

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the May 12, 2005/Vaisakha 22, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions —155

Steps to revamp the Khadi industry

5861. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to
revamp and improve the productivity of
Khadi industry in the light of the export
opportunities of textile product;

(b) if so, the details including the steps
taken to improve productivity, State-wise,
year-wise and category-wise for the last
three years;

(c) if so, the details including the number
of Khadi workers, Khadi Centres, fund
allotted to Khadi, State-wise and category-
wise for the last three years;

(d) if so, whether all the Khadi workers
are given minimum wages;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of ARIs in State/UT

5862. SHRI AJAY SINGH
CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRO
AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to
state:

(a) the targets for setting up Agro and
Rural Industries in each State/UT for the
years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) whether the targets for first three
years of Tenth Plan have been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) in what way Government are going
to achieve the targets in (a) above and the
amount that is likely to be spent for it?

Expenditure on domestic consumption

†5863. SHRI JANESHWAR
MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRO
AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

survey regarding expenditure on domestic consumption issued by Government that one person out of every three does not get stomach full of meal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the income of the people living in rural areas is continuously declining; and

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

Construction of atomic power plants

†5864. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to construct atomic power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States where they are proposed to be constructed; and

(c) if so, by when they would commence functioning?

Production in captive coal mines

†5865. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production in captive coal mines of the country has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when the said production has been started;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a possibility of more coal production than the requirement in these mines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government would allow to use this additional coal production of these mines to help the industries which are facing coal shortage?

New mining project for Orissa

5866. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved new mining projects for Orissa State to meet fuel shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total outlay involved in the project and targeted capacity thereof?

Washery reject coal

†5867. SHRI RAMADHAR
KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is washery rejected coal;

(b) the qualities of coals of different grades;

(c) whether coal of 6800/7000 BTU quality is reject coal or coal of 6800/7000 BTU quality can be made from rejected coal; and

(d) whether it is necessary to obtain permission from Department of Environment before using washery reject coal?

Illegal mining by SECL

†5868. SHRI RAMADHAR
KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that S.E.C.L. is

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

undertaking illegal mining at 1500 hectare land at Chhattisgarh for many years without forest clearance;

(b) whether State Government have written a number of letters to S.E.C.L.; and

(c) whether State Government are being paid 5 per cent of gross profit as penalty due to illegal mining; if so, the amount paid so far to the State Government since 1996?

Coal production

5869. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal production in the country during the last five years, year-wise and mine-wise;

(b) the details of coal imported during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) the details of foreign exchange country is losing due to import of coal;

(d) the reasons for importing large quantities of coal; and

(e) the details of ash content in the coal excavated from the Indian mines and the coal imported?

Supply of coking coal

5870. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are uncertainties in coking coal supplies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps to be taken by Government to remove such uncertainties in future?

Setting up of a subsidiary

5871. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have authorized Coal India Limited to set a subsidiary to take up equity in coal mines abroad;

(b) if so, whether the subsidiary has been set up; and

(c) if so, the details of the dealings done by this subsidiary, if any?

Deaths in collieries

5872. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who died in the coal mines collapse during the last three years, coal mine-wise and year-wise;

(b) the reasons for such mishappenings; and

(c) the details of compensation paid to the family members of the victims?

Policy on exploration and mining of coal

5873. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the existing policy of Government with regard to the exploration and mining of coal;

(b) the details regarding private participation in the coal sector in India, at present;

(c) the production and monetary gain achieved through private participation during the last five years; and

(d) whether Government would continue to support the private participation in the coal sector taking into account its experience in the matter?

Commission for proper control of coal supply

†5874. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a Regulatory Commission in order to exercise proper control on supply of Coal and its quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be set up;

(c) if not, the measures being taken by Government to deal with the issue of exercising of control and disposal of cases in this regard;

(d) whether Government are considering to fix royalty of coal *ad-valorem* as demanded by the States;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Repeal of Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973

5875. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to repeal the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether coal is proposed to be deleted from the Essential Commodities Act to make the trading of coal free; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Contract to Ex-Servicemen for coal transportation

†5876. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Ex-Servicemen who have been awarded contract for coal transportation in SECL and MCL;

(b) the amount of coal transported by them during the last three years;

(c) what percentage does it constitute out of the total road transport;

(d) the details of the complaints received against them; and

(e) the details of the action taken in this regard?

Mining activity at Burnpur Coal Mine

†5877. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining work is not being carried out in Burnpur Coal Mine situated in Ramnagar since March last;

(b) if so, the details of loss being incurred due to this, month-wise;

(c) the reasons for not carrying out the coal mining activity; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to restore the mining work therein at the earliest?

Ash contents in indigenous coal

†5878. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of more ash content in coal available in the country, the Government are contemplating

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to import coal having less ash contents to check pollution;

(b) if so, evaluation of percentage of ash content in coal, available in the country and ash content in the coal proposed to be imported; and

(c) the difference in prices of coal proposed to be imported and coal available in the country?

Allegations made by CAG against BSNL

†5879. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) the allegations made by Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India against BSNL for irregularities etc. and the details thereof;

(b) the officers found responsible for these irregularities; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to see that irregularities are not committed in future?

