

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the December 12, 2002/Agrahayana 21, 1924 (Saka)

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution; External Affairs; Labour;
Parliamentary Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and
Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways;
Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and
Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—155

Production of Khadi in Andhra Pradesh

2204. DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND
RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Khadi in Andhra
Pradesh during the last three years,
year-wise;

(b) how it compares with other Khadi
producing States; and

(c) what steps KVIC has taken to ensure
quality control and marketing development
of Khadi in the State?

Setting up ARIs in rural/tribal areas

2205. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will
the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to
set up Agro and Rural Industries to process
the food in the Rural and Tribal regions;

(b) if so, the details for the next five
years, State-wise, area-wise and product-
wise; and

(c) the amount Government have already
spent to encourage Agro and Rural
Industries in the remote hinterland of the
country in order to save the food (vegetables
and fruits) getting rotten?

Beneficiaries of PMRY

†2206. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will
the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the beneficiaries of
PMRY, so far, State-wise, district-wise and
category-wise since its inception;

(b) whether Government have included
this scheme in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details of the target fixed in
this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Radioactive monitoring stations	Nuclear radiation threat
2207. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) the number of radioactive monitoring stations to check radioactive levels set up in the country; (b) whether air samples are collected regularly and analysed to check environmental pollution from radioactive substances; and (c) the agencies monitoring the radiation levels?	2210. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) whether any Central unit has been constituted that would act in time of nuclear radiation threat in the country; (b) if so, the details thereof; and (c) whether its role has clearly been studied and defined at the time of crisis such as nuclear radiation threat?
Power generation from Thorium	Exemption of BARC reactors from AERB's inspection
2208. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) whether India has abundant quantity of Thorium for nuclear power generation; and (b) if so, the action proposed for more nuclear power generation to meet power crisis?	2211. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that reactors of the Bombay Atomic Research Centre (BARC) are exempted from the purview of AERB; (b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and (c) who can check the BARC reactors?
Technology and fuel for nuclear power generation	Allotment of STD/ISD/PCO to physically handicapped in Tamil Nadu
†2209. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that some of the countries have refused to supply atomic technology and atomic fuel in lieu of atomic energy and India has to rely upon the old fuel; and (b) if so, the names of such countries alongwith the reasons for their refusal?	2212. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: (a) the number of applications pending with Government for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO's under physically handicapped category at different places/towns in Tamil Nadu and since when such applications are pending; (b) what are the norms for opening of STD/ISD/PCO's under this category; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of STD/ISD/PCO's cleared and allotted in the State during the last three years, district-wise?

Special software programme for the handicapped

2213. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special software programme has been developed for deaf, dumb and visually disabled persons in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the centres where such programmes are being run for the disabled persons; and

(d) the additional centres proposed to be opened during the next three years in different parts of the country to give equal participation to disabled people in all areas of life?

Shifting of telephones

2214. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons are waiting for shifting of their telephones from C type to New D type quarters, in Panipat Refineries Township since May, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the distance between the above two type of quarters is hardly 400 mtrs.;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for undue delay in shifting despite the matter having been taken up with the General Manager, Panipat;

(e) by when the shifting would be done; and

(f) what action Government would take against those responsible for unnecessary delay?

Disrupted STD lines in Manipur

2215. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether STD lines in Manipur have been paralysed and the State is cut off from the rest of the country;

(b) whether the said situation has arisen on account of removal of a vital part from the micro wave station at Maibom Lokchao by an insurgent outfit;

(c) by when and on what ground the said part was removed; and

(d) whether the missing part has been replaced and the STD lines have been restored?

Problems faced by I.T. professionals

2216. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Flow of infotech workers reverses towards India" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated the 9th September, 2002;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems which are likely to be faced by the Indian I.T. professionals in the coming years as highlighted in the news-item?

