

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, the December 9, 2005/Agrahayana 18, 1927 (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 —155**

#### **Central Tobacco Research Institute**

1802. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA  
RAO: Will the Minister of  
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Central Tobacco  
Research Institute;

(b) whether it is a fact that very little  
positive, constructive and useful research  
has come out of the CTRI in the last three  
years;

(c) the steps proposed to energise this  
body in the interest of the farmers; and

(d) the details of measures proposed in  
this regard?

(b) if so, whether this venture capital is  
accepted to provide much needed relief to  
farmers for whom one of the biggest hurdles  
has been lack of access to easy credit;

(c) whether, in a recent National Sample  
Survey Organisation only 15 per cent  
farmers said that they had availed of any  
loan;

(d) whether, with this venture capital,  
they would be able to obtain bigger loans  
from banks and its processing will be easier;  
and

(e) if so, to what extent this has helped  
the farmers and the total funds, so far,  
provided to the farmers from this fund?

#### **Venture capital fund**

1803. SHRI MOOLCHAND  
MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have  
approved Rs. 48 crores venture capital fund  
or agri-sector business;

#### **Loan availability to agriculture sector**

†1804. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR

PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a loan worth  
Rs. 7,36,570 crores would be required to

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

be made available by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan in the agriculture sector of the country;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that by the end of 19th August, 2005, the loan worth Rs. 1,27,621 crores was required to be made available in this sector; and

(d) if not, the facts thereof and the loan availability required to be increased annually during the remaining years of the Plan in order to achieve the loan target by the end of the Plan?

#### **Income of farmers**

1805. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:  
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian farmers are getting today the same price for their produce which they had been getting 20 years ago as per reports of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

(b) whether it is also a fact that income of farmers in various parts of the country has drastically fallen and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

#### **Cows and stray cattle**

1806. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to mechanized farming in Punjab, male calves in large number have become useless and are roaming stray in Punjab;

(b) whether the Government of Punjab has sought permission from Government to export these stray cattle to the neighbouring States where bullocks are used for farming;

(c) whether the permission has been granted and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government of Punjab have also sought permission from Government to export cows of cross breed to the neighbouring States and if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

#### **Weather Insurance Scheme**

†1807. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that insurance scheme is applicable in the country to compensate the farmers when their crop is damaged due to bad weather;

(b) if so, the names of the States in the country wherein insurance scheme is applicable at present;

(c) the names of the crops for which this insurance scheme is applicable; and

(d) the number of farmers in the country benefited by this insurance scheme during 2003-04, 2004-05 and first six months of 2005-06?

#### **Expansion of weather insurance**

1808. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimated agriculture

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

losses of nearly Rs. 2000 crores in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and a complete eradication of farm income in the flood affected areas, have brought to light the need for an expansion of weather insurance in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether at present the insurance firms do not cover excess rainfall but cover only the deficient rainfall;

(d) if so, the measures taken by Government to extend the weather insurance to cover excess rainfall to benefit farmers; and

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

#### **World Bank assistance to Himachal Pradesh for apple plantation**

†1809. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance through World Bank provided by the Central Government to the Government of Himachal Pradesh during the last three years to help economically backward people and SCs to grow apple plantation;

(b) whether it is a fact that weaker sections of Rohadu and Chhatgaon Tehsil of Shimla district have not benefited from it; and

(c) if so, whether the Central Government will ask the State Government to look into the matter?

#### **Approving price support scheme of Kerala**

1810. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal seeking price support scheme for cash crops from Kerala Government is pending for sanction;

(b) if so, the decision, if any, arrived at on the same and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government of Kerala has sought the intervention of Government to include the perennial crops under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme and if so, whether Government have taken any decision in the matter?

#### **Awareness about MSP**

1811. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 81 per cent farmers do not know about the minimum support price;

(b) whether it is a fact that a good percentage of farmers are not aware of how to sell their produce under MSP; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to create awareness among farmers in this respect?

#### **Legislation for holding of agricultural land**

1812. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the size of holding of agricultural land is decreasing day by day and is becoming unviable to earn livelihood;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring any legislation to fix a minimum quantum of holding of agriculture so as to make farming a viable earning; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

#### **Reforms in KVK system**

1813. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called for the reforms of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra System;

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

(c) whether Government propose to extend the services needed to evolve and make the system contemporary in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the KVKs are providing support to farmers to build their skills and confidence;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of action plans of KVKs like strategic crop planning, demonstrations, exposure visits, training, gender concerns, mass media schemes, kisan call centers and agri-clinics?

#### **Aid to drought-hit Chhattisgarh**

1814. SHRI B.J. PANDA:  
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drought-hit Chhattisgarh has asked for the Central aid to help drought-hit districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that Orissa is also similarly placed and whether

the Central Government also propose to help the State in the matter; and

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

#### **Expanding training facilities**

1815. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would expand the training facilities for crew to meet the demand of the tuna fishing industry;

(b) whether Government propose to set up training institutes like CIFNET in Visakhapatnam, Paradeep and other places;

(c) to what extent Government have developed a system of certification to allow non-Indians to work in the country in the fishery sector;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government are unable to meet the demand for trained crew in India; and

(e) the steps proposed to assist the Indian fishery sector?

#### **Decrease in area under cultivation**

1816. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area under cultivation has decreased over the years in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, stating the major crops the cultivation areas of which have decreased; and

(c) the reasons for this decrease and the steps taken to bring more areas under cultivation?

### **New variety of wheat by ICAR**

†1817. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the scientists of Indian Institute of Agricultural Research have developed a new variety (Pusa Gold) of wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the seeds of new variety of wheat are ready to be sowed by farmers, if so, the rate per kilogram of this variety alongwith places where it will be available to farmers with full details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the percentage of protein and nutrition present in this variety of wheat and the duration of harvesting of the crop alongwith the quantum of profit that would accrue to the farmers?

### **Conference on KVKs**

†1818. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken with regard to new objectives and new activities set in the conference of KVKs last month;

(b) whether discussions regarding the difficulties faced by KVKs have been held in this regard; and

(c) if so, the measures suggested to remove these difficulties?

