

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the April 10, 2003/Chaitra 20, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Development of North Eastern Region; Disinvestment; External Affairs; Labour; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—155

Employment in KVIC

2937. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is going to generate employment for 20 lakh persons during the current year and if so, in what manner;

(b) the extent of employment provided by KVIC in the year 2001-02; and

(c) the programmes under which this was done?

Cottage industries in NER

2938. SHRIMATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units of the cottage industry in different States of the North-Eastern Region;

(b) the percentage of people involved in the cottage industries;

(c) the number of families (in percentage) which are fully dependent on cottage industries, State-wise; and

(d) the marketing facilities that are extended to these artisans?

ARIs in Rajasthan

2939. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals under Government's consideration to set up new rural agro based industries in the backward districts of Rajasthan;

(b) the location of such industries and the financial allocations made for such industries during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) by when such industries would be functional?

PMRY in Rajasthan

2940. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set to generate employment opportunities under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana in Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the number of educated unemployed persons who have been benefited thereby in the State?

Nuclear power plants in Madhya Pradesh

2941. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to earmark funds for development of nuclear power plants in Madhya Pradesh; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the existing installed capacity and proposed augmentation of the individual power plants in the State; and

(c) how far it would help to overcome power shortage in the tribal belts of the State?

Cooperation in nuclear power

2942. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established cooperation with any country in the field of nuclear power;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the programmes drawn up by Government in this regard?

Power generation projects using nuclear fuel

†2943. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH LALAN:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power generation projects are in operation in the country using nuclear fuel;

(b) if so, the number of such projects during 1998-99 and the production capacity;

(c) the number of these projects during 2002-03 along with the production capacity; and

(d) the percentage of power generation out of the installed capacity of these power generation projects during above period?

Exodus of BARC scientists

2944. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the service conditions of the BARC provide that if any employee leaves the service within three years, he has to give approximately one lakh rupees as compensation;

(b) whether despite such service conditions, a number of highly educated young scientists had left the BARC during the bond period by paying the compensation;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have taken any measures to check the exodus of the scientists of BARC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof stating the reasons for imposing three years bond?

Indo-US nuclear cooperation

2945. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports regarding clearing of bottlenecks for Indo-US nuclear cooperation;

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the help on the space front to be rendered by NASA and National Optical Astronomy Observatory?

Recycling of computers

2946. DR. M. N. DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report about the ill-effects of unsafe recycling of computers on health;

(b) if so, whether in an effort to protect their own environment, Governments of wealthy countries are encouraging recycling of computers out of their land fills;

(c) whether Government have examined such report; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

Software export

2947. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's software export revenue of Rs. 1,85,000 crore is expected during the year 2002-03; and

(b) if so, what is the actual export revenue accruals in the first three quarters of 2002-03 i.e. from the 1st April to 31st December, 2002 and whether the target set for 2002-03 is likely to be achieved; if not, whether any special steps are being taken in this regard?

Faulty telephone services of MTNL, Delhi

†2948. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone services of the MTNL, Delhi have been found to be most faulty than that of other telephone services of the country;

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

(c) the immediate steps taken by Government with a view to improving the telephone services of MTNL and the likely improvement as a result thereof?

Rectification of faults in landline telephones

2949. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL's promise to rectify the fault of landline basic telephones within 24 hours is proving to be a farce, notwithstanding computerization of the '198' service, the faults are not rectified for days and weeks and the subscribers continue to suffer; and

(b) whether Government propose to order an independent survey through a private agency into this muddle of the MTNL and take action to ensure rectification of faults within 24 hours?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Discontinuation of STD call details in bills

2950. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL has discontinued providing details of the STD calls to the subscribers in their monthly telephone bills in Delhi, as a result, the subscribers remain unaware of any breach of their STD secret code; and

(b) whether Government propose to direct the MTNL to revive the old practice for the sake of transparency and benefit of the subscribers?

Telematic applications in transport sector

2951. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has the potential to become a telematics sourcing hub for global automotive companies;

(b) if so, the special features thereof; and

(c) whether Government have explored the possibility to use telematic applications in transport sector?

STD/ISD/PCO booths in Uttaranchal

†2952. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications for providing STD/ISD telephone and PCO

booths in all the telecom circles of Uttaranchal during the last two years; and

(b) what steps Government have taken in this regard?

Scam in BSNL's central store of Moradabad

†2953. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scam has come to light in the central store of BSNL, Moradabad;

(b) if so, when Government came to know about it and the losses occurred therein;

(c) the persons found responsible for the scam; and

(d) the action taken against them?

Post offices in Himachal Pradesh

†2954. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the number of branch post offices/sub post offices proposed to be opened by Government in Himachal Pradesh during the financial year 2002-03 alongwith locations thereof?

Payment of bills in Lowerkoti Branch Post Office

†2955. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone subscribers of villages — Sidrohi, Guwhati,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bagi, Lowerkoti, Pausa, Dhara, Shaddu and Chiuni in the district Shimla of Himachal Pradesh have to go to Rohar Post Office located at a distance of 7-8 kilometres from these villages, for payment of telephone bills;

(b) whether Government would make some arrangement for payment of telephone bills at Lowerkoti Branch Post Office in order to facilitate the subscribers of the said villages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Licenses for basic service providers

2956. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chairman, TRAI wrote to Secretary, Deptt. of Telecommunications raising question about the safeguard provided in the license for basic service providers to use WLL with limited mobility to maintain distinction from cellular mobile services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's contention thereon;

(c) whether some basic service licensees are today offering mobile services through public advertisement on a national roaming basis; and

(d) if so, Government's response there to as a licensor and the details of the action taken thereon?

