

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the December 9, 2004/Agrahayana 18, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—147

Recommendations made by National Advisory Council

693. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the subject considered by the National Advisory Council headed by Smt. Sonia Gandhi so far;

(b) the recommendations made by the National Advisory Council; and

(c) the action taken by Government on these recommendations?

Dissolution of KVIC

694. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have dissolved the Khadi and Village Industries Commission on 14th October, 2004 and made some stopgap arrangements before its restructuring;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for acting in haste in this regard;

(c) whether it was not considered appropriate to work out to revamp the Commission to make it professionally competent rather than dissolving it; and

(d) if not, the benefit expected to be achieved for KVIC, promoted manufacturing units and for consumers by such a decision?

Allocation of funds for PMRY

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

(a) the criteria followed for allocation of funds under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana and the guidelines laid down for the use of these funds;

(b) the amount of financial assistance allocated and released under PMRY during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether some States have requested for allocation of more funds under PMRY; and

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

Schemes for ARIs

696. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started any schemes/projects for the development of agro-based rural industries in the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, U.T.-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the schemes/projects which are likely to be started in the financial years 2004-05 (second half), 2005-06, 2006-07 for agro-based rural industries?

Road projects from Maharashtra

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

(a) whether Government have received a number of road projects from the State of Maharashtra for the consideration of Central Road Fund during the last two years;

(b) the details of project finally sanctioned; and

(c) the reasons for the pending projects?

KVIC in Uttaranchal

698. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units proposed to be set-up and number of people likely to be provided employment during the current Plan period by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) whether any target has also been fixed to set-up units in the State of Uttaranchal to provide employment in this State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

ARI in Maharashtra

699. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to boost up the grass-root agro-based industries to generate additional income and employment in rural areas, particularly in Maharashtra; and

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

Approval to revival plan of ECL

700. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRIDIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival plan of Easter Coalfields Limited (ECL) has been approved by BIFR; and

(b) if so, the details of the same, including relief and concessions from the State Governments, Central Government, total fund and non-fund financial involvement etc.?

Initiatives taken to increase investment in coal-mines sector

701. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some fresh initiatives, like the single window project-clearance mechanism etc., have been taken

to increase investment in the coal-mines sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and their present status?

Private participation in coal sector

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared draft Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Bill to facilitate the private participation in the coal sector to enable the Government to give coal blocks to private companies for captive mining;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed amendment;

(c) whether any consultations have been made with the representatives in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the discussions?

Rehabilitation of excavated mines

703. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for backfilling and full rehabilitation of excavated mines; and

(b) the reasons for very slow and tardy progress in such rehabilitation and the remedial measures proposed to be taken thereon?

Coal production by SECL

†704. SHRIRAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal mined from each of the various collieries of SECL during the last three years and the grade of each coal respectively;

(b) the details of the collieries of SECL and the respective quantity of coal allotted to various companies during the last three years;

(c) whether any complaints regarding irregularity in the allotment have been received; and

(d) the details thereof?

Payment made to ex-servicemen by SECL

†705. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that total work of transportation and loading in phase-II surface in Ghewra/Dipika area of SECL has been given to the companies belonging to ex-servicemen;

(b) the names and addresses of the Directors of the said companies functioning in the said areas alongwith the addresses of their registered offices;

(c) the names of the auditor companies of the said companies;

(d) whether any of the said company is registered in Chhattisgarh and any ex-servicemen belongs to the State of Chhattisgarh; and

(e) the payment made to the said companies during last three years, separately?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Wireless service in Rajasthan and Punjab

706. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government have any plan to connect all villages in Rajasthan and Punjab with wireless service; and

(b) if so, the details of the villages that would be connected under the project, in case they don't have regular telecom network, and if not, the reasons therefor, district-wise?

Diploma Courses in Computer Education

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

(a) the present status of Electronic Trade and Technology alongwith names of diploma courses which are registered under Electronic Trade and Technology Computer Education;

(b) the number of candidates that got registered in these diploma courses alongwith the number of candidates who appeared in the examination and passed during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004;

(c) whether all successful candidates have been issued the certificates of Diploma Courses;

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

(e) by when the certificates would be issued?