### **National Conference of KVKs**

1819. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first

National Conference of Krishi Vigyan Kendras was held in New Delhi;

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

(c) the steps Government propose to take for Second Green Revolution in the country?

### **US private companies in agricultural research sector**

1820. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had opened its public sector agriculture research to U.S. private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a joint declaration had been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Development of pest-resistant rice**

1821. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Rice Research and Hyderabad based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology have jointly developed a new variety of pest-resistant rice called Sambha Masuri;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would take steps for taking the results of this research to the door-steps of rice producing farmers in our country to curb the menace of destruction of rice production, through widely prevalent bacterial leaf blight;

(d) if so, the details thereof, with regard to the measures to be taken; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Harnessing rain water for cultivation**

1822. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the farmers to harness rain water for cultivation;

(b) whether Government have identified the areas where rain water can be conveniently harnessed and gainfully utilized;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government will provide some financial help or incentives to farmers for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Vegetable prices**

1823. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of high prices of vegetables in the market; and

(b) the action being taken to bring down the prices?

#### **Commission for agrarian crisis**

1824. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Commission has been appointed by Government to look into the agrarian crisis in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has submitted its report; and

(c) the major recommendations of the Commission?

#### **Fisheries and aquaculture losses due to Tsunami**

1825. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FAO has assessed the Tsunami losses to fisheries and aquaculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the FAO had suggested any long-term strategy to deal with the crises in future; and

(d) if so, the details of budget to be allocated for this purpose?

#### **Assistance to Punjab for boosting agriculture**

1826. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of agricultural land in hectares under cultivation in Punjab at present; and

(b) the steps taken and incentives being given by the Centre to boost the agriculture in Punjab?

#### **Investment in agriculture sector**

1827. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investment in agriculture has gone down and is highly inadequate, and land resources for agriculture have come under strain over the years;

(b) how far investment in agriculture and credit facilities for the farmers, have fallen short of requirement during the past five years, and how far land for agriculture has squeezed in these years in the country, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken during 2004-05 and this year to make good these resources; and

(d) the further steps being taken to improve investment and credit facilities for agriculture?

#### **Genetic qualities of golden rice**

1828. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has signed a work plan with International Rice Research Institute, Phillipines to enhance genetic qualities of 'golden rice';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the genetically modified golden rice would curb blindness among children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Compensation to farmers under NAIS**

†1829. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme for the year 2004-05 and the current year to compensate losses of farmers due to natural calamity, drought or heavy rainfall;

(b) the names of the States in which the farmers have been benefited by this plan; and

(c) the yard-sticks fixed for the farmers who have been brought under this plan?

#### **MSP for barley**

†1830. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to revive the support price of barley;

(b) whether Government propose to make a fool-proof system through Food Corporation of India for the purchase of barley at the support price; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Reviewing the utility of National Commission on Farmers**

1831. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the National Commission on Farmers;

(b) the structure of the Commission;

(c) whether any original ideas have been offered by the Commission since its inception;

(d) whether Government have assessed the utility of this body; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the need of this body?

#### **Life saving support insurance scheme for small and medium farmers**

1832. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any recommendation by any Commission to initiate a Life Saving Support Insurance Scheme to save the small and medium farmers from the pitfalls of the market;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to implement these recommendations?

**Assistance to Andhra Pradesh under new Agriculture Policy**

1833. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present trend of agricultural production in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the extent to which assistance can be given to the farmers of the State under the new Agriculture Policy; and
- (c) the details of assistance provided under the new Agricultural Policy to the farmers of the State in the last one year?

**Research regarding viability of Jatropha plant**

1834. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has done any research on the Jatropha plant and its viability for agricultural promotion;
- (b) if so, the details of its possible utilities; and
- (c) the action taken by Government to promote Jatropha cultivation?

**Subsidy to micro irrigation**

†1835. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government

have formulated a proposal to provide subsidy upto 50 per cent to micro irrigation project;

(b) if so, the outline of the proposal and whether it is a fact that the agricultural land under micro irrigation so far is only 20 lakh hectares;

- (c) if not, the facts thereof; and
- (d) the potential of expansion of micro irrigation as a result of the above proposal?

**Subsidy for micro irrigation**

1836. SHRI C. PERUMAL:  
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to provide 50 per cent subsidy for micro irrigation projects such as sprinkler and drip irrigation systems;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government will bear the total expenditure; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Crop harvesting losses**

1837. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that crop harvesting losses in India are as huge as Rs. 65,000 crores per year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of steps being contemplated by Government to control and minimize harvesting losses of such a magnitude?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Declining average agricultural growth rate**

1838. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual average agriculture growth rate has dipped from 4.9 per cent in the Eighth Five Year Plan to 1.3 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for the poor performance of the agriculture sector; and

(c) whether the agriculture sector is in a position to face competition from the developed countries' agro-products, if not, the manner in which Government propose to strengthen it in the light of WTO agreement?

**Scientists-farm club**

1839. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to set up a scientists-farm club; and

(b) if so, the details of main activities of the club?

**Valuation of sale of township of HFCL**

1840. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was held on 29th June, 2004 in Delhi under the Chairmanship of the then Minister of State (Chemicals & Fertilizers) with the officials of Government of West Bengal, Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA), Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) and others regarding finalisation of the valuation for outright sale of the

township and water treatment plant of the closed Durgapur unit of M/s HFCL to ADDA; and

(b) if so, the details of the same, decisions taken in the meeting and status of implementation of the decisions?

**National Pharmaceutical Authority**

1841. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Pharmaceutical Authority and merge the existing NPPA with this proposed Authority as has been recommended by a high powered committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this Authority would be set up?

**Profit margin on generic medicines to retailers**

1842. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that pharma companies are giving huge margins to the extent of 2000 per cent to retailers on their generic medicines; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to stop this practice and save the poor patients?

