

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, the July 9, 2004/Asadha 18, 1926 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Consumer Affairs,  
Food and Public Distribution; Environment and Forests; Food Processing  
Industries; Health and Family Welfare; Railways; Steel)**

**Total number of questions—81**

#### **Task Force on Bio-technological applications in agriculture**

80. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO: Will the Minister of  
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force on  
application of Bio-technology in agri-  
culture recommended for Constitution of  
an autonomous National Bio-technology  
Regulatory Authority for promoting and  
monitoring the use of Bio-technology in  
agriculture;

(b) if so, the major recommendations  
made by the Task Force;

(c) whether the Task Force also  
suggested for a single-window clearance for  
new genetically-modified varieties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Investment in agriculture**

81. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will  
the Minister of AGRICULTURE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether there is decline in public  
investment in agriculture; and

(b) if so, the action taken for more  
investment to revive growth in agriculture?

#### **Availability of seeds**

82. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA :  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be  
pleased to state the action taken to provide  
reliable and quality seeds to farmers to  
ensure that their production do not fall?

#### **Special steps for increasing paddy production**

†83. SHRIMOTILAL VORA: Will the  
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether Government propose to  
take any special steps to increase paddy  
production in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when  
such steps would be taken?

#### **KVKs in Uttaranchal**

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

(a) the names of the districts in

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Uttaranchal where Krishi Vigyan Kendras are proposed to be set up in the year 2004-2005;

(b) whether the places for setting up of these Kendras have been identified; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Food grain out put**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the food-grain output during 2003-2004 is expected to be around 211 million tonnes, falling far short of the estimated target of 220 million tonnes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to achieve higher targets and/or check any decline in food output?

#### **Making agriculture remunerative**

†86. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculture has turned into a non-profitable industry and agriculturists are committing suicides as they are not able to repay the loans;

(b) if not, the assessment of Government in this regard; and

(c) the rapid and long term measures decided by Government for making agriculture a profitable industry?

#### **Emphasis on cash crops**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers have given emphasis on cash crops instead of conventional grains on a large scale in several areas of the country in the last few years;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the area of land brought under cash crops during the last ten years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

#### **Dependency on rain water for irrigation**

†88. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 70 per cent of agriculture in the country is dependent on monsoon and non-monsoon rains for irrigation;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that agro-industry has also become uncertain and non-profitable as a result of uncertain availability of rain-water;

(c) if not, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the time bound plan of Government to get rid of this uncertainty?

#### **Scheme for increasing oil seed production in Chhattisgarh**

†89. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to increase the oil seed production has been formulated by Government; and

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken by Government for increasing the oil seed production in Chhattisgarh?

#### **Distress of farmers in Andhra Pradesh**

90. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has apprised the Union Government about the distress of farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of assurances given for assistance in this regard; and

(c) the action taken to clear the pending drought relief assistance early?

#### **Coconut Research Institute**

91. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Kerala Government for establishing a Coconut Research Institute in Kerala by ICAR;

(b) if so, the details thereof and also the objectives of the Institute;

(c) whether the necessary clearance has been accorded for the project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Sick Units of FCI**

†92. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units functioning under Fertilizer Corporation of India in the

country which are sick or closed or proposed to be closed down;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the causes of their sickness or closure; if so, whether there is any proposal of handing over these closed units to private sector to make them functional; if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantum of fertilizers produced in all the public sector units this year and whether it can meet the requirement in our country; and

(d) if not, the initiatives Government are taking to meet the requirement?

#### **Subsidy on fertilizers**

93. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering decrease in the amount of subsidies on fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount of fertilizer subsidy paid during the last five years and proposed to be paid during 2004-05?

#### **Demand and supply position of fertilizers**

94. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demand and supply of fertilizers during the last five years; year-wise and item-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a huge gap between demand and supply and

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

thereby affecting the productivity of agriculture;

(c) the measures Government have taken or propose to take to cut down demand and supply gap; and

(d) to what extent Indo-Oman Fertilizer Project helps in reducing demand position in India?