Universal Service Obligation levy

2957. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

are collecting 'Universal Service Obligation' levy from all telecom operators for funding expansion of the telecom operations in the rural areas which are not so remunerative;

(b) if so, whether this levy is accruing to the Consolidated Fund of India; and

(c) if so, the details of the amount collected, so far, and the manner in which this fund is going to be deployed and utilised and other details arising therefrom?

Electricity operated telephones

†2958. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only electricity operated telephones are functioning in the rural areas of various States, particularly, in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether telephones remain out of order in the rural areas in certain States due to lack of any alternative arrangement of power where power is supplied only for four to eight hours in a day while full rental is charged by the department from the subscribers; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps being taken to streamline functioning of electrically operated telephones in such areas?

Rebate in rental for rural telephones

†2959. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural telephone subscribers have to pay rentals etc. at par with urban subscribers on enhancement of capacity of exchanges;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government are taking to continue with the rebate extended to rural subscribers?

Internet access facilities in Gujarat

2960. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether internet access facilities have been made available in all district Headquarters of Gujarat;
- (b) if not, the district Headquarters where this facility is not available;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) by when these facilities would be made available at these Headquarters?

Internet dhabas

2961. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had decided to set up internet dhabas in all the Block Headquarters in the recent past;
- (b) if so, how many internet dhabas have since been set up;
- (c) the Block Headquarters yet to be provided with internet dhabas; and
- (d) by when the work would be accomplished in such Blocks?

Rural I.T. centres

2962. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Rural Information Technology Centres or Samadhan Kendras in Andhra Pradesh to provide connectivity to Internet, E-mail and Computer facilities to the villagers of the State;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) whether Government propose to set up more Samadhan Kendras in the State in the near future; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Leave for extra departmental staff

2963. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether extra departmental staff are allowed ten days leave in a year provided they arrange for substitute;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government are aware that leave facilities to the extra departmental staff under Bihar Sheriff Circle have been stopped through a verbal order;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) what steps Government propose to take to restore the leave facilities in order to bring uniformly throughout the country?

Quality of cellular and basic phone services

†2964. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that no operator is able to satisfy the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

consumers in the matter of quality of service whether it is basic phone service or cellular phone service;

(b) whether Government propose to put any compulsion on these operators for the compliance of service standards;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any action against the operators not complying with the said standards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of new post offices

†2965. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices proposed to be opened in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be opened during 2003-04, State-wise; and

(c) the number of post offices opened during the last Five Year Plan period, State-wise?

Unemployment due to computerisation

†2966. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment has been increased in the country due to computerisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the measures being taken by Government to deal with it?

Facilities in fixed telephones

2967. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking to provide more facilities in fixed telephones;

(b) whether there is any system to control the private cell phone companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Software exports

2968. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to double the share of exports of IT software and services by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government propose to achieve this goal?

Impact of Iraqi war on software companies

†2969. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the impact of Iraqi war on Indian software companies;

(b) whether Government have constituted any team to conduct a study in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, whether there is any such proposal?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Mobile telephone services in NER

2970. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for inordinate delay in installation of Mobile telephone service including cellular and WLL in the NER except Guwahati and Shillong;

(b) the places for which survey work has been completed and the mobile exchange equipments have been purchased;

(c) whether Government propose to make Assam Telecom Circle to be the nodal agency for the same;

(d) if so, by when;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the target set for completion thereof; and

(f) implementation status of the proposal for making Guwahati an internet gateway and target fixed for it?

Dishonour of TRAI's decision by private cellular operators

2971. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI is now expected to draw up the rules of the game within the parameters of the National Telecom Policy 1999 whereas the decisions on the operational matters were earlier taken by the Ministry supplanting the TRAI by political executive, if so, the Government's view;

(b) whether the private cellular operators have recently refused to honour the decisions and instructions of the TRAI; and

(c) if so, what is Government's approach in this regard?

Problems of limited mobile services

2972. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether the Telecom Industry Committee set up by Government to resolve the issue of fixed line operators, offering limited mobile services, has succeeded in solving the problems; and

(b) if so, the details of the efforts made by the said Committee and the outcome thereof?

Online payment of telephone bills

2973. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of online payment of telephone bills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the bottlenecks in settlement of telephone bills using online banking facilities; and

(d) the steps taken to streamline the procedure of online settlement of telephone bills?

Reduction in STD rates by BSNL

2974. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the rates of STD by BSNL;

(b) if so, the extent of such reduction; and

(c) by when the new rates would be given effect to?

Investment in I.T. Sector

2975. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the foreign investors to make investment in the information technology sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Telephone exchanges in Orissa

2976. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in Orissa;

(b) whether all the exchanges are not connected with optical fibre;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) by when all the telephone exchanges working in the State would be connected with optical fibre; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

Conversion of towns into I.T. Hubs

2977. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert small cities, towns into I.T. hubs;

(b) if so, the reasons behind this decision;

(c) the towns to be converted; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

Quality services by telecom operators

2978. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TRAI has recently warned the leading telecom operators who have failed to provide quality services to customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the survey reports conducted by Government in this regard; and

(d) the concrete plans formulated to ensure qualitative services by the telecom operators throughout the country?