**FCI depots**

†1843. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the number of base depots of FCI for the distribution of foodgrains under the PDS, State-wise;

(b) whether these depots are sufficient for fulfilling the requirements of the States, particularly of Bihar;

(c) whether Government propose to open more depots in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Nutritious flour and foodgrains under PDS**

†1844. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to distribute nutritious flour and nutritious foodgrains under Public Distribution System in order to overcome the problem of malnutrition prevalent in pregnant ladies and children;

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

(c) if not, whether Government would formulate any comprehensive scheme in this regard?

#### **Norms for non-carbonated drinks**

1845. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Bureau of Indian Standards is thinking to evolve norms for non-carbonated drinks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of carbonated drinks that are available in the market with BIS certification;

(d) whether the BIS norms are at par with international standards; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Payments to sugarcane growers**

1846. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the statutory minimum price and the State administered price for sugarcane, State-wise and year-wise during the last five years; and

(b) the average price effectively paid to growers, and the balance due to be paid to the growers, State-wise and year-wise during that period?

#### **Increasing MSP/PP for sugarcane**

1847. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a pressing demand from the SUGARFED and sugarcane growers of Punjab, Haryana, UP, Maharashtra and other States for enhancement of sugarcane Procurement Prices;

(b) if so, the prevailing Procurement Price of sugarcane in different States during the last three years and the extent of increase demanded; and

(c) whether the Central Government has fixed a Minimum Support Price of sugarcane, if so, the details thereof and how far it represents an increase in the existing Procurement Prices, State-wise?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Starvation deaths**

1848. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:  
Will the Minister of CONSUMER  
AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC  
DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been starvation  
deaths of farmers in various States;

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

(c) the remedial steps being taken in  
this regard?

**Foodgrains to BPL families in  
Jharkhand and Orissa**

1849. SHRI B. J. PANDA:  
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that  
around 60 per cent of BPL families in  
Jharkhand have not been getting foodgrains  
from Government;

(b) whether the difference in allocation  
and realization of foodgrains are due to  
shortage of godowns of the FCI in the  
State;

(c) if so, the reasons which are plaguing  
the system in both Jharkhand and Orissa  
which are facing the brunt of its  
inefficiency; and

(d) the action plan of the Centre to fix  
responsibility on the inefficient officials  
and streamlining the process to secure  
foodgrains to the BPL families in both the  
States?

**Sub-standard wheat and rice in FCI  
godowns**

†1850. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the wheat  
and rice stored in the godowns of Food  
Corporation of India is sub-standard;

(b) if so, the amounts of wheat and rice  
separately lying there upto September 2005  
that was not fit for human consumption;

(c) whether there is any arrangement to  
check the quality of this wheat and rice;  
and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Cases and vacancies in consumer  
courts**

†1851. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

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

(a) the number of cases pending in  
various consumer courts of the country  
alongwith the number of vacancies and  
since when, State-wise;

(b) the action initiated by Government  
to fill up vacant posts and by when the  
posts will be filled;

(c) whether with a view to dispense  
speedy justice to the consumers,  
Government will instruct the consumer  
courts to work on the lines of Lok Adalats;  
and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### FCI borrowings

1852. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has accumulated recoverables worth Rs. 17,000 crores from the Ministry of Rural Development for foodgrains supplied for its welfare schemes;

(b) whether FCI is facing financial constraints, having to borrow funds from SBI-led consortium at exorbitant interest rates for grain procurement;

(c) whether FCI borrowings from SBI-led banks now total Rs. 33,000 crores at 8.15% compound interest; and

(d) whether Government would bail out the FCI to sustain its welfare schemes?

### Wheat rotting in FCI godowns in Punjab

1853. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that a large quantity of wheat is rotting every year in the godowns of Food Corporation of India in Punjab;

(b) the details in this regard during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the manner in which the rotten wheat is disposed of; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

### Streamlining FCI

1854. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a declining role for the Food Corporation of India in view of the vast capacity of private godowns' space hired;

(b) to what extent private operators can store, release and buy grains without the need of the FCI;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the visibility and role of the FCI in the near future;

(d) the steps proposed to streamline the FCI and also reduce its rental charges for private godowns;

(e) whether any outside management agency has studied the FCI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

### Rehabilitation of displaced by Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary

1855. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Karnataka has requested for release of the balance amount of Rs.132 lakhs for the rehabilitation of people displaced due to the formation of Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary; and

(b) if so, by when the amount is likely to be released?

### Pollution by slaughter houses

†1856. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of legal and illegal slaughter houses which are causing all kind of pollution in the country State-wise, alongwith pollution caused;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have taken action against such slaughter houses against whom the complaints have been received, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to ensure supply of clean drinking water in such areas;

(d) whether Government are proposing to cancel the licences of such polluting slaughter houses;

(e) whether Government propose to constitute a committee of MPs and local representatives to conduct the inquiry in this regard; and

(f) whether it is also a fact that working group of Reserve Bank has suggested to make a "Risk Fund" in this regard;

#### **Western Freeway Sealink**

1857. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS  
BAL APTE:  
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:  
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

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

(a) whether a proposal for a Western Freeway Sealink, from Worli Nariman Point in Mumbai has been pending for final approval of Government;

(b) whether environmental clearance thereto was accorded subject to certain conditions two years ago, but has been held up, if so, the main issues that remained to be sorted out;

(c) the steps taken and being taken to sort out the same; and

(d) whether the project is intended to be implemented under the BOT system and if so, the names of the interested parties?

#### **Emission of greenhouse gas**

1858. DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:  
SHRI RAASHID ALVI:

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

(a) whether India has asked developed countries to reduce their emission of greenhouse gases with respect to baseline of year 1990 over a period of time and to provide technical and financial assistance to developing countries to facilitate cleaner development there;

(b) whether efforts made so far, by developing countries have been dismal and it is essential for these countries to take up greenhouse gas mitigation measures;

(c) if so, what are other steps Government have urged to do in this regard; and

(d) to what extent developing countries have agreed to the suggestions made by India in this regard?

#### **Essential forest cover for protection of environment**

1859. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the projected extent of forest cover in each State of the country which is essential for the protection of environment and the actual cover in each State;

(b) whether Government propose to take any steps to increase the forest coverage in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof including fund allocation thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Pending project report for development of townships on different rivers in Maharashtra**

1860. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether project reports for development of townships on different rivers in Maharashtra have been submitted to the Central Government for approval under the National River Action Plan, under the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the cost of the different projects, and since when the same are pending;

(c) the reasons for delay, at what stage they are pending and by when the same are likely to be cleared for implementation; and

(d) the cost escalation incurred?