Expansion of telecommunication network in Tamil Nadu

5880. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works done with regard to the development, expansion and upgradation of telecommunications in the rural and urban areas of Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) whether the progress of telecom related aforesaid works is very slow in the rural areas;

(c) if so, Government's reactions thereto; and

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

Funds allocated for computerisation of post offices

5881. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount that has been allocated for computerization of various post offices in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the amount that has been spent for the above programme during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the number of post offices Government propose to computerize during the year 2005-06, State-wise?

VRS in MTNL/BSNL

5882. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any 'Voluntary Retirement Scheme' proposed for MTNL and BSNL employees; and

(b) if so, the details including the objectives and response by employees of both these organisations?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Export of I.T. products

†5883. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of I.T. products is increasing;

(b) if so, the details of the export of I.T. products from the country during the last three years;

(c) the names of main States producing the I.T. products in the country; and

(d) the value of I.T. products exported from the country during the current year, State-wise?

Setting up of Bio-Informatics Park in Bangalore

5884. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has proposed the setting up of the Bio-Informatics Park in Bangalore; and

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

Justification of A.D.C. on fixed wireless lines

5885. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has released on March 17, 2005, a consultation paper regarding justification of Access Deficit Charges (ADC) on Fixed Wireless Lines and admissibility of ADC for non-BSNL Fixed Line Operators;

(b) if so, whether according to consultation paper, ADC is being reviewed only in the case of non-BSNL fixed line operators;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether private operators are not being given benefits as they also serve millions of telecom subscribers in India; and

(e) whether TRAI would remove this ambiguity and if not, the reasons therefor?

Threat to MTNL staff by Tantrik

5886. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Tantrik in Delhi threatened MTNL staff with black magic when they went to collect a phone bill of about Rs. 40,000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against such persons and steps taken to recover MTNL dues from them?

Affordable internet charges

5887. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the packages his Ministry is planning to boost the broad band usage;

(b) how many non-metro towns would be provided broad band this year; and

(c) whether the internet charges are affordable to common people?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Software exports to USA

5888. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that figures about software exports to USA given by NASSCOM and CII were divergently different as given by US Department of Communications;

(b) whether Government are aware that there was huge gap of around 22000 crores thus making huge statistical blunder in the software industry;

(c) if so, whether Government have ordered any investigation, if so the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the actual figures of export of Indian software to USA during the last three years?

New telephone connections

5889. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of telephone connections in the country has crossed 10 crores in April, 2005;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have set an ambitious target of 15 crores fresh connections during the next three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to bridge the digital divide which is primarily responsible for not achieving the teledensity in villages?

Reduction of internet charges

5890. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL/BSNL offer a combination of telecom services like fixed landline, fixed-wireless, mobile telephones and broadband internet service;

(b) if so, the number of registered customers for each of the above services, circle-wise;

(c) whether private telecom companies offer innovative and latest equipment and services, including cordless/fixed-wireless telephones with add-on services under normal standard package;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to upgrade all existing fixed landline phones to cordless/fixed-wireless telephones and reduce internet charge to meet growing competition in phased manner in metro cities, gradually;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) and if not, the reasons therefor?

Creation of jobs in IT Sector

5891. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the expected number of jobs to be created in the IT sector within the country during the next three years;

(b) whether any study has been done to identify the areas in IT where jobs would be created;

(c) what steps Government are taking to develop and train young people so that

they keep up with the demand of the market; and

(d) whether there is any HRD Department working in his Ministry for the purpose, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Wireless service in U.P. and Bihar

†5892. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to connect all the villages in U.P. and Bihar with wireless services;

(b) if so, the details of the villages which are to be connected under the said project in the absence of regular telecom network, district-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Funds allocated for setting up of telephone exchanges in Bihar

†5893. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated for setting-up electronic/manual telephone exchanges in Bihar during the year 2004-05;

(b) the number of new telephone exchanges set-up, so far during the said period;

(c) whether Government are considering to set-up exchange in Trimuhani Dhar, Darbhanga (Bihar); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Misuse of websites

5894. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have developed any web-enabled application software that can facilitate consumers in identifying the most competitive tariffs given a particular usage profile;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government against misusing website from the security angle?

FDI in communication sector in Tamil Nadu

5895. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Foreign Direct Investment made by the foreign companies in the communication sector, particularly in Tamil Nadu, State-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals approved by Government and the number of proposals pending with Government; and

(c) by when the pending proposals are likely to be approved?

Promotion of wireless technology

5896. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of installing a wireless phone is much higher than the cost of installing wireline phone;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the estimated cost of installing one unit of wireless phone and wireline phone; and

(c) the reasons that wireless technology is not being promoted to address the fixed phones segment in different parts of the country particularly in remote villages?

Promotion of wireless fixed phones in remote areas

5897. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that use of wireless fixed phones in remote areas are cost effective and more convenient as compared to fixed line phones provided by BSNL and MTNL;

(b) whether it is also a fact that installation of fixed line phones require a lot of infrastructure for laying of cables which is very expensive and time consuming; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to promote the use of wireless fixed phones in remote areas and villages as they come cheaper than fixed line phones?