Teledensity in the country

†2979. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge discrepancy is found in availability of telephone services in urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of telephone available out of the hundred persons in urban and rural areas in each State during 2002; and

(c) the percentage of villages where direct exchange line was available till December, 2002, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rate of telephone services

†2980. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the rates of different telephone services in Russia, America, Pakistan, Sri Lanka etc. are lesser than in India;

(b) if so, the average per-minute rates of mobile as well as basic telephone services in the above countries; and

(c) the rates of mobile as well as basic telephone services in India during the first few months of 2003?

Cancellation of licenses of telecom companies

†2981. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been recommended to Government to cancel the licences and taking strict actions against those telecom companies which have not fulfilled the promise of installing public telephones in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the names of such companies and the action taken by Government in this regard?

Appointment on compassionate ground

2982. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the persons given appointment on compassionate ground in the Deptt. of

Telecommunications during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the criteria adopted by the department in these cases?

Information Technology outsourcing

2983. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank would outsource over \$10 million IT work to India in the next twelve months through its existing Indian partners;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank, which had already outsourced work worth \$10 million during the past couple of years, is also planning to increase IT outsourcing to its existing partners;

(c) whether the World Bank is also planning to expand its Chennai Business Process Outsourcing Centre; and

(d) if so, to what extent it would be beneficial and provide employment to the Indians?

Profits of BSNL and MTNL

2984. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the profits of BSNL and MTNL have declined sharply due to introduction of Interconnection usage charge (IUC) regime by TRAI;

(b) whether it is also a fact that IUC regime has benefited monopoly houses and MNCs only; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect interest of BSNL and MTNL?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Cell phone operators

2985. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGAT RAM
MANHAR:

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

(a) the names of the cell phone operators providing mobile phones in different parts of the country;

(b) how much license fee has been paid by each operator during the last two years;

(c) whether some companies are not paying license fee as per their agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against these companies?

Telephone connections in Pauri Garhwal

2986. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections installed in Pauri Garhwal of Uttaranchal for the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that a lot of telephone connections are still wait listed under Patti Maniyarshun Tehsil for the last two years; and

(c) if so, by when installation of pending telephone connections would be completed in villages Allasu, Kunkuli, Quwata etc. under Patti Maniyarshun Tehsil?

Sugar production

2987. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar production from October to December (the first three months of the season) has declined as compared to production in the corresponding period last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the production?

Foodgrains for drought relief

2988. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments have submitted their requirements for wheat and rice for drought relief;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat and rice asked by them and the quantity sanctioned by Government to the respective States for the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) the quantity of wheat and rice stocks piled in Government's godowns for the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal/ decision for adopting new criteria for distribution of foodgrains to the needy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of storage capacity

2989. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge public stocks of foodgrains which are deteriorating because of shortage of storage space;

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent such a mishap; and

(c) since future demand, supply outcomes are uncertain, what concrete plan is to be shaped for proper storage, supply, etc. of the foodgrains?

Restructuring of FCI

†2990. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions to completely transform the Food Corporation of India with a view to reducing the expenditure of the corporation;

(b) if so, when and wherefrom Government have received the same; and

(c) the details of the suggestions and the extent to which reduction in expenditure is estimated to be achieved as a result thereof?

Supply of Commodities through fair price shops

2991. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities Government are supplying to the consumers through fair price shops;

(b) whether Government have any plan to enforce the supply of other essential commodities to the consumers at a reduced price through fair price shops;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Wheat stock with FCI

2992. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FCI wheat stocks have now crossed 25 million tonnes;

(b) whether the FCI does not store wheat in non-wheat producing States or port cities/ areas where wheat is in greater demand;

(c) if so, whether this policy leads to traders exploiting the market in non-wheat producing areas; and

(d) whether FCI has any mechanism in place in anticipating the demand of foodgrains?

Quality Mark Licences

2993. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

(a) whether in a recent swoop on errant bottled drinking water manufacturers, Government have cancelled the ISI quality mark licences of several plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Missing of wheat stock

2994. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH
LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that about 50 lakh tonnes of wheat, valued at Rs. 3200 crores, is missing from the Food Corporation of India godowns in Punjab;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the results of the enquiry, if any, conducted into the missing stocks and the responsibility fixed, if any, and the follow up action thereon; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken for proper upkeep of the inventories and movement of stocks from the FCI godowns to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

Projects in NER

2995. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the on-going projects in the various States of the North Eastern Region as on date, project-wise;
- (b) the details of the funds allocated for each project; and
- (c) the details of the achievements made so far in this respect?

Vacancies in Department of Development of North Eastern Region

2996. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several posts are lying vacant in his Department;
- (b) if so, the vacancy position, post-wise/ category-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to fill up these vacancies?

Assessment of land value on market rates

2997. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which actual land use of a disinvested PSU is worked out;
- (b) whether asset valuation guidelines are not adequate and transparent enough on the issue of land evaluation;
- (c) whether Government propose to assess the value of land separately on prevailing market rates for inclusion in the total value of the assets of the PSU which is disinvested; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Disinvestment proceeds

†2998. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the disinvestment proceeds received during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 and how far it fell short of the target;
- (b) the target of disinvestment set for the financial year 2003-04; and
- (c) the amount spent head-wise and year-wise?