**Vypar-River-Linking project**

1861. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal for the Vypar-River-Linking project pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government conducted detailed studies on the impact of such a project would have on the environment in the Southern Kerala;

(d) whether Government considered the fact that most of the related areas in Kerala experience acute water shortage particularly in the summer season;

(e) if so, whether the project, if implemented, further accelerate the situation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

**Problems in development activities undertaken by State Governments**

1862. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints that on account of court judgements under environment and forest laws, certain development activities undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by various State Governments are suffering;

(b) whether Government have decided to take any remedial action in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to amend any legislation in this regard or propose to bring in any fresh legislation; and

(d) whether Government propose to approach the Supreme Court of India for review/modification of any of the judgements of the court?

**Advertisement of sale of endangered wild animals**

1863. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that several e-portals have put advertisements for sale of endangered wild animals including Bengal Tigers;

(b) if so, what action have been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether the advertisers have been punished?

**Resource crunch faced by G.B. Pant  
Institute of Himalayan Environment  
and Research**

1864. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Research has been facing severe resource crunch which has hampered its normal functioning;

(b) the funds allocated for various research projects and for maintenance of facilities during the last three years, project-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Government are also aware that various posts in the scientist cadre and administrative cadre are lying vacant;

(d) if so, the details of vacant posts in the institute alongwith details of the posts which are likely to be filled through deputation, cadre-wise; and

(e) by when the vacancies are likely to be filled?

**Project proposals for rejuvenation of  
lakes from Karnataka**

1865. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka has submitted project proposals for rejuvenation of lakes in Chikmagalur, Bidar and Davanegere cities at an estimated cost of Rs.11.78 crores to the Central Government;

(b) if so, what is the current status of these proposals; and

(c) by when the funds are likely to be released?

**Damage by wild elephants in  
Chhattisgarh**

1866. SHRIMATI PREMA

CARIAPPA:

SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:

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

(a) whether Government have received any report regarding damage to human lives, crops and houses, etc. by migratory wild elephants in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details about the extent of damage caused and compensation, if any, paid to the victims, during the last two years;

(c) whether there is any proposal to include the area affected by the wild elephants under 'Project Elephant'; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stop the damage by these elephants and the details of proposal sent by State Government in this regard?

**Pollution on western coast**

1867. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that heavy pollution in the waters of the western coast after the monsoon are killing shoals of fish;

(b) whether it is a fact that this trend may have a bearing on the fall in the netting of prawns and pomfrets in recent years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this phenomenon is aggravated by pollution from fertilizer run offs entering the western water; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check the depletion in marine life?

### **Air pollution in Delhi**

1868. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board and the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata has found disturbing trends on air pollution related respiratory symptoms affecting approximately 46 per cent people living in Delhi;

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

(c) whether many more such studies are proposed to be conducted in other metropolitan cities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Strategy for cleansing/recleansing the rivers**

1869. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have devised any fresh strategy to cleanse/recleanse the rivers of the country in the light of the experience gained in this regard from the earlier programmes/projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

### **Basic facilities to forest guards**

1870. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is not

only acute shortage of forest guards but also lack of basic facilities such as arms, communication equipment, transport, etc. to confront sophisticated armed poacher; and

(b) if so, the details of forest guards guarding various forests with the type of basic facilities provided to them?

### **Diversion of forest land to Government departments**

1871. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed diversion of forest land to Government departments for developmental projects and providing public utility facilities;

(b) if so, the details of such land diverted especially in Andhra Pradesh, and the purpose thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken the conservation measures at the same time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Unified Policy regarding collection of forest products used in oil extraction**

†1872. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any unified policy in the country regarding collection of forest products to be used in oil extraction; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Proposals from States for development of forests**

1873. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from different States for the development of forests in the country during the last two years;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government on the proposals received from the Andhra Pradesh Government and the other States?

**Proposals for development of port of Dholera**

1874. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of Government of Gujarat for the development of modern port of Dholera through private sector;

(b) whether except environmental clearance from Government, mostly all the other requirements and formalities are complied with;

(c) whether for environmental clearance, the Government of Gujarat, and Maritime Board have submitted necessary documents and information and Hearing is also done; and

(d) if so, by when Government are likely to give required clearance so that a construction of the port is started?

**Waste treatment and disposable facilities**

1875. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cities which have set up suitable waste treatment and disposable facilities under the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that India produces 42 million tonnes of urban solid waste annually; and

(c) what measures Government are taking in coordination with the States and local municipalities to maintain the urban waste to the minimum level?

**Protection of endangered animal species**

1876. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unhindered large scale poaching in reserved forests has driven tigers and other highly endangered animal species into extinction during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details with allocation made, received from donor agencies and spent during the last five years on agencies entrusted with the responsibility to protect wildlife, area-wise and year-wise;

(c) the action taken to fix responsibilities for such grave dereliction of duty;

(d) whether in view of the unreliability of data generated indigenously, it is proposed to invite a UN Agency to conduct tiger census in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

### Plastic waste

1877. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India generates around 7250 tonnes of plastic waste including pet bottles, snack/gutka pouches, etc. every day;

(b) whether 60 per cent of this plastic waste is recycled into inferior products which are hazardous to health;

(c) whether the rest 40 per cent is tossed around to choke sewers and environment; and

(d) whether Government would enact an uniform law for use of bio-degradable plastics?

### Water treatment plants for lakes and ponds of Rajasthan

†1878. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to install water treatment plants for making some lakes and ponds of Rajasthan pollution free and also for the conservation of pure water; and

(b) if so, the names of the lakes and ponds selected for installing water treatment plants; and

(c) by when the work of installing water treatment plants would be completed alongwith the details thereof?