Improvement of BSNL telephone facility in Ahmedabad

5898. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL is not providing satisfactory services in many areas of Ahmedabad and its surrounding areas;

(b) if so, the details of areas not covered by BSNL in and around Ahmedabad and reasons for the same;

(c) whether the prime areas of Ahmedabad are not having mobile connectivity of BSNL due to limited availability of towers; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the telephone facility by BSNL in and around Ahmedabad?

Internet services of BSNL/MTNL

5899. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether broadband internet services have been launched by BSNL and MTNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response received from the public for the schemes?

Illegal telephone exchanges in Kerala

5900. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal telephone exchanges have been detected in Kerala and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether involvement of any private telecom companies suspected in the racket and if so, the extent thereof;

(c) whether any provisions existing to deal with the offences of illegal teleconferencing and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government are considering to introduce specific guidelines to prohibit the illegal conferencing?

Telephone services in Uttaranchal

5901. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the basic, WLL and MARR phones provided by BSNL in villages of Uttaranchal are marred by frequent malfunctioning of the network and weak signals;

(b) whether Government are also aware that WLL and MARR customers in villages near Kausani particularly Kalufaya, Lakhni have complained about it with BSNL officers but instead of taking corrective steps they were asked to buy patch antennas (signal boosters); and

(c) the action Government would take against negligent officers and the steps taken by BSNL to improve signal coverage and to provide patch antennas to the poor customers free of cost?

I.T. in rural areas

5902. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made by his Ministry to take I.T. to the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Telephones surrendered in Delhi and Mumbai

5903. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of MTNL subscribers in Delhi and Mumbai have surrendered their telephone connections due to higher rent and poor services;

(b) the details of the number of old and newly enrolled MTNL subscribers in Delhi and Mumbai during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the efforts taken by Government to compete with the private telephone operators and to provide better services to the customers by the MTNL?

Fixed phone segment in remote villages

5904. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether the cost of installing a wireless phone is much higher than the cost of installing wireline phone;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of installing one unit of wireless phone and wireline phone; and

(c) the reasons that wireless technology is not being promoted to address the fixed phones segment in different parts of the country particularly in remote villages?

Setting up of an agency to monitor complaints in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

†5905. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the complaints regarding faulty telephone services are increasing constantly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a independent agency for monitoring the increasing number of complaints; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of WLL and mobile services in U.P.

†5906. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landline, WLL and mobile telephones installed in the districts of Azamgarh, Mau, Sultanpur, Akbarpur and Jaunpur during the last three years and the district-wise details thereof in comparison with the national-average;

(b) whether it is a fact that the telephones installed in the rural areas of the above-said districts often remain dead and complaints are attended late and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are promoting WLL and mobile as rural telephones specially in the above districts; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to bring their rental at par with the fixed line phones?

Number of cell and telephone connections

†5907. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections provided throughout the country from April 2004 to till date;

(b) the number of mobile phones out of this;

(c) the number of telephone connections provided in rural areas during the said period; and

(d) the names of companies which contributed most?

Red Alert Notice by Interpol

5908. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Red Alert Notice by Interpol and International Warrants have been issued by German authorities against Indians for alleged fraud committed by Indians in Germany;

(b) whether Government has received any request/warrants from German authorities for extradition of many businessmen in India; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to execute such warrants?

Dilapidated condition of Gurdwaras in Pakistan

5909. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have brought

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to the notice of President of Pakistan during his recent visit to this country the dilapidated condition of some Sikh historical Gurdwaras in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Release of Pak fishermen and
vice-versa**

†5910. DR. NARAYAN SINGH
MANAKLAO:

SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani fishermen released by India from the years 2004 to April 2005;

(b) the number of Indian fishermen released by Pakistan Government from May 2004 to April 2005;

(c) whether India has returned the boats of Pakistani fishermen to them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Common vision of India, China and
Russia**

5911. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, China and Russia has decided a common vision about whole gamut of issues concerning Asia;

(b) if so, whether External Affairs Ministers of these countries are meeting together not as a bloc but main objective is to see how these countries ensure peace and stability and if so, what steps should be taken to tackle problems like terrorism;

(c) if so, whether all three countries have

formed a joint action plan to meet the situation and help common vision for all;

(d) if so, whether any action plan has been prepared; and

(e) if so, the details of same and to what extent it has been welcomed by all?

**Indian response to recent
development in Nepal**

5912. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the response of Government regarding recent developments in Nepal and his talks with king of Nepal?

Indo-Pak Summit talks

†5913. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent Indo-Pak Summit the possibilities of the talks with regard to Constitution of Joint Trade Council, rail links between the two countries, international border, Baghlihar hydro power projects in the right direction have increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the issues regarding which the outcome are positive?

Coal power project near Colombo

†5914. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and China have made bids for construction and implementation of mega coal power project near Colombo in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, whether the Government of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sri Lanka have contemplated on the bids made by both the countries; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and if not, by when decision on the same is likely to be taken?