#### **Prices of chemical fertilizers**

†95. SHRIRAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of chemical fertilizers have increased in the country during the last four years;

(b) if so, the prices of various types of fertilizers as on 2nd May, 2004;

(c) to what extent these prices were higher, in terms of percentage, than the prices of fertilizers in May, 2000; and

(d) the amount of subsidy given by Government in fertilizer sector in the year ending March, 2000 and the year ending March, 2004?

#### **Printing the prices of life saving drugs**

†96. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for printing the price of life saving drugs along with the sales tax on their packing is under consideration of Government so as to avoid inconvenience to the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

#### **Scope of Indian Pharma Industry in U.S.**

97. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether \$7 billion market has opened up for Indian Pharma Industry in the U.S. generic segment during current year;

(b) whether pharma companies will also have a feasibility of making their way into the \$33 billion patent challenge-led opportunity;

(c) whether these Indian pharma companies have any future in U.S.;

(d) if so, whether for last three years in Indian companies have built credibility with U.S. trade channels for product quality service, competition pricing and smooth supply chain resulting in market share gains; and

(e) if so, to what extent India has been able to monitor U.S. market?

#### **Working of Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited**

98. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL) has been referred to BIFR;

(b) if so, the details of the profit/loss made by HOCL and the parent unit at Rasayani in Maharashtra during the last three years, company-wise;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal regarding the revival of the Rasayani Unit;

(d) whether Government have received any proposal for the merger of HOCL Cochin Unit with Kochi refinery s;

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (f) the details decision taken by Government on this proposal?

**Consumption, Production and Supply of Fertilizers**

†99. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the per year average consumption of fertilizers in the country;

(b) whether Urea, Diphosphatic fertilizers are being produced in the country upto consumption level; if not, the manner in which Government are meeting the demand;

(c) the quantity of fertilizer imported to fulfill the requirement; and the amount of foreign exchange spent on the import of fertilizers during the last two years;

(d) the steps being taken by Government to strike a balance in the consumption, production and supply of fertilizers; and

(e) whether the subsidy on fertilizers is likely to be increased?

**Revitalisation of Sugar Industry**

100. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of the sugar industry met him and demanded a package for the revitalisation of the sector;

(b) if so, the main points suggested by them;

(c) whether Government have considered their suggestions and if so, how many of their proposals have been considered; and

(d) by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

**Ration card for farmers and agriculture workers**

101. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of alarming number of suicides by farmers in Andhra Pradesh and various parts of country due to poverty after the year 2002;

(b) whether many farmers and agriculture workers are excluded from Public Distribution System (PDS) and denied ration cards with introduction of targeted PDS;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the number of ration card holders for the last three years, State-wise, year-wise and category-wise;

(d) the measures taken if any, for long term food security of the farmers; and

(e) whether Universal Public Distribution System will be introduced for enabling the deprived to access food?

**Distribution of quality foodgrains**

102. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India is all set to adopt a slew of new

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

practices and procedures to distribute quality foodgrains in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the procedures to be followed by FCI to effectively supply foodgrains in the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that FCI is also thinking of borrowing resources from the market with a guarantee from Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Fall in rice stocks**

103. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rice stocks are expected to fall to their lowest level in 12 years during the next six months in the country;

(b) if so, whether this is critically below the minimum norm necessary for the country's food security; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that FCI godowns have enough grain to meet buffer stock norms?

#### **Decline in calorie consumption**

104. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of per-capita calorie consumption in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the per-capita calorie consumption has been on the decline;

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of measures Government have taken to improve the situation?

#### **Subsidy for export of wheat and rice**

†105. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to provide subsidy for the export of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the rates fixed for providing subsidy;

(c) the price including subsidy at which rice and wheat are proposed to be sold to exporters for export; and

(d) the total quantum of wheat and rice fixed for export by Government?