### Smuggling of natural herb 'The Fungus'

1879. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a natural herb 'The Fungus' smuggled by organized network from Uttranchal forests to neighboring countries like China and Nepal;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any preventive measures around Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve near Pindari Glacier in Uttranchal; and

(c) whether Government are also thinking to utilize the potential of these natural herbs as a medicine?

### Coastal Zone Management Plan for Mumbai and Navi Mumbai

1880. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) at what stage of approval and clearance the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) for Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, stands at present, with respect to various issues under consideration and correspondence since 1998, with Maharashtra Government;

(b) the cost escalation suffered by various projects;

(c) whether the high tide combined with heavy rains and floods this season have added gravity to the need for well planned Coastal Zonal Management System; and

(d) if so, what special steps are being taken to put the CZMP in place expeditiously?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**National Policy on Food Processing**

1881. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

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

(a) by when Government are going to bring out the National Policy on Food Processing;

(b) the salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) what are the measures Government are taking to promote food processing sector in the country;

(d) what are the comprehensive guidelines issued by Government for project approvals;

(e) whether Government are considering to have a single window system for project approvals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

**Promotion of agri-business**

1882. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently formulated a policy in regard to strategy and action plan for food processing sector and promotion of agri-business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas which are likely to be benefited by the said policy; and

(d) by when the policy is likely to come into force?

**Popularising processed food**

1883. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to popularize processed food in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to enlighten the public on the preservatives used in processed food; and

(c) the details of the steps taken in this direction?

**Payment of charges by CGHS beneficiaries**

1884. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Government servants covered under Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) are required to pay hospital charges in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the names of the hospitals in Mumbai which made Government servants pay hospital charges;

(c) the action proposed to be taken against those hospitals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**HIV infection through blood banks**

1885. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government introduced any safety measures to check the resourced blood to the blood banks of medical colleges against HIV infection;

(b) whether any incident of HIV infection to a child at SAT Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram consequent to the blood donation brought to the notice of Government and whether Government propose to introduce any stipulation to insist antigen test for blood donors for taking precaution against HIV infection; and

(c) whether Government propose to implement any specific program to eliminate hospital acquired HIV infection and the reaction of Government thereto?

#### **Health centres in Arunachal Pradesh**

1886. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NGOs propose to control and run the health centres in Arunachal Pradesh, the first State to make NGOs an integral part of the healthcare system in the area;

(b) whether it is a centrally funded project or operated on sharing basis;

(c) whether this novel project is also proposed to be run in other States i.e. Orissa, Karnataka, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Unethical nexus of doctors and pharma companies**

1887. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a nexus between the doctors, chemists and the diagnostic labs and they are fleecing the customers in connivance with each other;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the doctors are being offered foreign trips/air tickets for prescribing the anti-cancer drugs of the respective companies; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to stop such malpractices?

#### **Commercialisation of medical education**

†1888. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rampant commercialization of medical education throughout the country and that medical colleges are charging huge capitation fee from the students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether due to lack of money, competent and hardworking students are unable to get admissions in medical colleges?

#### **Female foeticides**

†1889. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether female foeticide is rampant in various States in India;

(b) if so, the names of the States where the female foeticide is prevalent and to what extent;

(c) the number of female foeticides which take place every year alongwith the ultra sound machines in each, State-wise;

(d) the status of female and male ratio which prevails today due to such female foeticides; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) the steps Government are contemplating to check female foeticide and by when?

#### **Child sex ratio**

1890. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the child sex ratio in the country, as reflected in 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 Census, State-wise and whether it is declining;

(b) the steps taken by Government to bring equilibrium in the child sex ratio in the country; and

(c) how does child sex ratio of India, compare with our neighbouring/South-East Asian countries?

#### **CBI raids in DCGI office**

1891. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the offices of Drugs Controller General of India had been raided by the CBI; and

(b) if so, the details of recoveries made and the action taken against the officials involved in corruption?

#### **Maternal mortality in Orissa**

1892. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orissa Government has been able to reduce the maternal mortality rate in the State with

help of United Nation Fund for Population Affairs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in spite of its best efforts the State Government is facing certain problems; and

(c) if so, the details of the help rendered by the Centre to the State to overcome such impediments in controlling the MMR in Orissa?

#### **Malnutrition and child deaths**

1893. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra rates second in terms of malnutrition after Kalahandi in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more than one lakh children die or are stillborn in a year in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, whether Government have appointed any Study Committee for the child deaths in Maharashtra;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the measures taken by Government to deal with the situation of malnutrition in the country with reference to Maharashtra?

#### **Medical colleges in Karnataka**

1894. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications for sanction of new medical colleges have been received during 2005-06 from Karnataka;

(b) out of above how many new medical colleges have been sanctioned to Karnataka during 2005-06;

(c) whether Karnataka Government has requested to sanction six new Government medical colleges during 2005-06;

(d) if so, whether the Medical Council of India team visited these proposed new Government medical colleges; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not giving permission during 2005-06?

#### **AIDS control programme by NGOs**

†1895. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of AIDS patients in the country;

(b) the number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) implementing AIDS control programmes;

(c) whether these NGOs are provided funds by the foreign agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Heavy metals in ayurvedic drugs**

1896. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:  
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:  
SHRI VEDPRAKASH P.  
GOYAL:

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

(a) whether Government have issued a notification to test ayurvedic drugs for presence of heavy metals;

(b) if so, whether this has been made compulsory only for medicines meant for exports; and

(c) if so, the reasons for which domestic

Indian users of such medicines have been ignored for availing of likely benefit, if any, while finding heavy metals in such products?

#### **Self-financed medical colleges**

1897. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of self-financed medical colleges in Kerala and the total number of M.B.B.S. seats available in Kerala approved by M.C.I.;

(b) whether there is any quota for State/ Central Government from the above seats;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Kerala Government has requested for legislation to ensure a quota for the State Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) Government's reaction thereto?