Disinvestment of RITES and IRCON

†2999. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to disinvest the profit earning Public Sector Undertakings viz. RITES Limited and IRCON Limited;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government have taken any action for disinvestment of the said companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Disinvestment of HPCL/BPCL

3000. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the remuneration package of the employees of MNCs, who are bidders for HPCL/BPCL stakes, is much more than that prevailing in the Oil PSUs;

(b) whether the opposition to the HPCL disinvestment proposal by the staff unions is based on considerations other than professional or economic security related; and

(c) whether any effort has been made to ascertain the will of the rank and file of HPCL/BPCL staff, rather than going by the staff union's demands?

Disinvestment of ITDC restaurants

†3001. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give on lease/disinvest the profit earning I.T.D.C. restaurants set up at the airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, their present status and the amount received as a result thereof; and

(c) the estimated loss likely to be suffered by Government?

Disinvestment of Hindustan Vegetables Oil Corporation Ltd.

3002. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has recommended to separate the Breakfast Food Unit of the Hindustan Vegetables Oil Corporation Ltd. to convert

it into a new company and subsequent sale of its 100 per cent holdings;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in its privatisation; and

(c) by when the breakfast unit of HVOC is likely to be disinvested?

Disinvestment of ITDC hotels

†3003. DR. ABRARAHMED: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Government hotels and Public Sector Undertakings which are to be disinvested;

(b) whether Government would adopt the former *modus operandi* or would consider any modifications in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any foreign company or person can also take part in the process of disinvestments public sector undertaking; and

(e) whether Government are aware of the fact that Trade Unions are protesting against the process of disinvestments?

Release of Indian fishermen captured by Sri Lanka

3004. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the frequent attacks on Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Coast Guards and Sri Lankan fishermen and also the damage and capture of their equipments and boats as reported in the press recently;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof as on date;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to get them released and to stop recurrence of such frequent attacks and imprisonment of the Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Coast Guards; and
- (d) the number of the affected Indian fishermen during the last five years?

Evacuation of NRIs from gulf countries

3005. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have initiated any arrangements to evacuate the Non-Resident Indians from Kuwait and other gulf countries in the event of war;
- (b) whether Government consider to depute a study team to Kuwait and UAE to take stock of the safety measures of NRIs;
- (c) how many families belonging to Kerala have since been evacuated from Kuwait after commencement of the war;
- (d) whether Government would arrange to introduce additional flights for their evacuation with Concessional fares;
- (e) whether any foreign Air lines Companies levy exorbitant rates from the evacuated families; and
- (f) if so, whether Government consider to intervene in the matter?

Indo-US agreement for mutual cooperation

3006. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and the US have formally put behind the so called 'sanction

regime' by signing an agreement in Feb. 2003 for greater mutual cooperation in the critical trinity areas of dual use technology, nuclear and space sciences;

- (b) if so, the terms of the agreement;
- (c) the follow up action in pursuance of the agreement; and
- (d) whether similar sanctions imposed on Pakistan have also been lifted by the US; if so, how much of aid has been released to Pakistan thereafter?

Permanent membership of Security Council

3007. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether during the recent NAM Summit at Kuala Lumpur the question of permanent membership of the UN Security Council to India was discussed;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof, indicating the precise case made out by India and the majority response of the NAM Summit; and
- (c) what other steps have been taken by Government for securing permanent membership of the UN Security Council and response of the world powers thereto?

Infiltration by Pakistan

3008. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government agree that there is continuing Pakistan support to infiltration across the Line of Control (LoC);
- (b) if so, whether Government have taken any new steps to curb infiltration;
- (c) if so, details thereof;

(d) what impact infiltration would have on the peace prospects in the country; and

(e) to what extent the infiltration has been curbed?

Misbehaviour with Indians abroad

†3009. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the incidents of misbehaviour with the Indians in various countries during the last two years, separately, including the recent incident in Malaysia; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to check such incidents in other countries?

Misuse of representational grants by diplomats

3010. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the gross misuse of 'representational grants' being given to the Indian diplomats;

(b) if so, how many such cases have been noticed during the last three years and the amount involved and its percentage *vis-a-vis* entire grant; and

(c) whether any accountability has been fixed and the measures taken to avoid recurrence of such cases?

Pakistani support to terrorism

3011. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Third Week of February, 2003, India has briefed

the Secretary General of Commonwealth, about Pakistans' continued support to terrorism;

(b) if so, the steps that Government are taking to keep Pakistan out of Commonwealth; and

(c) the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken to declare Pakistan a terrorist State?

Cancellation of visit of Bill Clinton

3012. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former U.S. President Bill Clinton had to cancel his visit to India scheduled for February this year because of the security concerns raised by the U.S. Secret Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove the impression, generally prevalent in the Western World, about India being a country of serious security risk?