#### **Strengthening PDS**

106. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Common Minimum Programme of Government proposes to strengthen the Public Distribution System and extend it to the poorest blocks in the country;

(b) if so, the main proposals that have been worked out; and

(c) by what time these are likely to be implemented?

#### **Payments for sugarcane**

†107. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugarcane crushed in sugar mills in various States of the country

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

during 2003-04 together with the total price thereof;

(b) whether all payments have been made for sugarcane in various States; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the States in which maximum payments are due to the sugarcane growers during the said period together with the reasons therefor and the initiatives being taken by Government with regard to its payments?

#### **Promoting sugar industries**

†108. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to promote sugar industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Buffer stock of sugar**

†109. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided on the 18th May, 2004 not to keep the buffer stock of sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the middle of June, 2004, Government have taken another decision to keep two million tonnes of buffer stock of sugar;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard; and the reasons for a sudden change in the need for keeping the buffers stock of sugar now; and

(e) the amount to be paid by Government to sugar mills for this purpose?

#### **Starvation deaths**

110. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were a number of starvation deaths reported from various parts of the country during the last three years;

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

(c) whether Government propose to provide foodgrains free of cost to vulnerable sections dying due to starvation; and

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

#### **Training centres for Medara community**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medara community had represented for the provision of some training centres in some areas in the South under forest protection policy;

(b) if so, the details of this demand;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to involve this community in forest protection through establishment of training centres for their livelihood; and

(d) if so, the details of such training centres set up by Government?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Promotion of carbon sink and carbon sequestration projects**

112. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in collaboration with Community Forestry International, U.S.A. is promoting carbon sink projects and carbon sequestration projects in Harda Forest Division of Madhya Pradesh and Adilabad Forest Division of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funding agency;

(c) whether Government plan to promote similar carbon sink and carbon sequestration projects elsewhere in the country; and

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

**Misuse of funds for cleaning up of Yamuna river**

113. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry has been instituted to investigate into the alleged misuse of funds for cleaning up of Yamuna river;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective measures being taken/proposed by Government to ensure proper utilization of funds provided for the cleaning up of Yamuna river?

**Forestry projects of World Bank**

114. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has indicated its preference to take up forestry projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including names of the States, cost of the projects and project objectives; and

(c) the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

**Forest cover**

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

(a) the details of density of the forest cover across the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal of giving Oxygen royalty as a special incentive to those States having more than fifty per cent of the forest cover of their total area; and

(c) if not, the way in which Government propose to give incentive to the above category of States for conserving forests?

**Import of toxic wastes**

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

(a) whether Government are aware that India is becoming the world's favourite dumping ground of hazardous substances and waste;

(b) whether it is a fact that India continues to allow illegal import of nearly

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi



1,00,000 metric tonnes of toxic wastes annually, mostly from so called developed countries;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to prevent environmental pollution from toxic waste; and

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take to prevent import of toxic waste?

#### **Revamping of Yamuna and Rivalsar lake**

†117. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 380 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd November, 2002 and state:

(a) whether any proposal for revamping of river Yamuna as well as the Rivalsar lake has been received from Himachal Pradesh Government under National River Conservation Scheme; and

(b) if so, when and the action taken thereon?

#### **Safety of wild life sanctuaries**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the wild life sanctuaries through out the country have turned out to be unsafe for human beings and animals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these sanctuaries have been encroached a lot due to which animals come out of it and harm the life and properties of the people living in the nearby areas and sometimes they themselves meet with accidents by trucks and trains; and

(c) if so, the details of such accidents, sanctuary-wise?

#### **Expansion and growth of FPIs**

†119. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sufficient potential exist in the country for the growth and expansion of Food Processing Industry; and

(b) the target fixed with regard to the value of production in this industry till the end of March 2009 and the plans proposed by Government for expansion and growth of the industry?

#### **Autonomy to AIIMS**

\*120. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted total autonomy to AIIMS in all matters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to declare AIIMS as a referral hospital;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether AIIMS has been able to generate any funds from its research work; and

(f) if so, the details of such earnings by AIIMS in 2003-04?