Computerization of post offices

708. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to computerize the working of post-offices, particularly in metros and other big cities, so as to improve efficiency;

(b) if so, the names of cities where it is proposed to be done and by when;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to increase staff in branches where work of investment schemes has considerably increased and investors have to wait for long hours to receive their interest etc.; and

(d) if not, in what manner Government propose to tackle the problem of delays being faced by investors, particularly senior citizens?

Allocation of funds for rural telephones

709. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Department of Telecommunication plans to provide telephone services in rural India which has hit a bump due to delay in releasing money to universal services obligation fund;

(b) if so, whether Department of Telecommunication had decided to operate Rs. 1000 crore for putting up village phones;

(c) if so, whether delay of releasing funds has delayed the project; and

(d) if so, by when funds are likely to be released for starting rural telephone products in the country?

New activital for postal scheme

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts is looking for innovative solutions to the problems;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Department of Posts is going to serve as tourist guide to the tourists; and

(c) what steps are being taken or proposed to take to make the Indian Posts a global hub for mail sorting service?

Tampering of Caller Line Identification

711. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a private telecom operator was found to be tampering with code of incoming global calls to evade Access Deficit Charges;

(b) if so, whether the BSNL had disconnected the point of interconnect after issuing a notice to the private telecom company;

(c) whether the errant operator has since paid any penalty to BSNL and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether such alleged tampering of Caller Line Identification could impact the security of the nation as it would be difficult to trace these calls?

Censoring the websites

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have outlined a final procedure for blocking websites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rule under which Ministry have outlined the procedure; and

(d) this final procedure not mean censoring websites?

BSNL share in private mobile operators

713. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government to compete with the private mobile phone operators;

(b) what is the share of the BSNL and that of other private operators; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the income and to attract more customers?

Agency to monitor deficient phone service

714. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an independent agency to look into rising number of complaints of deficient phone service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Development of cyber forensic software

715. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government in technical co-operation with C.D.A.C. is developing cyber forensic software since June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of software tools that have been developed by C.D.A.C. for Government;

(c) whether these software tools also help in analyzing cyber crimes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Improvement of mobile services in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir

716. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cellular phone's tower functioning in Jammu and Kashmir at present;

(b) the number of cellular phone's tower to be activated in Jammu and Kashmir during 2004-05;

(c) the names of cities and border towns without the mobile service; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to improve the mobile service in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir?

Inquiry to fix accountability on errant operators

717. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gray market has emerged since the interconnect usage charge regime of Government has been established in May, 2003 to deny BSNL Rs. 4.25 per international call;

(b) whether Government have conducted any inquiry to fix accountability on errant operators who are fleeing the BSNL and thereby restricting expansion of the network in rural and backward areas; and

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

Telephone exchanges connected with Digital Microwave System in Jammu and Kashmir

718. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Jammu and Kashmir at present;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges connected with Digital Microwave System in the State; and

(c) the number of telephone exchanges likely to be opened in Jammu and Kashmir during 2004-05?

Retention of licensing power by DOT

719. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom policy of 1991 has been revamped and the Department of Telecom has decided to retain licensing powers;

(b) if so, to what extent this telecom policy of 1999 has been revamped and what are the changes likely to be made; and

(c) to what extent it would be more beneficial than 1991 policy?

Upgradation of PCO centres

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

(a) the number of PCO centres in the country that have been upgraded as multiple internet service centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any such proposal is under consideration?

Conversion of manual telephone exchange into electronic

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

(a) the number of manual telephone exchanges in the country;

(b) whether there is any scheme to convert all the exchanges into electronic exchanges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount likely to be incurred in this scheme?

Merging of MTNL and BSNL

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

(a) whether Government have appointed any Advisor for synergising the operations of BSNL and MTNL;

(b) if so, what advice was given by the Advisor to Government; and

(c) by when the Ministry propose to merge MTNL and BSNL?

Refund of security to the subscribers

723. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money collected by the Department of Telecommunication through security deposits during three years ending on 30th September, 2004; and

(b) the amount of money paid back to the subscribers during the same period after closing the telephone connections?