"Visa free travel" for Indonesians

3013. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to permit the citizens of Indonesia holding diplomatic and official passport to have a visa free travel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar facilities in Indonesia would be allowed to the Indian citizens on a reciprocal basis; and

(d) whether such facilities are also being contemplated in respect of the other countries and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**ILL treatment with Indians in
Malaysia**

3014. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT:
SHRI EKANATH K.
THAKUR:
SHRI PARMESHWAR
KUMAR AGARWALLA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. M. SANKARA-
LINGAM:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-
CHARJEE:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently, some
270 Indian I.T. professionals, who are
working in Malaysia for Indian or
Malaysian companies on valid visas, were
arrested, beaten up and their passports and
visas were defaced and other indignities
were inflicted on them by the Malaysian
authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken for safety and self-
respect of the Indian professionals working
in Malaysia; and

(d) the details of the long term steps
contemplated, if any, to review the bilateral
arrangements with Malaysia for cooperation
in various fields?

Indian workers in Gulf Countries

†3015. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN
SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers of Indian
origin who went to the gulf countries till
2000 for various non-technical jobs and
the number of workers out of them who
have returned, so far;

(b) the number of such workers in these
countries who are undergoing punishment
or are being prosecuted as per law of the
land; and

(c) what arrangement would be made to
bring these wretched workers back by
providing them suitable assistance?

**Damage control measures on
Malaysian crisis**

3016. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY: Will the Minister of
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what diplomatic damage control
measures have been taken by Government
in the face of Malaysian crisis involving
harassment of 270 IT professionals from
India by the Malaysian police;

(b) what hindsight Government had
gained over a similar episode involving
detention of Indian IT entrepreneur
(Managing Director of Polaris) in Djakarta
earlier by the Indonesian authorities;

(c) whether the NASSCOM has
strongly taken up the matter with
Government; and

(d) whether the present Malaysian
episode has been found to have links with
the Muslim fundamentalists and ethnic
Chinese who want to keep away Indian
enterprises from Malaysia and other South
East Asian countries?

India's concern on Iraq war

3017. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US President had talked
over telephone to the Prime Minister before
attacking Iraq;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether India had conveyed its concern to the US President in this regard and advised him not to go for war;

(c) if so, what was his reaction;

(d) whether being a non-alignment country, India did not consult other non-aligned nations on this issue; and

(e) if so, the steps India had taken to stop this war?

Visit of Sikh jathas to Gurudwaras in Pakistan

3018. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to send sikh pilgrims (sikh jathas) for darshan/visit to historical Gurudwaras in Pakistan on the occasion of Vaisakhi;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Sikh organisations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Evacuation of Indians from Iraq and Kuwait

3019. DR. T. SUBBARAMI

REDDY:

SHRI MOOLCHAND

MEENA:

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any contingency plan for Indians residing in Iraq, Kuwait and other neighbouring Saudi Arabian countries which were affected due to the war;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of Indians to be evacuated belonging to various States as on date; State-wise;

(c) the number of Indians who have already been evicted from these countries; and

(d) the steps taken, if any, to assist the Indians who are not in a position to meet the travel expenses?

Agreement with Namibia

†3020. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into an agreement with Namibia for boosting economic co-operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Assistance to Afghanistan in framing constitution

†3021. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide assistance in framing the constitution of Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the policy framed in this regard?

Pakistani's link with North Korea

3022. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan's links with North Korea in the matter of nuclear weapons have been established;▼

(b) what steps have been taken by the other countries to see that they do not pose any threat to India's security; and

(c) the details in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Indian fishermen captured by
Pakistan**

3023. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 32 Indian Fishermen with their seven boats were captured by Pakistan Authorities in the month of March, 2003; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to get them released?

**Deportation of Indian criminals from
Dubai**

3024. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have handed over a list of Indian criminals seeking refuge in Emirates in January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of the criminals sought to be deported from Dubai;

(c) whether India has extradition treaty with UAE; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**People stranded on Indo-Bangladesh
border**

3025. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have alerted Bangladesh on the 3rd February, 2003 on a possible humanitarian crisis if it refuses more than 200 people stranded in Zero area along Indo-Bangladesh Border since the 31st January, 2003; and

(b) if so, their reaction thereto?

**Setting up of a crisis management
group on Iraq war**

3026. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a crisis management group to deal with the evolving situation in Iraq specifically its implications for Indian national living in the Gulf;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indians living in Iraq and other Gulf countries have been given protection by various Indian High Commissions in those countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Government's role during Iraq war

†3027. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the role of Government during the US attack on Iraq;

(b) whether it is a fact that the diplomatic atmosphere in New Delhi has been cool inspite of such a big incident; and

(c) Government's future strategy in this regard?

**Pakistani support to Kashmiri
liberation movement**

3028. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan that Kashmir was the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and that Pakistan would continue her support to the cause of liberation movement of the Kashmiri people;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether the Pakistan's position fits in the scheme of India's programme and policy in relation to Kashmir; and
- (d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to resolve the Indo-Pak differences on the Kashmir issue?

Meeting of Crisis Management Group

3029. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have convened the first meeting of the high-power Crisis Management Group taking into account the war in Iraq;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government have evaluated the war scenario and its outcome; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by Government to safeguard the future oil requirements?

All party meeting to discuss US action against Iraq

3030. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an all party meeting was convened on the 22nd March, 2003 in New Delhi to take a unified stand with regard to the unilateral action by U.S.A. in declaring a war against Iraq;
- (b) if so, whether any consensus could be arrived at in the matter and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reason therefor; and
- (d) what were the major areas of difference between Government and the Opposition parties on this issue?

