5228. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received any proposal from the State Government during the last three months for transportation of salt from Santalpur, Adesar area to Palampur Junction by broadgauge rakes;

(b) how much demand during the last three months have been made for the broadgauge rakes transshipment;

(c) whether Government had given any assurance a month ago to the producer of salt that this problem would be solved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what is the reason and by what time this will be solved?

Dhar-Jhabua rail line

5229. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government announced construction of Dhar-Jhabua rail line in 1998 in a public meeting in Jhabua;

(b) if so, whether the survey of the proposed line has been completed, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the funds earmarked in the 2003-04 Rail budget for the purpose;

(d) the steps being taken to bring this line in National Rail Development Plan to bring this tribal belt on rail map; and

(e) by when, the line is likely to be completed and commissioned?

Staff and space for Hazipur zone

5230. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate office space and staff is available at ECR, zone Hajipur;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several offices of ECR are operating from Patna; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Reservation of lower berth for old people

5231. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to make available lower berths in all reserved compartments for the old and handicapped;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have made any such effort to help the elderly passengers;

(d) if so, the full details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to help the old and handicapped passengers?

Fastest train between Mumbai and Goa

5232. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to introduce the fastest train in the country between Mumbai and Goa, that would run at the maximum speed of 150 kmph;

(b) if so, whether fencing along the track on the route, wherever necessary would be erected before the train is actually started; and

(c) if so, the cost involved in the track fencing and by when the same is likely to be completed?

AC 3 tier coach in Madurai-Jammutawi Express

5233. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to introduce AC 3 tier coach in the Madurai-Jammutawi Express to cater the need of the travelling public; and

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

Linking of Jaisalmer and Barmer

5234. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress of work for construction of 170 km of railway line linking Jaisalmer and Barmer in Rajasthan;
- (b) financial allocation on this project;
- (c) whether the Railway Board has framed any time schedule for the completion of the work; and
- (d) if so, by when the entire project is likely to be completed?

New trains from Rajasthan

5235. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) details of new passenger trains contemplated to commence from Rajasthan to other places of the country;
- (b) whether there has been any shift from the original plan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, train-wise;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) by when these trains are likely to be operational?

Gauge conversion of Kanpur-Mathura rail line

†5236. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) by when meter gauge rail line from Kanpur to Mathura will be converted into broad gauge rail line;
- (b) the amount sanctioned for the said work in the current year's Budget; and

(c) the details of the amount allocated in the Budget and amount spent in the last three years?

Schemes to check crimes in trains

†5237. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any special scheme to check the crime taking place in trains; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Nomination in DRUCC

5238. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that one nominee each on the recommendation of Members of Parliament is taken in the Divisional Railways Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC);
- (b) if so, whether all the persons recommended by Members of Rajya Sabha from the State of Rajasthan as on date have since been nominated to DRUCC; if so, whether the concerned MPs have been informed accordingly; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Procedure for advertising agency in S.R.

5239. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Southern Railway follows proper procedure for empanelling advertising agencies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what is the criteria for fresh inclusion/disqualification of an advertising agency during the empanelled period;

(d) the number of cases of disqualified agencies during the last three years and till date; year-wise details; and

(e) whether the advertisements tariff for the publication are decided by the Southern Railway or by the advertising agency concerned?

Assistance to H.P. for improving S & T infrastructure

5240. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many academic institutions indicating their places of functioning in Himachal Pradesh have been supported through the programmes of Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology Infrastructure during 2001-02 and 2002-03, so far; and

(b) the amount released to these institutions during the above period, district-wise and institution-wise?

Bio-villages schemes

5241. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bio-villages schemes operating in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to extend the bio-village concept throughout the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Chart of progress of S&T

5242. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the chart of progress in Science and Technology since 1st April, 1999 till 20th February, 2003, State-wise;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with what has been achieved in the field in J&K, particularly in Kashmir valley for the said period; and

(c) whether there is a plan to rectify the imbalance in this regard, in case the proposed chart suggests that?

Development of fuel cell energy sources

5243. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the research into development of fuel cell energy sources is being conducted in any of the National Laboratories of the CSIR to develop alternatives for hydrocarbon fuels for motor transport;

(b) if so, the institutions where such research is being conducted, and funds allotted for this purpose;

(c) the progress achieved and present position of such researches; and

(d) if not, the reasons why such research is not being conducted?

Mineral exploration by NMDC and RE Ltd.