#### **Illegal and unethical drug trials**

121. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that global pharma companies are treating India

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

as a convenient laboratory for testing their drugs and using Indians as unsuspecting guineapigs;

(b) whether Government are aware that illegal and unethical drug trials are carried out in the country inspite of the stringent laws governing clinical trials; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to monitor the implementation of laws governing clinical trials?

#### **UNICEF's World Children Report 2004**

122. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recently released World's Children Report, 2004 of the UNICEF reveals that under-developed countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka look after their children far better than India in terms of health care and education;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in terms of infant mortality, India is going only a little better than sub-Saharan African countries; and

(c) if so, the reasons behind this and action taken by Government on the contents of the Report?

#### **Deaths of children due to poor hygiene**

123. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has achieved the dubious distinction of having the highest estimated number of children *i.e.*, 5,19,500 dying from poor hygiene;

(b) whether it is a fact that seventy-two per cent people in India do not have access to improved sanitation; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose

to take to improve sanitation in the country?

#### **Shortage of essential medicines in CGHS dispensaries**

124. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that various CGHS dispensaries functioning at present in Delhi are facing severe shortage of essential medicines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to supply sufficient essential medicines to CGHS beneficiaries?

#### **Development of RML as health promoting hospital**

125. SHRI R. P. GOENKA:  
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, a Central Government Hospital in New Delhi, has been selected to be developed into a "health promoting hospital", as part of a W.H.O. project;

(b) if so, the details of the project and present status of its implementation; and

(c) the details of any similar scheme drawn up to upgrade other leading hospitals in the country?

#### **International Exchange Programme for promoting ISM&H**

126. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a scheme called the International Exchange

Programme with the objective of encouraging and promoting Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of scholars who have been sent abroad under this programme in 2003-2004; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to increase such exchanges in the current year?

#### **Monitoring of food safety levels**

127. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any comprehensive system to monitor the food safety levels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the ICMR report in 1993 exposed alarming level of contaminants in food;

(d) whether the report also included recommendations for drastic changes in Government policies;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the recommendations were considered for implementation;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **National Population Policy**

128. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any National Population Policy in place so as to control and curb the population explosion in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when the policy is operative;

(c) whether there is any monitoring agency in place to oversee the operation of the policy; and

(d) if so, the success achieved so far, in keeping burgeoning increase in population in check?

#### **US refusal for Indian AIDS drugs**

129. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Food and Drug Administration refused to give its approval for use of WHO-approved AIDS drug combinations manufactured by Indian drug manufacturers in US-funded programmes; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken through diplomatic and political channels, to convince USA to use these drugs in US sponsored or funded programmes?

#### **Council to regulate Physiotherapy**

†130. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 776 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Council to regulate physiotherapy;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that such

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

persons who have obtained bachelor's degree or master's degree after successfully completing four and a half-year course in physiotherapy have been allowed to prefix 'Doctor' to their name?

#### **Typhoid Kit**

131. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that DRDO has developed a kit for Typhoid;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether mass production of this kit has been started; and
- (d) if so, by when the kit is going to be distributed to various hospitals in the country?

#### **Centrally sponsored health schemes**

132. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Centrally sponsored health schemes formulated and being implemented in various States of the country during the last three years;
- (b) the details of the funds allocated, released and actually utilised under the scheme during this period State-wise and District-wise; and
- (c) the details of the achievements made in this regard?

#### **Unsafe injection**

133. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to the recent report of the NCLEN, an organisation sponsored by the World Bank, 2/3rd of injections used in India are not safe;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in February, 2004 clinical epidemiology unit of AIIMS presented a report to the Ministry about the unsafe injection practices in India;

- (d) if so, the important suggestions/recommendations of the report submitted by CEU of AIIMS; and

(e) the action Government have taken or propose to take to curb this menace?