Release of ISI agents by America

†3031. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that America has allowed a number of ISI agent who were apprehended by America, during the course of war in the name of terrorism in Afganistan to go to pakistan by releasing them and thousands of Al-Qaida terrorists have also accompanied them who later scattered in whole Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir; and
- (b) if so, the details of the action Government have taken in this regard?

Dues of DTC on Pakistan

†3032. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Delhi-Lahore bus service, which was launched to improve Indo-Pak bilateral relations, had been terminated after Pak intrusion in Kargil but Pakistan has not made payment of DTC's lakhs of rupees;
- (b) whether it is a fact that DTC, which is passing through financial crunch, has approached his Ministry to recover the said amount; and
- (c) the details of the action Government have taken or propose to take to recover this amount?

Medical facilities to unorganized workers

3033. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any plans to provide medical facilities to the workers in unorganized sector under the Employees State Insurance (ESI); and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details as to how this can be extended to the workers in the unorganized sector?

Bonded child labour

3034. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the bonded child labour in any States and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have framed any national laws to free and rehabilitate the bonded children and to prosecute the employers;

(c) whether Government have initiated any steps to check and eradicate the child labour in textiles and fire work industries;

(d) whether Government have recognised any connection in terms of caste discrimination and bondage; and

(e) whether Government consider to urge the State Governments to enforce child labour and bonded labour laws strictly?

Compulsory Insurance Scheme

3035. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any compulsory insurance scheme and a welfare fund for the Indian workers migrating to Gulf countries;

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

(c) whether there is any Bill relating to this scheme pending before the House?

House building loan/assistance to beedi workers

3036. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision in the new housing policy to provide house building loan to beedi workers from the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the eligibility criteria and the rate of interest on house building loan;

(c) whether Government are running or propose to start any scheme to provide assistance to the beedi workers in house building;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of beedi workers benefited by the scheme, State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of Central Government Industrial Tribunals and Labour Courts

3037. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set-up any new CGIT cum Labour Courts during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases of industrial disputes are pending in the Labour Courts and the Central Government Industrial Tribunals; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government to settle these cases, expeditiously?

Functioning of ITCs in Kerala

3038. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ITCs functioning in Kerala without permanent affiliation to the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT), district-wise;

(b) whether the State Government has sought 100 per cent Central assistance for tools and equipments and for other infrastructure facilities in order to get permanent affiliation from NCVT for the remaining ITCs; and

(c) if so, the details of the assistance Government have provided to these units?

Contract labour legislation

3039. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to amend the contract labour legislation to allow industries to take on labour on a temporary basis on market demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the specific areas wherein the above amendment is applicable and the parameters/conditions proposed, if any;

(c) whether this would result in hiring and firing of labour; and

(d) the reasons for such an amendment?

Unemployed youth

†3040. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under new liberalisation policy educated unemployed youths are not getting employment in various States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the employment being provided to educated unemployed youth in the States specially in Himachal Pradesh under various Schemes?

Unorganised Sector Workers Bill, 2003

3041. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring the Unorganised Sector Workers Bill, 2003;

(b) whether this Bill provides for establishment of separate welfare funds both at Central and State levels;

(c) whether the funds would be managed by a Board of Trustees or by the ESIC; and

(d) whether the sex workers would be covered by this act and if not, the reasons therefor?

Child labour in silk industry

3042. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an N.G.O. namely 'Human Rights Watch' has in a report stated that thousands of children toil hard as virtual slaves in country's silk industry; and

(b) what new steps Government are taking to eliminate the curse of child labour in the country?

Subsidiary corporations under ESIC

3043. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees State Insurance Corporation Review Panel

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

has recommended for setting up of subsidiary corporations in connection with medical reimbursement of employees;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Review Panel;

(c) whether the report has been studied by his Ministry; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken on the above recommendations?

Welfare of the unorganised workers

†3044. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts Government have made for welfare and improving conditions of the labourers of unorganised sector during the last three years;

(b) the amount provided to the State Governments for this purpose during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and Scheme-wise; and

(c) the number of labourers of unorganised sector benefited during the said period?

Unemployment

†3045. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment has been on the increase during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Creation of Employment and Apex Manpower Development Fund

3046. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indians are to be worst hit by the Saudi job quota of introducing a ceiling on the number of expatriates from a country; and

(b) the measures proposed by Government to create an Employment and Apex Manpower Development Fund to rehabilitate those Indians who would be forced to come back?

Amendment in Contract Labour Act, 1970

3047. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act, 1970 in the current session of Parliament;

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

(c) whether adequate provisions have been made in the amendment Bill for labour welfare and retrenchment process and insurance benefits for the workers?

Women workers in night shifts

3048. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to ratify the protocol of 1990 permitting the women work-force to work in the factories during night shifts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure adequate safeguards for occupational safety of the female workers; and

(d) whether Government propose to amend Section 66 of the Factories Act, 1948 for the purpose and if so, by when?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Unemployment during Tenth Plan

†3049. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the employment seeking persons may not be able to get employment by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan period despite achieving 8 per cent annual growth rate in the country;

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

(c) the number of unemployed persons by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan period and the number of those among them who would be added during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

Growth in labour force

3050. SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the International Labour Organizations global employment trends report wherein Indian labour force was projected to grow @ 1.89 per cent annually whereas employment growth is expected to remain minimal; and

(b) if so, what are the long-term strategies proposed to be made to tackle the problem?