Issues discussed in Asian-African Summit

†5915. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of persons on the part of Indian delegation participated in the Asian-African Summit, held, recently and the issues insisted upon;

(b) whether India had held any multilateral or bilateral talks during this Summit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any dialogue had been held or progress made concerning SAARC, NAM, developments in Nepal and permanent seat in the UN Security Council; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Visits of Indian and foreign Prime Ministers

5916. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign Prime Ministers and Presidents visited India during the last three months;

(b) the details of countries visited by Indian Prime Minister and President during the above period;

(c) what agreement and treaties were signed during the above visit; and

(d) to what extent these are likely to help India on international levels?

Transit business facility to Bangladesh

5917. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the Bangladesh Government to introduce transit business from north eastern regions to other parts of the country across Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the response thereto from Bangladesh; and

(c) the position of India in this respect?

Prisoners held in Pakistan

5918. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any consulate which is specifically earmarked to maintain contact with Indian fishermen and workers held in Pakistan;

(b) how many such Indians are being held in Karachi by Pakistan;

(c) whether Government and our Embassy is frequently updating and collecting data of such Indians held in Pakistan in Karachi;

(d) whether any effort would be made to approach the Pakistani Government to permit visits by relatives and others from India; and

(e) the steps proposed to discuss the humanitarian aspects of the Indians being held in Pakistan and ensure immediate consular access to them?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Consular access to Indian fishermen

5919. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian fishermen and others held in Pakistan are not given consular access for years together;

(b) if so, the details of the usual rules or conventions in operation with regard to consular access to Indians held in Pakistan;

(c) what steps are proposed to be discussed with Pakistan to ensure the need for immediate consular access to Indians; and

(d) the reasons for not taking up this issue?

Restoration of constitutional monarchy in Nepal

5920. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the King of Nepal has since indicated his willingness to call off emergency and restore constitutional monarchy and a democratic Government in Nepal and sent any special emissary or delegation to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction and response thereto?

Pendency of passport applications

5921. SHRIMATI PREMA

CARIAPPA:

SHRI R.K. ANAND:

SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge

applications for issuance of passports are piling up in various Regional Passport offices;

(b) if so, the details of backlog-applications received, number of passports issues and the pendency in Regional Passport offices during the year 2004, office-wise; and

(c) the reasons for inordinate delay in issuance of passports and Government strategy to clear the backlog?

Closer of Indian business in Nepal

5922. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 40 Indian companies have closed down their business in Nepal in the wake of Maoist violence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interest of Indian companies?

Extradition Treaty with Nepal

5923. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have held discussions with the Nepal Government for an extradition treaty in view of the increasing violence on Indo-Nepal border by Maoists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Nepal Government in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that several Indian businessmen have lost their shops and factories in Nepal due to violent activities of Maoists; and

(e) if so, the steps/action taken by Government to compensate these businessmen or get some compensation from the Nepal Government?

Death penalty to Indians in Gulf countries

†5924. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the incidents of awarding death penalty to the Indian citizens in foreign countries;

(b) whether Government have had talks with the Governments of those countries to condone capital punishment of such citizens; and

(c) the number of Indians who have so far been awarded death penalty of Gulf countries during the last five years?

Restart of closed industrial units

5925. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of industrial units closed in the country as on 31st March, 2005, State-wise;

(b) the total number of workers rendered unemployed on this account, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to start the closed industrial units for the welfare of unemployed workers?

Quality of employment

5926. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the quality of employment in the country has deteriorated, particularly during the 1990s;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a huge mismatch between expectations and job opportunities for the educated lot; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the quality of employment?

Unclaimed amount of Provident Fund

5927. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the unclaimed Provident Fund amounts lying in the account of EPF Organisation, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have found out the reasons for unclaiming of Provident Fund amount by the workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken/proposed to be taken;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any method is being devised so as to enable the workers to get their hard earned money immediately on changing their jobs; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Maternity benefits to working women

†5928. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to extend maternity benefits to the poor working women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Upgradation of ESI Hospitals in Karnataka

5929. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ESI Hospitals in Karnataka have been upgraded during 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(b) the amount spent during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 in this regard, hospital-wise?

Safety of Employees Provident Fund

5930. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to permit non-State or private provident funds to invest upto 5 per cent of their incremental funds in equity and 10 per cent in equity linked mutual funds;

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

(c) in what manner Government propose to ensure that hard earned savings of employees remain risk free?

Recommendations of working group on minimum wages

5931. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a large number of recommendations from the working group on minimum wages;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the working group; and

(c) whether Government are aware that minimum wages recommended by the working group are not being paid by the State Governments and if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

Revival of Dunlop India Limited

5932. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any committee to examine the issues relating to the revival of Dunlop India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committee met recently to examine the issue;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the outcome thereon?

Target for jobs and employment

5933. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the target for creation of employment and jobs in the country during the last one year, till date;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) whether it has been achieved;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the targets fixed for jobs and employment for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07; and
- (f) in what manner the targets are likely to be achieved?

Dispensaries for construction workers

5934. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal to set up separate mobile dispensaries for construction workers and or to assist the State Governments in providing the facility;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Amendment in Industrial Disputes Act

5935. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) in how many cases industrial/units, employing more than one thousand workers, were closed by the employers without settling wage and other dues of their employees during the year 2004;
- (b) whether the recent judgment of the Supreme Court making it mandatory for obtaining prior permission of the appropriate Government before closure of an industrial undertaking would be made part of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947;
- (c) if so, whether this ID Act, 1947, which is nearly five decades old, requires

extensive amendments or is required to be substituted by a fresh ID Act; and

- (d) if so, by when this is likely to happen?