#### **Healthcare system in Karnataka**

1898. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to upgrade the healthcare system in Karnataka;

(b) the amount proposed to be spent in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the PHCs to the status of Community Health Centres (CHCs) in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the number of PHCs that will be upgraded to the status of Community Health Centres?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Malnutrition among the children**

1899. SHRI DARA SINGH:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:  
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

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

(a) whether one among three children suffering from malnutrition in the world is in India as per a recent publication of the UNICEF;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating efforts made by Government to deal with this problem;

(c) whether 47 per cent children upto 4 years of age were found suffering from malnutrition on the basis of a child *vis-a-vis* his age, as per National Family Health Survey conducted in 1998-99; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government so far to deal with this problem?

**Bird Flu vaccine license**

1900. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any danger of Bird Flu virus and its consequences in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian pharmaceutical companies are awaiting for a license to produce and sell drugs to control Bird Flu;

(c) whether Government have ensured testing of H5N1 Bird Flu virus in the laboratories of India; and

(d) the steps being taken to produce sufficient quantity of drugs needed in the event of Bird Flu striking on a larger scale in the country?

**Procedure for taking a Government doctor outside the hospital for treatment of patient**

1901. SHRI SANTOSH  
BAGRODIA:  
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

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

(a) what is the procedure for taking a Government doctor outside the hospital within the same city and State; and

(b) what is the procedure to take a Government doctor outside the State to consult him for his own old patient not able to visit him otherwise?

**Outbreak of plague in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal**

1902. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some doubts have recently been raised about the likelihood of the outbreak of plague in the hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh and the adjoining areas of Uttaranchal due to the presence of big sized rodents in those areas;

(b) if so, the exact chances of outbreak of plague there, according to Government information; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tackle the situation?

**Modernisation of NIMS and SVRIMS**

1903. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received

any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to release Rs. 170 crores for modernization of the NIMS and the Sri Venkateswara Rao Institute of Medical Sciences (SVRIMS); and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

#### **Hand-foot and mouth disease in children**

1904. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether studies were initiated on the outbreak of a rare child disease called hand-foot and mouth disease (HFMD), occurred in Malappuram District of Kerala during the year 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken to control the above disease and the number of affected as on today; and

(c) the details of reasons for the outbreak of this rare child disease?

#### **Expansion of Safdurjung Hospital**

†1905. PROF. R. B. S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made an expansion plan for Safdurjung Hospital in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated by Government for the implementation of this plan; and

(d) by when this plan would be initiated?

#### **Malnutrition and maternal mortality in India**

1906. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WHO has expressed its dissatisfaction over the condition of health services in India; and

(b) if so, whether the problems regarding maternal mortality and malnutrition among the children are very critical in India?

#### **Lack of equipments in hospitals in Delhi**

1907. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of hospitals are having acute shortage of latest equipments in Delhi/New Delhi due to which several people have lost their lives;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of such cases in Safdurjung and Dr. R. M. L. Hospitals are due to non-availability of proper and working machines especially in the case of emergency patients;

(c) whether Government have taken any corrective measures to stop deaths in such cases in these hospitals; and

(d) what kind of latest equipments are being provided to these hospitals?

#### **Financial assistance for poor patients from Minister's fund**

†1908. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) the amount of grant provided from

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



his discretionary quota for the admission of poor and needy patients in the hospitals/ for meeting out their medical expenses during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of patients financially assisted from the said grant during the period;

(c) whether the amount of grant was not utilized during the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons for not utilizing this allocation fully; and

(e) the number of patients still waiting to receive grant from this fund?

#### **Poor healthcare facilities**

†1909. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that every year many persons die in various parts of the country due to poor health care services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to include 'Health' in the Concurrent List to supervise health services in various States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Parameters of healthcare**

1910. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various indices/parameters of healthcare in different sectors/spheres in the country;

(b) in the light of above statistics, what is the quality of healthcare in the country;

(c) how does the above compare with our neighbouring and advanced countries;

(d) the steps Government contemplate to take to improve and to streamline the healthcare in the country;

(e) what per cent of budget is being spent on healthcare in the country;

(f) whether Government have any plan to launch Sarva Swasthya Abhiyan to make healthcare accessible to all; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Microsystem acupuncture for treatment for loss of vision**

1911. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an alternative treatment for loss of vision has been developed through microsystem acupuncture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new treatment has been used on an extensive scale in Government and Government recognized hospitals and if so, the results thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Free treatment for AIDS patients**

1912. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to treat the AIDS patients free of cost is running at present;

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of patients being provided with medicines free of cost; and

(d) the funds for which provision has been made for this scheme for the current year?

#### **Preventive vaccine for AIDS**

1913. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that preventive vaccines for HIV/AIDS are not available in the country;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to combat the crucial disease;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to develop cost-effective modified vaccine indigenously; and

(d) when it is expected to be available?

#### **Criteria to open health sub-centres**

†1914. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether population is the criteria for opening health sub-centres for providing primary health facilities in the country and if so, the number of such health sub-centres in the States that are required to be opened on the basis of 2001 census;

(b) if so, the number of health sub-centres required in Madhya Pradesh on the basis of 2001 Census and the actual number thereof at present; and

(c) by when such health sub-centres would be sanctioned for the State on this basis?

#### **Procedure for giving permission for clinical trials**

1915. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether multinational companies conducting clinical trials in India require permission from the Drug Controller of India;

(b) if so, whether such permission is being granted by the Drug Controller; and

(c) what are the reasons behind amendment of Schedule 'Y' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, made in January, 2005?

#### **Retirement age of doctors**

1916. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the retirement age of the doctors and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether suggestions have been sent to the State Governments in this regard and if so, the names of States which have agreed to raise the retirement age?

#### **Giving permission of a Government doctor to visit his patient outside hospital**

1917. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

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

(a) who has the authority to allow a Government doctor to visit outside his hospital within the State for giving advice to his old patient who is otherwise immobile; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) who is the authority to allow a Government doctor to visit outside the State to advise his old patient in case of an emergency at the cost of the patient who is ordinary but tax-paying citizen of the country?

**Patients suffering from communicable diseases**

†1918. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) whether the number of patients suffering from communicable diseases is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases registered during the last year and till date in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai in respect of meningitis, hepatitis, cholera, chicken-pox, dengue, measles, typhoid and gastroenteritis and also State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to control these diseases?