Employment targets

3051. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has achieved the employment projected by 2002 as per the Ninth Plan projections;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the States that have higher incidence of unemployment?

Social security for unorganised workers

†3052. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the labour class particularly unorganised sector was promised to be brought within the social security circle in the budget of financial year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have implemented any scheme so far, to fulfil this promise; and

(c) if so, the details thereof together with the amount spent thereon till March, 2003?

Workers engaged in asbestos cement products

3053. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of a recent survey, conducted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which states that asbestos is responsible for death of a lakh of workers annually across the world;

(b) if so, the number of workers at present engaged in manufacturing of asbestos cement products in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for protection of workers at workplace from exposure to asbestos?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Workers' representation on the board of companies

3054. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-
CHARYA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to make workers' representation on the board of companies, mandatory;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when;

(c) whether a law for the purpose would be enacted in the current session of Parliament and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the proposed legislation would cover all the units covered under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Interest rate on EPF

3055. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to cut the rate of interest on EPF;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a cut would adversely affect the employees' future financial security for their families;

(d) if so, whether any alternative has been evolved to compensate the loss ; and

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

Employment rate

3056. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-
CHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rate of employment is steadily on the decline during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, year-wise and major sector-wise since 1998;

(c) whether the reasons for the unemployment have been identified and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to reverse the trend and generate more employment opportunities in the various sectors?

National Commission on Population

3057. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a National Commission on Population;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its terms of reference;

(c) the role of this Commission in controlling the population growth of the country; and

(d) the number of meetings held since the constitution of the said Commission and the details of the decision taken thereon?

Eradication of poverty

3058. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about China's drive to eradicate poverty;

(b) if so, whether Government agree that poverty coupled with population growth are the main obstacles for the development of the country;

(c) whether Government also agree that a credible national strategy for removal of the mass poverty requires a strong commitment to acceleration of the economic growth and expansion of the employment

opportunities in the framework of a sustainable use of natural resources;

(d) if so, whether Government have given serious thought on eradication of poverty; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Special status to Bihar

†3059. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for according special category status to the States;

(b) the States which come in the special category status;

(c) whether Bihar and some other States fulfil the above criteria;

(d) if so, whether Government are going to include these States including Bihar in the Special category State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Employment and poverty alleviation in Tenth Plan

†3060. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the areas requiring the growth rate to be increased with a view to provide employment to one crore of people during the Tenth Five Year Plan and to reducing the number of persons living below the poverty line by one per cent every year;

(b) if so, the details of such areas and to what extent, the annual growth rate of each of these areas are to be increased; and

(c) the growth rates of these areas registered during 2001-02?

Funds for Border Area Development

3061. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds for Border Area Development are sanctioned regularly;

(b) if so, the funds sanctioned during the last five years;

(c) how these funds have been utilised;

(d) whether instances of diversion of funds have come to Government's notice; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Reform in subsidy structure

3062. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reform subsidy structure, if so, the details of the proposed reforms;

(b) the steps taken to control the State deficits, especially in Orissa; and

(c) whether the country is going slow on power reforms, if so, the proposed measures to speed up reforms in this sector?

BPL population

†3063. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified those States where the number of people living below poverty line is found higher than average number of people living below poverty line at national level during the year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the names of such States along with the number of people living below poverty line in each of these State;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have formulated any special development scheme for these States in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation under DRF

3064. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA

RAO:

SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared a special development package for Andhra Pradesh under the Development Reform Facility (DRF);

(b) if so, the amount of DRF fund being allocated to the State since announcement of the package; and

(c) the amount of DRF allocated to other States and the norms prescribed for allotment of DRF funds by the Central Government?

Growth rate in service sector

†3065. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual growth rate in service sector is assessed to be continuously increasing during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and first nine months of 2002-03;

(b) if so, the annual growth rate in service sector in the country during above period, service-wise; and

(c) the additional employment opportunities created in service sector during the above period?

Cut in allocation for plan projects

3066. SHRI JIBON ROY:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the allocations for the plan projects have been slashed for the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the major projects affected by the cut; and

(c) what would be its impact on the economic growth of the country and the projected targets set in the five year plan?

Drunken driving

3067. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH :
Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether over the past decade the number of rash, negligent and drunken driving with instant deaths is comparatively higher between the younger age group of 21-34 years;

(b) whether according to Indian Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 driving with a Blood-Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 30 mg in 100 ml of blood is illegal while in USA and many countries in Europe, the limit is stricter at 8 mg;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to make the law more stricter by imposing severe punishment to offenders?

Electronic registration system for vehicles

3068. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHANAZMI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Motor Vehicles

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rules have been amended on the 31st May, 2002 for implementation of the recommendations of an Apex Committee to introduce electronic registration system on single microprocessor chip smart card;

(b) whether it is a fact that the approved technology by the Apex Committee was a single microprocessor chip for registration certificates, driving licences and permit purposes;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Governments have the authority to override the Central Government's recommendation and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules to introduce Vehicle Registration Certificates of their choice; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Amendment in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules

3069. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Police is prosecuting Euro 2/Bharat 2/CNG vehicles for not carrying PUC Certificate under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the relevant rules were passed in 1980 when Euro 2 vehicles were not there;

(c) if so, the reasons for not amending these rules, so far; and

(d) by when Government propose to amend these rules in this regard?