#### **Female/male ratio**

†134. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the female/male ratio in the country has come down to a dangerous level;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that despite this female foeticide is going on uninterruptedly;
- (c) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of cases that have come to light so far, and the action taken thereon?

#### **Female foeticide**

135. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cases of sex selection and female foeticide registered during the last three years; year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the details of cases filed against the erring doctors during the last three years; year-wise and State-wise; and
- (c) the steps Government propose to take to maintain male-female ratio in the country?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Upgradation of Government hospitals**

136. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for upgradation of the existing Government hospitals functioning at present in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the hospital-wise details that are to be upgraded by Government during the current financial year; and

(c) the details of progress achieved so far, in this regard?

**Health Mela**

137. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to organise 'Health Melas' to create awareness and provide health services to the needy people of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the 'Health Melas' proposed to be organised during the current year; and

(c) the details of financial allocation made for the purpose?

**Pending bills of senior citizens**

138. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stopped direct purchase from local chemists; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to ensure that pending bills of senior citizens are settled at the earliest?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Free health insurance**

139. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to launch a free health insurance cover for those who undergo family planning;

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

(c) whether the proposed insurance cover is in place of the other incentives that are now being given?

**Safety measures by Konkan Railway Corporation**

140. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the safety measures taken by Konkan Railway Corporation to prevent accidents;

(b) if safety measures have been taken, the reasons for the recent railway accident that took place between Vir and Karanjadi Stations;

(c) whether the Railways have sanctioned additional funds for incinometers and safety meshes on cuttings above five metres; and

(d) will the Konkan Railway Corporation assure full safety to the passengers travelling by trains run by Konkan Railway Corporation?

**Late running of Kafiyat Express**

† 141. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the "Kafiyat

Express" running between Delhi and Azamgarh often reaches its destination late;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the passengers are facing a lot of inconvenience in getting eatables in the absence of a pantry car in this train; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps being taken to ensure timely running of this train as well as to attach a pantry car?

#### **Train accident at Latur, Maharashtra**

142. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five persons were killed in Latur district of Maharashtra due to a collision between a train and a vehicle at a manned railway crossing;

(b) if so, how did the accident happen at a manned railway crossing in Latur recently;

(c) whether it is a fact that the gates were open at the time of the accident; and

(d) if so, the details of the accident and the steps proposed to avert such accidents in future?

#### **Strengthening of Railway Protection Force**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to strengthen Railway Protection Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be incurred by Government to fulfil this objective?

#### **Recruitment policy of Railway Protection Force**

†144. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale changes are being brought in the recruitment policy of Railway Protection Force (RPF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that recruitment procedure is being handed over to some special officials instead of Railway Recruitment Board; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Construction of flag station at Tangra**

145. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken by him to construct a flag station at Tangra on Kankungathi Chord line, under Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard?

#### **New railway lines between Cuddapah and Bangalore**

146. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether request has been received for new Railway Lines from Cuddapah to Bangalore via Madanapalli, Bhadrachalam; and

(b) if so, the action taken there on?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Simplification of the claim process**

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

(a) whether any effective steps are being taken by Government to simplify the settlement process regarding the claims of the kith and kin of the people killed in Rail accidents and claims related to the return of rail tickets and thefts of the parcels/goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of applications for such claims received by the Railways in each Railway Zone during the last three years; and

(d) the number of claims settled/pending out of the said claims?

#### **Railway projects in Kerala**

148. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the newsitem "LDF to seek loan wavier, railway zone" as appeared in the media recently;

(b) whether necessary steps will be taken to create a separate railway zone for Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any delay in clearance of the Nilamber-Nanjecode railway line and other pending railway projects for Kerala; and

(f) if so, the details of various pending railway projects for Kerala, present status thereof and action taken, if any, to avoid the delay?