**Fellowship programmes to members of CHS**

1919. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued orders regarding the opportunities to be availed by the members of Central Health Service for fellowship programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the non-technical and non-medical staff of the C.H.S. are permitted to avail of any number of fellowships without

limit, while such opportunity is limited to once only during a doctor's whole service career; and

(d) the reasons for this discrimination?

**Treatment of BPL people**

1920. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:  
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to create a separate fund for treatment of diseases like cancer, AIDS and kidney related ailments for people below poverty line and those who cannot afford to pay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Diseases due to pollution from slaughter houses**

†1921. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as a result of water and other kind of pollution being spread by legal/illegal slaughter houses in the country, the residents in those areas are being infected with the diseases spreading through polluted water and air and the details of the diseases with which these persons are suffering;

(b) the details thereof State-wise/ Union-Territory-wise;

(c) the action being taken by Government in this regard and whether any inquiry will be conducted for the same; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government propose to cancel the licences of such slaughter houses in public interest?

#### **Illegal import of foreign drugs**

1922. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some chemists in Delhi are importing foreign drugs like Imipenen and Plavix through airline pilots and air hostesses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Proposal for new rail lines from Maharashtra and Punjab**

1923. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for new railway lines have been received from Maharashtra and Punjab Governments during 2004-05 and 2005-06 particularly with respect to connectivity from Chandigarh to Ludhiana by fast trains;

(b) if so, what are details of sanctioned works of new rail lines/gauge conversion/introduction of new trains/extension of existing trains including increase in their frequency and electrification of railway tracks, etc. year-wise, zone-wise indicating present status, proposal-wise;

(c) whether any time-limit for completion of above mentioned projects has been fixed; and

(d) if so, what are details thereof project-wise, year-wise, zone-wise indicating budgetary allocations made/expenditure incurred in each case?

#### **Pantry car in mail and express trains**

1924. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many long distance mail and express trains do not have a separate pantry car for serving hot and fresh refreshments to railway passengers and how many mail and express trains have pantry car facilities;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways has incurred heavy loss for providing refreshments to railway passengers since last so many years as Railways does not offer any subsidy thereon;

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

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for providing quality and fresh refreshments to railway passengers at ostensible price by avoiding losses thereon?

#### **Rail accident at Datia**

1925. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:  
SHRI LALIT SURI:  
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gwalior bound Bundelkhand Express jumped off tracks and crashed into a signal cabin near Datia railway station on 3rd October, 2005;

(b) the number of persons who lost their lives and those who were injured as a result thereof alongwith the number out of them who were passers by, in addition to passengers and railway employees;

(c) whether any *ex-gratia* payment has been made in respect of all those affected, separately;

(d) whether an inquiry into the mishap has been held; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof and action taken thereon?

**Inadequate fund for rail projects in Kerala**

1926. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inadequate fund allocation to various railway projects in the State of Kerala is hampering the progress of these projects;

(b) if so, the details of projects of which work has been delayed due to the above reason, project-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken to rectify the same?

**Trains upto Ajmer**

†1927. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ajmer is a significant area from tourism and commercial point of view on account of existence of shrine of Kwaja Garib Nawaj, the Teerthraj Puskhar and a marble town named Kishangarh in Ajmer district;

(b) whether the facility of trains is lacking in Ajmer keeping in view the huge number of professionals, pilgrims and lakhs of tourists coming here each year;

(c) whether his Ministry have any plan to start some new trains or to extend the existing trains upto Ajmer in order to overcome this shortage; and

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

**Security at railway lines**

1928. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway had decided to make investments for improving the security at railway lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways had decided to get automatic warning system at level crossing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Railway Safety Fund**

1929. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose of setting up a Railway Safety Fund and whether the objectives have been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much amount has been spent from that fund during the last three years and on what count?

**Development of Harpalpur Railway Station**

†1930. SHRI BALVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to increase the facilities for passengers on link railway stations in order to attract foreign tourists;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether there is any scheme to fully develop the Harpalpur railway station which is linked to Khajuraho temples of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Launching of low cost 'Palace on Wheels'**

1931. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to launch a low-cost 'Palace on Wheels' to encourage tourism in Rajasthan;

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

(c) whether Government would consider more such low-cost tourism oriented trains to promote tourism in other States, like Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the status of such proposals?

#### **Broad gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu**

1932. DR. K. MALAISAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether regional imbalance in the conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge in Tamil Nadu still continues despite the efforts taken;

(b) the list of broad gauge conversion works pending in Tamil Nadu, stage of such works and the probable date of completion;

(c) whether it is a fact that the works taken up later are being executed in preference to the works sanctioned earlier; and

(d) what is the background for it?

#### **Introduction of more passenger trains**

1933. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would explore the possibilities of introducing more passenger trains on Kaukurgachi Chord line under Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway; and

(b) whether Government would consider linking the circular line with Kaukurgachi Chord line to extend the suburban railway system further to eastern part of Kolkata?

#### **Rail mishap in Dhanbad division**

1934. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a speeding goods train rammed into a stationery passenger train at a station in Dhanbad division of East Central Railway on 9th November, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of passengers killed and seriously injured as a result of the mishap;

(c) the amount of *ex-gratia* payment made in respect of those killed and injured;

(d) the cause of accident as established by the inquiry, action taken against the railway employees, if found responsible for the mishap; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents in future?

**Privatization of rail-based container transportation**

1935. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised any plan or policy for privatization of rail-based container transportation in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating advantage therefrom?

**Throwforwarding of projects**

1936. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have a throwforwards of projects of Rs. 47354 crores as on 1st April, 2005;

(b) whether inclusion of large number of projects in 1990s from 1996 onwards without requisite surveys is one of the reasons for the huge throwforward;

(c) if so, the number of projects which were included without the requisite surveys; and

(d) from where the money would come to complete those projects?

**Internet connected call centres**

1937. SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to set up internet connected call centres in all the

State Capitals to provide information to passengers on all matters relating to train operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would be a round-the-clock service in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating those that would be opened in the Gujarat and Karnataka States?