Performance of private sector in courier, speed post and parcel services

†724. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are concerned over the entry of private sector in courier, speed post, parcel etc. services;

(b) if not, the extent of increase registered in the aforesaid services by the Postal Department during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons being taken by Government in order to have lead from the private sector in such a competitive environment;

(d) whether Government are aware of the quantum of business being done by the private sector; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) whether the performance of private sector is better than Government in the field of courier, speed post, parcel etc. services?

Telephone exchanges in M.P.

725. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Telephone exchanges set up in Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh by the year, 2003;

(b) whether telephone exchanges situated at Barkheda, Baramad, Dillaur, Kerala (Gunga), Polash Ganj, Lalaria and Sohaya villages were working by the year 2003, if so, the number of employees working in these exchanges till the said period;

(c) whether there is any plan for setting up of telephone exchanges at Durgaria, Gadhakalan, Mazeedgarh Aravati and Mingaraklam in Bhopal district; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any written complaint has been received by Government about closure of telephone exchange?

Telephone facilities in the villages of U.P.

†726. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of villages in the State of Uttar Pradesh provided with telephone facilities as on date;

(b) the number of villages in the State where such facility could not be made available, so far; and

(c) the details of necessary steps to be taken by Government in this regard?

Cellular phones purchased by foreign nationals

727. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreign nationals have reportedly bought cellular connections in Kolkata from the service provider without furnishing their local contact addresses or foreign identity proof to Government;

(b) whether this constitutes a National Security breach;

(c) whether Government have impressed upon the cellular service provider the serious security implications arising from this breach; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Funds allocated for electronic telephone exchanges in U.P.

728. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allotted for installation of electronic telephone exchanges in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the year 2003-04;

(b) the new electronic telephone exchanges set up, so far, during this period; and

(c) the details of such telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in the different parts of the country during the year 2004-05?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Growth of software industries

729. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of companies registered with the Software Technology Parks of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that STPI has cancelled the registration of nearly 3000 technology units;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether such decisions would not affect the growth of software industries?

Collection of USO levy fund from operators

730. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a USO levy is being collected from various operators;

(b) if so, the amount of money collected so far, year-wise and the other details arising thereof;

(c) whether the entire amount has been transferred to the USO Levy Fund administrator and if not, the balance accrued year-wise and the cumulative balance status; and

(d) the steps initiated to ensure the full transfer to these resources?

Outcome of the meeting of Tata and VSNL

731. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a certain amount has been set off from the reserves

of the VSNL by the Tata VSNL in a special board meeting as carrying cost of the asset;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government nominees had agreed to this proposal and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the decision is in keeping with the shareholders agreement?

New scheme of BSNL in Rajasthan

732. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL had announced a scheme in Rajasthan in October, 2004, under which applicants were offered to pay Rs. 1/- towards booking of new telephone connections;

(b) if so, the date from which scheme became effective and how many connections were booked in the last week of October, 2004; and

(c) whether the BSNL staff was fully prepared to meet this huge public demand?

Proposals from International Telecom Companies

733. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from major international telecom companies for setting up of manufacturing facilities in India;

(b) if so, the details of Government's decision in this regard; and

(c) the details of any incentives proposed by Government to promote such investments in manufacturing?

Sale of sophisticated weapons to Pakistan by U.S.A.

734. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has taken a decision to sell sophisticated weapons to Pakistan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this sale of sophisticated weapons by U.S. to Pakistan will 'inevitably impact' the positive sentiments that characterize Indo-U.S. ties;

(d) whether India's concern in this regard has been conveyed to the U.S. Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the response of the U.S. Government thereto?

Co-operation between India, Japan, Brazil and Germany for seat in Security Council

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

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what kind of co-operation between India, Japan, Brazil and Germany has to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council;

(b) whether it is a fact that the foreign Ministers of Japan, Brazil, Germany and India met recently;

(c) if so, the outcome of the meeting;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan

is opposing India's claim for getting Security Council seat; and

(e) if so, what impact does this opposition have on India's chances of becoming a permanent member of the Security Council?

Waiving of police verification for renewal of passports

†736. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to discontinue the necessity of police verification for the renewal of passport if there is no change in residential address;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said decision would come into effect?

India's stand on Iraq

737. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UN Secretary General has declared American attack on Iraq as illegal;

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

(c) how Government propose now to specify its stand on Iraq?

Infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir

738. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been increase in number of infiltration in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.