5244. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) when will the joint mineral exploration by the National Mineral

Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) and Indian Rare Earths Ltd. will start and what will be the investment;

(b) what are the minerals which will be explored and the area from which exploration will be made; and

(c) whether there is any scheme to produce value added products and if so, what are they?

Production of saleable steel

5245. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what was the saleable steel production of plants under the Steel Authority of India Ltd. during the year 2001-02 and production of the same expected in the year 2002-03;

(b) when SAIL is expected to achieve break even stage; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost the production by SAIL?

Raw Material Division of SAIL

5246. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL has decided to wind up its Raw Material Division from Kolkata;

(b) what was the performance of RMD so far; and

(c) whether SAIL is shifting its RMD to Rourkela?

Dumping of steel products

5247. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the designated authority has

investigated the dumping of steel products in the country;

(b) if so, the countries which are indulging in dumping of steel products; and

(c) the action initiated in the matter?

Losses of SAIL

†5248. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the loss suffered by the Steel Authority of India Limited as on 31st March, 2003 alongwith names of those steel plants which are running in profit and incurring losses, respectively;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that all the steel plants run in profit; and

(c) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited is likely to earn profits this year?

Expansion plan of VSP

5249. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the Vizag Steel Plant proposal of Rs. 2,500 crore expansion plan;

(b) if so, what is the total capacity that would be improved after the expansion;

(c) whether the outstanding loan of the company has come down reasonably;

(d) if so, what was the total burden of loan reduced by the company during 2002-03; and

(e) to what extent this project would enhance the capacity of finished steel production?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Suggestions on draft note on Buy Indian Steel

5250. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have circulated a draft note on "Buy Indian Steel" to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Finance etc. for their comments;

(b) if so, whether any comments have been received from them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government on such comments?

Fall in steel prices

5251. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the steep fall in prices of steel in domestic and International markets, a number of steel companies are facing crisis with huge inventory; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the measures initiated by Government to revive the sinking steel companies?

Identification of talented sports persons

†5252. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to identify the talented sports persons at lower level and introduce new revolutionary schemes for development of their skill;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the said schemes are likely to be launched?

Statutory Youth Commission

5253. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up the Statutory Youth Commission at the Central level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Measures for Asian Games 2006

†5254. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India failed to get its expected position in Asian Games concluded recently in Busan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures for better performance of India in Asian Games to be held in the year 2006; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Humiliation of Sunita Rani

5255. SHRI B.J. PANDA: SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to Sunita Rani's tale of woe "who will make up for all the humiliation" appeared in the media, recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that all Government agencies had deserted her in the need of the hour and treated her as an outcast at every place in our country, as claimed by her;

(c) whether this does not cast a devastating demoralization effect on our

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

budding sports persons, as our officials leave the needy in lurch to face all kinds of humiliation and abuses from all corners; and

(d) how Government propose to tackle such a situation to avoid demoralization of sports persons?

Promotion of sports

5256. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state the details of modes of assistance to States and UTs for the promotion of different sports?

Assistance to schools for sports equipments and playground

5257. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools which have been assisted under the scheme of Grants to Rural Schools, for Sports Equipments and Playground State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the funds allocated and the actual expenditure incurred under the scheme, during the year 2002-2003?

National Commission for youth

5258. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for youth was initially set up for six months;

(b) if so, the reasons which prompted Government to grant extension;

(c) the composition of the Commission and its functions;

(d) whether the Commission has submitted any interim report; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocations for promotion of youth affairs and sports

5259. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation for promotion of youth affairs and sports, year-wise and State-wise, since 1st April, 1999 to 20th February, 2003; and

(b) the allocation for promotion of such activities in Jammu & Kashmir for the same period, scheme-wise?

Remuneration to the members of Indian Cricket Team

5260. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state the details of the remuneration/fee paid to each member of the Indian Cricket Team who played in the recently concluded World Cup?

Performance of hockey and football players

5261. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any formalised structure exists to assess the performance of young football and hockey players during the National trophy events like the Subroto Cup and Junior Nehru Cup;

- (b) the arrangements for proper follow up and training programmes thereafter for the players; and
- (c) whether there are plans to extend astro-turf facilities for coaching and training of junior hockey players at Kolkata, other than the existing one at Salt Lake Stadium?

NEW DELHI;
The 3rd May, 2003
Vaisakha 13, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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