Employment for women

†5936. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the possibility of getting employment for the women in various sectors has increased following the provision of allowing them to work in the night shift;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Advantage to garment sector

5937. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering relaxation of labour laws to provide a flexi-labour advantage to the garment sector;
- (b) whether this move is to provide Indian garment exporters a competitive edge over China in the matter of economics of scale; and
- (c) whether the workers' unions would be taken into confidence before such relaxations are made effective?

Social security scheme

†5938. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to prepare a new social security scheme for the labourers;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Conversion of sea water into potable water

†5939. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for making salty water of sea potable;

(b) if so, the number of such schemes and whether work on these schemes has started;

(c) the target fixed for completion of such schemes; and

(d) the cost to be incurred on one litre of water in the process for making salty water potable?

Harnessing sea waves to produce electricity

5940. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any initiatives to harness sea waves to produce electricity;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereon;

(c) whether any such projects are likely to be set up in Tamil Nadu under Central assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Tsunamis hitting Indian Ocean

5941. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tsunamis which hit the Indian Ocean till date; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to save coast of the country from an impending Tsunami?

Arrest by CBI

5942. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CBI has recently arrested for allegedly passing on sensitive information about Indian forces in Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan ISI and terrorists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these persons are having any link with the officials of Indian forces; and

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

Recommendations on civil service reforms

5943. DR. BIMAL JALAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to refer the recommendations on civil service reforms submitted by various Commissions and Committees to the new Administrative Reforms Commission proposed to be set up;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the time period over which recommendations of previous Committees and Commissions on civil service reforms have been pending with Government; and

(c) whether Government are considering prescribing a time-limit for the work of the new Commission and implementing its recommendations?

Autonomy of CBI

5944. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the autonomy of the country's premier investigating agency CBI is a myth;

(b) whether it is a fact that the investigating agency at times comes under political pressure and pulls from important quarters; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to keep its autonomy intact?

Compassionate appointment

†5945. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of families benefited so far after the implementation of the provision regarding five per cent appointments in Government services to the dependents of deceased Government employees on compassionate ground in view of the ban on Government jobs; and

(b) whether Government are considering to appoint within a stipulated time all such applicants in waiting list keeping in view their large number?

Losses due to holidays

5946. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that declaring national holidays at the eleventh hour cause chaos and confusion all around leading to unnecessary and wasteful Government expenditure;

(b) if so, whether Government would have a re-look on this issue and reduce Government holidays to the minimum possible extent by declaring a few national holidays compulsory and others as optional for the employees so that Government offices remain functional on optional holidays, in interest of the public; and

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

Status of Lokpal Bill

†5947. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Lokpal and Right to Information Bills;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are not serious to get these Bills passed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) if not, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the Bills pending with Government which could not be passed and those which could not become law even after passage?

Disposal of cases filed by CBI

5948. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases disposed off

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

by the courts filed by the CBI, during the year 2003-04;

(b) the number of cases that ended in conviction and acquittal, separately; and

(c) the number of cases in which the sentence of one month jail and fine also imposed?

Amendment to the CVC Act

5949. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to amend the CVC Act to remove the 'single directive' clause to give more powers to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the amendment is likely to be brought about?

Pay scale of Assistants

5950. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assistants of the Central Secretariat Service and the Inspectors of Income-Tax, Central Excise/Customs are classified as Class B and C respectively of the Central Civil Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the basic pay-scale of Inspectors of Income-Tax, Central Excise/Customs, belonging to Group C is Rs. 6500/- and that of the Assistants of the Central Secretariat Service, belonging to Group B, is fixed at a lower basic pay-scale of Rs. 5500/-;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government are considering to remove this anomaly; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Objectives of Tribunals

5951. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what were the objectives and purposes of setting up of Central Administrative Tribunals;

(b) the details of tribunals set up in various parts of the country, with details of the cases filed and decided in each of the tribunal and budgetary allocation for each of them during the last five years, year-wise and tribunal-wise;

(c) whether Government are considering to revamp or wind up the tribunals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Decision on recommendations on civil service reforms

5952. DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations on civil service reforms submitted by various Commissions and Committees which are already with the Government and are likely to be referred to the Administrative Reforms Commission proposed to be set up for its review and recommendations; and

(b) the time-frame within which Government are likely to take decision on the pending recommendations on civil service reforms?

Weeding out of inefficient public servants

5953. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to weed out inefficient civil servants and make the service more accountable;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to reduce the age of their entry in service; and

(c) the details of other reforms that are proposed to be introduced to gear up the service to make it more public-friendly?

Amendments in Prevention of Corruption Act and Criminal Procedure Code

5954. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amendments are being proposed in the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Criminal Procedure Code keeping in view to making it more difficult for launching corruption proceedings against senior officers of Government of India or PSUs;

(b) if so, whether these amendments would not result in long delays for the agencies like CBI to effectively launch prosecution proceedings against those senior officers who are *prima-facie* involved in acts of corruption; and

(c) how many corruption cases launched against Government servants during the last three years have resulted in conviction and what is the general percentage of conviction in such cases?