Shifting of telephones

2217. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received during the last six months by MTNL Delhi from the telephone subscribers in Meghalaya for the shifting of telephones to Delhi;

(b) the number of applications disposed of and the telephone connections given so far;

(c) whether any of these applications are still pending; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Garuda and Dolphin mobile phones

2218. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Garuda and Dolphin mobile phones are not supplied to the consumers in time by the officers of MTNL inspite of heavy demand from the people;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to delay in supply many of the consumers are going to other private cellular companies; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken to expedite the supply?

IT Outsourcing Centre

2219. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of

the statement regarding 'The Global Outsourcing Forum, 2002' in Bangalore made by a top software major that India had an edge in becoming a major global IT outsourcing centre but warned that the poor infrastructure is a major deterrent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any efforts have been put in by Government to help the IT sector in this regard since January, 2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the resultant success?

Software Technology Parks

2220. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Software Technology Parks existing in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of firms registered with such parks, State-wise;

(c) the number of such parks proposed to be set up during the current year;

(d) the utilities of these parks;

(e) whether recession in the IT sector affected functioning of such parks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

STD/ISD/Internet/Fax/E-mail facilities in UP

2221. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of STD/ISD/Internet/Fax/E-mail etc. facilities provided or proposed to be provided in various Gram Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh during the year 2002-03;

(b) the Gram Panchayats of the State where the above facilities are not available and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Pathetic condition of rural communication set up

2222. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic condition of communication set up in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to extend communication wing in all the rural areas?

Mobile and fixed phones

2223. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current penetration of mobile and fixed phone service in the country, the details of the players in the telecom sector and the market share of each entity with revenue implications, State-wise;

(b) whether any suggestions have been made to Government to exit from telecom field eventually and to enhance FDI limit from 49 to 74 per cent; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

CGHS facility to Group A & B officers

2224. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Services Group A & B officers are entitled for CGHS facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons for which during 'deemed deputation' to MTNL they are being compulsorily asked to adopt the medical facility available in MTNL without giving them the option to continue in CGHS; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to allow all such officers of MTNL to opt for CGHS until their absorbion and if not, the reasons therefor?

Postage stamps on historical places

2225. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the famous historic temples of Tamil Nadu especially from Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Thirichirapalli and Thanjavour Districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether any representation has been received by Government in respect of release of special postage stamps on those historical places; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to have special postage stamps on those historical places?

Branch post offices in H.P.

2226. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branch post offices working in Himachal Pradesh, District-wise and Panchayat-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to upgrade the branch post offices in the State;

(c) the criteria for upgradation of branch post offices in the country; and

(d) whether Government have received any representation to upgrade any branch post offices in any part of the State, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Telephone cable link to Panchapalli village

2227. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Panchapalli village (Erasama block) of Jagatsinghpur district in Orissa is deprived of underground/overhead telephone cable link;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for faulty functioning of WLL technology in this village;

(d) the steps Government propose to take against officers responsible for this step-motherly attitude towards Panchapalli villagers who stopped the work of laying cable near Champahat (Dihasahi); and

(e) by when, Government would provide underground/overhead cable link to Panchapalli and open an exchange to facilitate communication network?

Opening of Mukhya Dak Ghar

2228. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new scheme for opening of "Mukhya Dak Ghar" at all the Talukas places across the country;

(b) if so, the name of the Taluka in Tajpur district of Orissa, which do not have a Mukhya Dak Ghar; and

(c) the steps taken to open Mukhya Dak Ghar at all the Talukas in Tajpur District of Orissa?

Job creation by Communication and I.T. Industry

2229. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment opportunities/jobs created by Communication and I.T. Industry during the last four years;

(b) the number of I.T. professionals who got employed abroad during the last four years; and

(c) Government's estimates about generation of jobs for trained personnel in I.T. sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

Telephone facility in village Panchayats of Rajasthan

2230. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village Panchayats in Sawai Madhopur and Karoli, Rajasthan which are still without telephone facility; and

(b) by when, telephone facility is likely to be provided to all the village Panchayats?