Four-laning of Delhi-Meerut-Haridwar-Gangotri Highway

†3070. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to develop Delhi-Meerut-Haridwar-Gangotri Highway into four lane road;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Funds to Gujarat under Central Road Fund

3071. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released during the last three years to Gujarat from the Central Road Fund, year-wise;

(b) the details of State Highways and major district roads developed during the said period;

(c) whether utilisation certificates have been received from the State; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Problems affecting implementation of Golden Quadrilateral Project

3072. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are facing problems of acquisition of land, law and order, encroachment, etc. affecting implementation of the Prime Minister's Golden Quadrilateral Road Project;

(b) if so, the details of the problems being faced and the steps being taken to solve the problem; and

(c) whether the project is expected to be completed within the stipulated time?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Condition of roads in Punjab

3073. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that road conditions are deteriorating in Punjab;
- (b) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and whether any repair work has been carried out; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Four-laning of Jalandhar-Wagha Border (via Amritsar) road

3074. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to start and complete the work of four-laning of Jalandhar-Wagha Border (via Amritsar) road on priority basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when, it is likely to be completed; and
- (d) the expenditure to be spent on this?

Accidents on Indian roads

3075. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that international organisations have given India the dubious reputation of being the worst accident affected and accident-prone country in the world;
- (b) whether Government have received such negative recognition internationally;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the steps proposed by Government to remove this negative impression?

Restrictions on trucks carrying loose iron rods

3076. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India has not stopped trucks and vehicles from carrying loose iron rods without proper safety measures;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) what steps would be taken to restrict movement of the dangerous loaded lorries and trucks on the National Highways; and
- (d) by when such restrictions would be imposed?

Grant for National Highways in Karnataka

3077. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal has been submitted by the Public Works Department of Karnataka requesting for allocation of Rs. 35 crores as additional grants under the National Highways Original Works for the year 2002-03;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what is the present stage of consideration of the proposal and by when it would be approved and funds would be released?

Trans Asian Highway Network

3078. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had some time back visualised a major Highway Project—Trans Asian Network linking Thailand, Myanmar, India and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a reference thereto was briefly made by the Prime Minister in the ASEAN meet held last year;

(d) whether any progress has since been made in relation thereto; and

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

Census of SSIs

3079. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a third census of Small Scale Industries has been conducted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the findings thereof?

Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for SSIs

3080. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are finalizing a plan for introduction of Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for SSIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

Reservation policy for SSIs

3081. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not contradictory to carry on with the reservation policy for the SSIs after removal of restrictions on import of a majority of items;

(b) whether such reservation is coming in the way of exports of some of the commodities; and

(c) if so, whether Government are going to review the reservation policy?

Closure of SSIs

3082. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of Small Scale Industries (SSI) units are on the verge of closure due to unprecedented rise in the price of natural rubber;

(b) if so, the reasons for this price rise; and

(c) the remedial steps Government propose to take to prevent closure of SSI units?

Closure of SSIs in Rajasthan

3083. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries lying closed in Rajasthan, during the last 3 years and as on date, district-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of workers rendered unemployed as a result thereof; and

(d) the details of the measures contemplated for providing gainful employment to the jobless youths; and to revive those closed units?

Credit flow to SSIs

3084. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks have declined the request of his Ministry for access by SSI units to a fixed portion of priority sector lending;

(b) whether an alternate suggestion was put forth to the public sector banks atleast to effect an increase of 10 per cent every year in lending to SSI units;

(c) whether credit flow to SSI units as percentage of net bank credit has decreased from 15.6 per cent in 1999 to 11.2 per cent during April-September 2002; and

(d) if so, the proposal mooted by Government to increase the credit flow to SSI sector?

Space science related export-import

†3085. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the space science related export and import;

(b) whether India is also helping some European countries in this sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Health Satellite

3086. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO proposes to send health satellite, if so, the salient features of this project;

(b) whether a doctor sitting hundreds of kilometres away can check patient's heart, ECG reports and how far it would help patients in emergency cases; and

(c) the areas which would be served once the satellite is launched and the future project in this regard?

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles to Singapore

3087. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO proposes to send polar satellite launch vehicles to Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much amount would be paid by Singapore; and

(d) the number of foreign satellites carried by the Indian rockets, so far, and the income made therefrom?

Centrally assisted project in Uttar Pradesh

†3088. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the incomplete centrally assisted projects in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years togetherwith the reasons therefor;

(b) the increase in the estimated cost of each of the incomplete projects;

(c) the additional amount likely to be spent on all these projects during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the effective steps taken so far by Government for completion of all these projects?

Delay in completion of projects

3089. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the delay in projects would cost public exchequer of Rs. 41.000 crores;

(b) the reasons for delay in execution of the projects, sector-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken to reduce the delay and the savings if any, likely to be effected as a result thereof?

New strategy for implementation of projects

3090. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering

to change priorities at the time of funding of on-going projects;

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

(c) whether Government have formulated any new strategy for evaluation of the on-going projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Misappropriation of MPLADS fund

†3091. SHRIMATI PREMA

CARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTIAL VORA:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the funds being provided by Government to Members of Parliament under the MPLAD scheme, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have received any complaints or information regarding misappropriation of the said funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government have taken in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 4th April, 2003
Chaitra 14, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.