Jobs for youth in the country

5955. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are creating enough jobs for the youth of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the self-employed, small entrepreneur can survive globalisation?

Annual growth rate of country

†5956. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual growth rate of the country has been at 6.7 per cent during April-December, 2004;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the wholesale price index in the country has been assessed at 6.8 per cent;

(d) if not, the facts thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction with regard to the development of the country on the losses of the above facts?

Self-employment opportunities for girls

5957. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a policy to combat unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not generating more self-employment opportunities for educated girls;

(d) the number of girls sanctioned loans, etc. to create their own source of income; and

(e) the details of facilities, services, etc. available for girls to generate their own source of income?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Backward districts in the country

5958. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the districts that have been declared as backward, State-wise;

(b) the criteria on which this has been done;

(c) when this was last revised; and

(d) the benefits provided to backward districts by Government?

Plan assistance to Uttaranchal

5959. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Central plan assistance made available to Uttaranchal;

(b) whether Government propose to link the assistance with the implementation of court orders so that rule of law prevails in the State;

(c) whether Government are aware of the total anarchy in Uttaranchal where clear cut court orders are not followed due to vested interests as in the case of Allahabad High Court order on writ petition No. 2757 of 1995; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to stop the Plan assistance so as to force the States to comply with court orders?

Reduction of poverty level

5960. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for reduction of poverty level;

(b) if so, the target fixed during the Ninth Five Year Plan period and the actual target achieved;

(c) the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the specific steps being taken by Government in this direction?

Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage route

†5961. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage route passing through Uttaranchal has been stated to be most sensitive from geological point of view in the survey carried out by National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad in the light of signal received through remote sensing satellite;

(b) whether it is also a fact that around 152 villages of Pithoragarh district are in seismologically vulnerable zone; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Patenting of Baingan

5962. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an American firm has laid claim to patenting Baingan as a Hi Bush Eggplant by American firm by hybridizing it with Indian crop;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the question of challenging this; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pay revision of employees of Survey of India

5963. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee set up for the pay revision of the employees of Survey of India have submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the report and have solicited views of Ministries of Personnel and Finance on it;

(d) if so, by when the recommendations would be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay in its implementation?

Cloning of Cheetah

5964. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre of Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad has been asked to go ahead with the cloning of Indian Cheetah;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for opting for cloning; and

(c) by when the project is expected to be completed?

Stem Cell research

5965. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Britain is looking at India for conducting research on Stem Cells;

(b) the progress of Stem Cells research in India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Prime Ministers of India and UK have signed a declaration that both the countries should focus on Stem Cell research; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Concept of bio-technology in agriculture

5966. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the new concept of bio-technology in the field of agriculture and the role of Science and Technology Department in this regard;

(b) whether genetically modified crops by using bio-technology method would hamper the traditional agricultural system;

(c) if so, whether any assessment in this regard has been made by the Department;

(d) whether soil quality would also be changed due to use of genetically modified seeds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Funds for Buffalo Genome Project

5967. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the decision Government have already taken or propose to take with regard to sanctioning expeditiously a matching assistance of Rs.2.30 crores to CCMB, Hyderabad for its most important and a very crucial Buffalo Genome Project, for fast development of dairy industry in the country, which is pending for clearance, since a long time;

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

Food and drug testing laboratories

5968. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food and drug testing laboratories in the country are to be upgraded in view of the pesticide residues found in various food items in the country;

(b) whether Government are likely to set up 44 high tech laboratories to upgrade the existing laboratories at the cost of Rs.350 crores; and

(c) if so, by when the high tech laboratories would be set up?

Potential earthquake in Southern peninsula

5969. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the new threat of seismological disturbances in the Southern peninsula, particularly Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government have assessed the reasons for this new phenomenon and the potential earthquake/tremor in the region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Four laning of NH-44

5970. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Tripura have sent a proposal for Four-laning of the NH-44 from Silchar to Agartala and from Agartala to Sabroom;

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

(c) the amount estimated for the work?

Express highway between Hyderabad and Vijayawada

5971. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of construction of four lane express highway between Hyderabad and Vijayawada;

(b) the time-frame fixed for completion of this National Highway;

(c) the time and cost overruns, if any, that have taken place in the construction of the expressway;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the latest target date fixed for completion of four laning of National Highway?

Road proposals of States

†5972. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States whose proposals regarding strengthening and widening of National Highways are pending with Government;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have chalked out any scheme in this regard;

(c) if so, the roadmap and time-frame thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Foreign collaboration in shipbuilding sector

5973. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to allow foreign collaboration either as direct investment or as a Government-to-Government venture in Indian Shipbuilding sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are engaged in evolving a comprehensive maritime policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Conversion of single lane highways into two lane roads

5974. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to convert 21,000 kms. of single lane on international highways into two lane roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are yet to approve the National Highway Development Project Phase III; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay thereon?

National Sea Waterway

5975. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a National Sea Waterway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to deepen the existing ports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial implication for the whole project?

Road from Jammu to Rajouri

5976. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the road from Jammu to Rajouri to Poonch is in progress;

(b) how much amount has been spent for this project; and

(c) the date of completion of this project?