**Compensation to dispossessed land holders**

†1938. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during laying of Konkan Railway track the individual whose lands were acquired by the Railways are provided with compensation and employment in Railways;

(b) if so, till now how many persons have been provided with employment and compensation;

(c) the number of persons yet to get compensation or employment; and

(d) by when this entire exercise will be completed?

**Running trains on bio-diesel**

1939. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to run trains on bio-diesel to cut the oil cost; and

(b) if so, what is the total amount of savings which Railways would gain by using bio-diesel (Jetropha)?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Sale of obsolete bogies in  
Visakhapatnam**

†1940. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any incident of illegal sale of 12 obsolete bogies of the goods train in Visakhapatnam has come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the culprits; and

(d) the concrete action taken by Government to prevent occurrence of such incidents in future?

**Physically handicapped railway  
users**

1941. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have not created any user friendly facilities for physically challenged and as a result they find it difficult to travel in trains; and

(b) if so, the action taken to make physically handicapped user-friendly railways?

**Manamadurai-Rameswaram and  
Manamadurai-Trichy stretch**

1942. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the probable date of completion of Manamadurai- Rameswaram stretch on the one side and Trichy-Manamadurai stretch on the other which are long overdue;

(b) how the railway lines are proposed to cross across the sea between Pamban and Rameswaram; and

(c) whether there will be a new bridge across the sea or the existing Pamban bridge will be widened, modernized and strengthened for this purpose subject to technical stability and feasibility?

**Effect on rail network due to climatic  
change**

1943. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether climatic changes over the next 30 to 50 years would affect the rail network in the country;

(b) whether sea between Kochi and Mumbai is rising thus increasing the repair and maintenance cost of the rail projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) Government's plans to rectify the situation?

**Japanese loan for dedicated freight  
corridor project**

1944. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR  
SANGHI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japanese offer of a cheap loan to Railways much hyped dedicated freight corridor project has not been seriously considered by Railways;

(b) whether loan was offered at an interest rate of 0.45 per cent but with a condition that Railways would source 30 per cent of equipment required from Japan;

(c) if so, what were main reasons Railways have decided to explore other international funding agencies as well;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(d) whether any concrete efforts from other international sources have also been considered; and

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

#### **Passenger Reservation Systems**

1945. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the East Coast Railway (ECoR) proposes to open more Passenger Reservation Systems (PRS) to help the commuters of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the existing number of reservation facilities, so far, commissioned by the ECoR; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to improve other passenger amenities at various stations on this rail system?

(c) if so, whether the Member of Parliament has been intimated about this?

#### **Passenger facilities at Buxar station**

†1947. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme of Government for betterment of passenger facilities at the railway station of Buxar in Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that though this is the only important railway station for most of the passengers from Buxer district in Bihar and Balia district in Uttar Pradesh, yet it is lacking in the passenger facilities like waiting rooms, clean toilets etc ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the passengers have to face water logging and garbage outside the station after coming out; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme of Government to tackle these problems and make it comfortable and tension free place for the passengers?

#### **Reservation in trains for M.Ps**

†1946. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been made compulsory for a person sent for getting reservation to have a letter from the Member of Parliament in case a Member of Parliament wants to get his reservation in Mumbai;

(b) if not, why the reservation officer at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal and Church Gate and in Mumbai Central demand for the above letter all the time in spite of giving I.C. number of the Member of Parliament; and

#### **Prices of steel**

†1948. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR

PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR

JOSHI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumer selling price of steel in the country decreases and increases in conformity with the prices in international market;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and average annual percentage of the steel exported out of the steel produced in the country; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons for not fixing prices on the basis of production cost in this industry and fixing the selling price in accordance with the international market overlooking the demand and supply of domestic market?

**Cancellation of merger of chiria mines**

1949. SHRI DIPANKAR  
MUKHERJEE:  
SHRI CHITTABRATA  
MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of cancellation of three iron ore lease of Chiria Mines of IISCO, which is now merged with SAIL, by Government of Jharkhand;

(b) whether any assessment has been made on the impact of cancellation on iron ore availability to SAIL and RINL; and

(c) the action taken by Government, apart from SAIL and IISCO, as owner to protect iron ore assets of public sector steel manufacturers?

**Dependence on imported coke**

1950. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the coming years, our dependability on imported coke will be 85 per cent of the requirement?

**Decline in ship breaking industry**

1951. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ship breaking industry is passing through an

alarming phase and if this trend continues, it would soon find itself on the verge of extinction;

(b) whether it is a fact that most ships ready for demolition are headed towards Bangladesh;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to revive the ship breaking industry?

**POSCO's involvement in iron-ore export**

1952. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether, while seeking approval of the Centre for the POSCO steel project involving an investment of Rs. 51,000 crores, the Orissa Government has furnished all relevant background of the foreign investors, for a critical evaluation by the Centre;

(b) whether POSCO of Korea had earlier explored setting up of a mega steel plant in Brazil and China, if so, whether both the countries declined to oblige POSCO to have captive iron ore lease; and

(c) whether POSCO had secured the State Government's commitment to export a part of the ore against national interest?

**Export of iron ore**

†1953. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to the export of iron ore and other important minerals;

(b) whether permission from Government is compulsory to send minerals from one State to another;

(c) whether any request from the Government of Jharkhand or any other

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

State has been received in this regard;  
and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Import duty on scrap steel**

1954. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken up with the Ministry of Finance for reducing the import duty for scrap steel which is required for secondary steel markets;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Ministry of Finance thereto;

(c) whether demand and production level has been assessed for the next decade;

(d) if so, the action plan initiated in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Iron ore trade with China**

1955. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:  
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Chinese delegation visited India in September, 2005 to enter into a long term pact on iron ore import;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a policy not to export iron ore but instead to export value added steel products;

(d) the final decision taken after the discussions with Chinese delegation; and

(e) whether it will adversely affect the home market?

#### **Target for exporting steel**

†1956. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set any target for exporting steel from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether production of steel will have to be increased in the country to meet this target;

(d) if so, the quantum of production to be increased against the present production; and

(e) the annual rate of production fixed for this?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 3rd December, 2005*  
*Agrahayana 12, 1927 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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