#### **Reservation of rail tickets through ATMs**

149. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways propose to extend the facility of reserving tickets through ATMs;

(b) if so, the details of banks with whom Government have entered into an agreement;

(c) whether Government are also entering into an agreement with institutionally promoted banks such as ICICI, HDFC, UTI, IDBI, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Frequent rail accidents**

150. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of some major railway accidents which took place in the country during the period 1.1.2004 till 30.6.2004 and the reason therefor;

(b) the steps taken to minimize such accidents in the near future;

(c) whether it is a fact that the continuous disregard of the reports of the Rakesh Mohan Committee and Justice Khanna Committee is the major reason for such frequent railway accidents; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to implement some of the major recommendations of these Committees?

#### **A/C coaches in Ranikhet Express**

†151. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

extend facility of A/C first class and A/C second class in the Ranikhet Express running between Delhi-Kathgodam in view of the growing demand of tourists;

(b) if so, by when the above facility would be extended; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Train derailment in Rayagada, Orissa**

152. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a train derailment in Rayagada district of Orissa on the 9th June, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the causes of this derailment;

(d) whether it is a fact that human error was the cause of this derailment; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed by the Railways to avert such accidents in future?

#### **Proposal to include Guntakal in South-Western Zone at Hubli**

153. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to include Guntakal in South-Western Zone at Hubli instead of South Central Zone at Secunderabad?

#### **Extending the Naihati-Budge Budge Railway line**

154. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with Government to extend the existing

Naihati-Budge Budge Railway line, Sealdah Division, up to Baudel under the Eastern Railway jurisdiction; and

(b) if so, the latest position of the proposal?

#### **Godhra Rail Fire Incident**

†155. PROF. RAMDEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed in Godhra Rail Fire accident together with the names and addresses of the passengers killed;

(b) whether according to forensic report, fire had taken place from inside the Rail coach;

(c) if so, whether Government would come out with truth of Godhra incident before the country by constituting an enquiry on the basis of this report; and

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

#### **Repair of Railway Bridges**

156. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a railway bridge, cracked in Bihar, was running on temporary support of wooden plates;

(b) if so, the reason for not repairing the bridge on a permanent basis;

(c) how many such bridges are catering the railway tracks in the country thus endangering the lives of passengers; and

(d) the steps taken to repair them and precautions taken for passengers' safety from bridges that have outlived their lives?

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi



**Setting up of a National Steel  
Regulatory Commission**

157. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA  
SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of  
STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government  
propose to set up a National Steel  
Regulatory Commission to protect the  
interest of consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives of setting up of said  
Commission;

(d) what would be the strength of the  
members in the said Commission; and

(e) what are the other steps proposed  
to regulate prices of iron and steel products?

**VSP plan to acquire stake in  
Australian coal mines**

158. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will  
the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vizag Steel  
Plant is negotiating with some coal  
companies of Australia to pick up 40 per  
cent stake in their mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expected cost of the initiative to  
the company;

(d) the total metallurgical coal required  
for Vizag Steel Plant during the last five  
years; year-wise; and

(e) the amount of metallurgical coal  
imported by Vizag Steel Plant during the  
last five years; year-wise?

**Hike in cost of steel production**

†159. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to  
state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been  
assessed that as a result of recent hike in  
the price of coal the cost of steel-  
production is likely to be increased;

(b) if so, the likely per tonne hike  
expected; and

(c) the percentage of steel producing  
units dependent on the supply of coal by  
Coal India Ltd.?

**Steel products for rural areas**

160. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:  
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to  
state the action taken to ensure that steel  
products reach consumers in adequate  
quantities in all remote rural areas at  
affordable prices?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 3rd July, 2004*  
*Asadha 12, 1926 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

## **I N D E X**

**(Ministry-wise)**

<b>Agriculture</b>	: 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91,
<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>	: 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99,
<b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>	: 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110,
<b>Environment and Forests</b>	: 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118,
<b>Food Processing Industries</b>	: 119,
<b>Health and Family Welfare</b>	: 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139,
<b>Railways</b>	: 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156,
<b>Steel</b>	: 157, 158, 159, 160.