Increase in vehicle on the roads

†5977. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 1.26 times increase in the length of roads of the country during 2000-04 has been assessed;

(b) if not, the fact in this regard;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the plying of vehicles on roads has been increased by 14 times during the said period;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard;

(e) whether the crisis in the field of transportation due to the above facts has been assessed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Funds for new roads

5978. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether golden quadrilateral project linking four metros and other major cities across 13 States at a cost of Rs.34,300 crore would be delayed by a year;

(b) whether Ministry has pointed out that quantum of funds for building new roads and maintaining existing roads in the country was not sufficient with Government;

(c) if so, whether Government would increase allotment of budget for rural development and national highways during 2005-06; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to develop roads and highways in the country?

Efficiency of ports

†5979. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that during the year 2004-05 the efficiency of several ports in the country has lowered;

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

(c) the names of ports where there has been fall in efficiency and to what extent the goods loading capacity has decreased at these ports and the reasons therefor?

Consumption of more fuel due to poor roads

5980. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that excess diesel is being consumed by trucks passing through Bihar because of damaged National highways;

(b) if so, details of the damaged highways; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to relay the damaged highways and by which time the highways would be relaid?

North-South and East-West highway corridor

5981. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to rework the North-South and East-West National highway corridors;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan;

(c) would this not add to further delay in execution of the projects;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the action plan of Government to minimize such delays; and

(e) the status of completion of National Highways in Orissa?

Sea Corridor in Mumbai

5982. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for a 22 K.M. Sea Corridor in Mumbai, the Western Free Sea Link from Bandra to Worli to Nariman Point and Cuffe Parade and a harbour link to connect Mumbai with Navi Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) Government's response and decision thereon?

Rice Port in Andhra Pradesh

5983. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals in the last ten years to set up a dedicated Rice Port in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the demand for a Rice Port;

(c) the reasons for Government neglecting this innovative suggestion to help exports;

(d) the steps that would be taken to identify the correct place for such a Rice Port; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard?

Plans of Inland Waterways Corporation

5984. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inland Waterways Corporation has any plans to encourage the use of barges on the canal system of the River Godavari in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) to what extent has the Inland Waterways Authority of India studied the possibility of using barges on the canal network in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether there are any proposals to construct any wharves to encourage use of the canal network; and

(d) if so, the places where the Inland Waterways Authority has suggested such wharves on the canal network in Andhra Pradesh?

Cost of expressway under construction

5985. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highway Authority of India has sought permission to increase the project cost of expressways under construction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total increase and cost in each expressways?

Linking of North-South and East-West

5986. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the plan of the Ministry to link North-South and East-West, State-wise;

(b) whether the project is under process;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increasing of berth hire charges

5987. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kandla Port Trust has approached Tariff Authority for major ports to increase *inter-alia* berth hire charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the final decision taken in this regard?

Phases of NHDP

5988. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the phases of National Highway Development Projects completed so far and the achievements made as result of the projects, State-wise;

(b) whether any new phases of NHDP are proposed to be implemented in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including its features, cost, State-specific targets and time-frame?

Moradabad-Ramnagar-Pouri-Tehri Highway

5989. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Moradabad-Ramnagar-Pouri-Tehri State Highway has been declared the National Highway by previous Government;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether the work relating to widening and improvement of road has been started to bring its standards at par with other National Highways of the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the work would be started?

Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana

†5990. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the State capitals and major cities across the length and breadth of the country are proposed to be connected by means of the golden quadrilateral scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal or scheme to connect Gaya and Patna from the Dobhi point on the golden quadrilateral path passing through the State of Bihar?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reduction of administrative charges

5991. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shipping lines and importers operating through Mumbai and Jawaharlal Nehru ports are on a collision course over the issue of reduction of administrative charges for issuing delivery orders;

(b) if so, the cause of the contention;

(c) whether Government have since resolved this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Upgradation of sea ports

5992. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no world class sea port in the country;

(b) whether Jawaharlal Nehru Port at Mumbai or port at Chennai does not stand anywhere with facilities available at Hong Kong or Singapore;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to improve sea port at Mumbai and Chennai to world class standard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Roads under BOT basis in Kerala

5993. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

undertake the construction and development of roads if any, in Kerala under BOT basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent and the details of national highways which require the financial assistance for the conversion of four lanes in Kerala;

(d) whether Government of Kerala submitted any project seeking sanctions for the construction of hill highways from Palghat to Thiruvananthapuram;

(e) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon; and

(f) whether any cities in Kerala has been included in the proposed ring road project?

Insufficient carriage capacity of ongoing Highways

5994. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many instances, residential and commercial colonies have come up on the banks of inter-State highways, rendering them unsuitable for high-speed transport on large stretches;

(b) whether it is a fact that the carriage capacity of ongoing projects in highway road infrastructure is grossly insufficient to meet the demands of increased traffic in the coming years;

(c) the details of any analysis done in this respect; and

(d) the steps that are being mulled by Government to provide sufficient road infrastructure nation-wide, which would be suitable for high-speed traffic even after a few decades?

Trauma centres on NH-5

5995. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the NHAI to actively encourage the establishment of Trauma centres along highways;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the NHAI; and

(c) the number and details of such Trauma centres set up by NHAI on NH-5?

Widening of roads in Tamil Nadu

5996. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total extent of roads planned to be made double laned in Tamil Nadu by his Ministry;

(b) the names thereof; and

(c) the roads which are planned to be four laned in Tamil Nadu?

Road construction by private sector

†5997. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to handover the whole work of road construction to private sector in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Expansion of Chennai port

5998. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the container traffic in Chennai port is expected to reach one million TEUs by 2010-11 and cross two million TEUs by 2020;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to meet the expansion of Chennai port;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the increasing port activities at Chennai port demanded expansion of common container terminal; and

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

Bridge on Mumbai-Bangalore highway

5999. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bridge which is under construction on a stream of Kasegaon Village in Sangli district on Mumbai-Bangalore National Highway, which was part of the Golden Quadrilateral Project lately collapsed;

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused and casualties, if any, involved therein; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

Collapsing of SSI units

6000. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industrial

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

units existing in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, State-wise lists;

(b) the number of SSI units dying out in each of these three years;

(c) the reasons when the SSI units get collapsed like this; and

(d) whether Government have assessed the extent of effect that the liberalization policy has mounted on the existence of SSI units in the last three years?

Role of SISIs

6001. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Small-Scale Industries Service Institutes in the country;

(b) the role SISIs and Regional Testing Centres play in the promotion and development of small-scale sector;

(c) the sort of marketing assistance/help the above institutes provide to small-scale sector in the country; and

(d) in what manner the Regional Testing Centres educate the small entrepreneurs to make their goods in conformity with international standards?

National Commission on Enterprises

†6002. DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted the National Commission

on Enterprises in unorganized sector under the chairmanship of Arjun Sengupta;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a proposal containing the scheme for providing the employment for 200 days in a year to the urban labourers also was under consideration of the Committee;

(c) if so, whether Government have worked out any concrete scheme in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

SSIs registered in the country

†6003. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of registered small scale industries in the country is only 2.26 million;

(b) if not, the numbers thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 9.15 million units of small scale industries of the country are not registered;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) whether Government would take action to make the process of registration easy so that all the units get themselves registered easily?

Credit flow to SSIs

6004. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of clusters developed in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the country for improving the credit flow to SSI in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of Public Sector Banks to which the details of clusters for credit flow has been forwarded; and

(c) in what manner the Ministry is co-ordinating with the State Governments to implement this scheme in their respective States?

Empowering women through TREAD

6005. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has started a scheme called TREAD to empower women economically through the development of their entrepreneurial skills;

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

(c) the number of women entrepreneurs assisted through this scheme since its inception, State-wise?

Recommendation of Govindarajan Committee

6006. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the recommendations of the Govindarajan Committee relating to project formulation, appraisal and implementation for central projects been adopted by Government;

(b) the measures adopted by Government to remove the procedural constraints in project formulation, appraisal and implementation;

(c) the number of projects that have

been frozen during the last two years after incurring certain expenditure for preparation of the project reports and preliminary works;

(d) the number of projects that have been taken out of the monitoring system as these have been shelved, privatised or alternative solutions have been found;

(e) the names of those projects; and

(f) the details of the alternatives that have been found?

Modernisation of statistical system

6007. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to modernise the statistical system with World Bank support;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the statistical details presently recorded do not reflect the actual position with regard to production and consumption; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve the data base?

Number of ongoing projects

†6008. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether Government have continued the construction work of several projects during 2004-05;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the numbers of those projects separately out of these projects which were started ten years, five years, three years, two years back and in the year 2004-05;

(c) whether it is a fact that the construction of these projects is being delayed; and

(d) to what extent the construction costs of these projects have increased upto March, 2005 due to the delay?

Ongoing projects of Ministries

†6009. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the projects having construction cost of Rs. 100 crores or more are under construction in the public sector in the country;

(b) the names of Ministries to which these projects are related;

(c) out of them the names of projects which are lagging behind their schedule time; and

(d) to what extent the construction cost of each project has been increased due to this delay?

Funds allocated for the construction of sports complex in Ahmedabad

†6010. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

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

(a) whether Government propose to

provide any grant for the Sports Complex under construction in Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the extent thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Expansion of Rajiv Gandhi National Institute in Tamil Nadu

6011. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government to strengthen the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the present fields of activities and the facilities available in the institute and the proposed areas of expansion of the activities of the institute?

Poor performance of Indian cricket team

6012. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to order any inquiry to find out the reasons for the poor show of Indian cricket team against Pakistan during recently concluded test matches; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Development of Hockey

6013. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study on the reasons for decline of Hockey

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the funds allocated during the last Five years for the development of Hockey, State-wise, year-wise;

(c) whether any special projects have been planned for the areas where Hockey is traditionally popular; and

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

Funds allocated for development of sports

†6014. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any effective scheme to give boost to sports in the country;

(b) the funds allocated for the development of Sports during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, State-wise; and

(c) the names of sports projects completed with the help of funds provided to States during the said period?

Bringing Sports in the concurrent list

6015. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to put sports in the concurrent list;

(b) if so, whether all the State Governments have been consulted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 6th May, 2005
Vaisakha 16, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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