Waiting list for telephone connections in Assam

2231. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons on waiting list for telephone connections in Assam as on the 31st March, 2002, District-wise; and
- (b) the steps taken by Government to clear the above waiting list?

Commemorative postage stamp on Annamacharya

2232. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received for release of Commemorative stamp on Saint Annamacharya on his 500th Vardhanthi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by his Ministry thereon?

Information and Communication network with PSTN

2233. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the existing guidelines for closed upper groups interconnect do not permit information and communication network with PSTN network; and

- (b) if so, the reasons for not allowing the same?

Amendment in Indian Postal Act

2234. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to introduce any amendments in the Indian Postal Act;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government propose to privatise the communication sector by introducing international courier services;
- (d) whether Government are experiencing any inefficiency in the existing postal sector and whether Government think that any changes required such privatisation to improve the efficiency;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the entrance of the international courier agencies adversely affects the internal security of the country; and
- (f) the number of post offices proposed to be opened and upgraded in Kerala during the coming year?

Withdrawal of STD facility

†2235. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether STD facility was given to the Members of the Telephone Advisory Committee;
- (b) whether this facility has now been withdrawn;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) by when the said facility would be restored after reconsideration by Government?

Merger of MTNL and BSNL

2236. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 910 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 2002 and state:

- (a) whether the process of identifying the consultant who can advise DoT on the modalities of the merger has already been started by the Telecom Commission;
- (b) whether any consultant has been appointed by Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criterion adopted by Government to appoint the consultant, and the details of the companies who had applied for this purpose; and
- (d) by when this process is likely to be completed?

E-Post in Karnataka

2237. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to launch E-Post in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the new initiatives taken by the Department of Posts in the State during the year 2002-03?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Loss due to non-termination of licence of Koshika Telecom Ltd.

2238. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to indiscretion on the part of the Telecom Department by failing to terminate the licence of Koshika Telecom Ltd. an Operator in U.P. Circle during 1998-99 caused a loss of more than Rs. 440.00 crores to Government;
- (b) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has commented adversely on this lapse in his report for the year 2002;
- (c) whether the CAG has also commented adversely on the non-realisation of licence fee and royalty charges amounting to Rs. 85.00 lakhs from users of wireless station in Shillong, since January 1983; and
- (d) if so, Government's response thereto?

Teledensity in India

2239. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the teledensity in the country is growing; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof both rural and Urban areas?

Property return by District Manager

†2240. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that it is mandatory for all the officers to submit the details of

their property to the department at the end of the year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the District Managers of Mainpuri have not furnished their details for the last several years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have received any complaints of illegal acquisition of property; and

(d) what action is being taken against these officers?

Surrender of telephones in Mainpuri

†2241. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints requesting for surrendering telephone by all the subscribers on 21st October, 2002 in protest of disconnecting telephone services of village Kargil Shaheed and non restoration thereof by the District Manager;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the action taken against the guilty officials for not restoring the communication facilities deliberately; and

(d) by when the telephone services are likely to be restored?

Complaints against the officials of Mainpuri Exchange

†2242. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received

a number of complaints from members of Parliament/Individuals during the past six months for allowing payments by District Manager, Mainpuri in lieu of Commission for laying of cables only six inches deep in violation of Government's policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken on these complaints against the guilty officers; if not, the reasons therefor?

Fake purchase of underground cable locator

†2243. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some serious complaints of fake purchase of underground cable locator worth Rs. five lakh have been received against some District Managers of Lucknow circle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action against such officers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allotment of foodgrains

2244. SHRI N.R. DASARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains wheat and rice allotted to each States during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 and the six months from April to October, 2002 for distribution through the Public Distribution System;

(b) whether Government have effected any change in the policy of distribution of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

wheat, rice, kerosene and sugar through the PDS during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and six months from April, 2002; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of instances when Government had increased the prices of PDS items during the above period?

Purchase of foodgrains by FCI

2245. SHRI N.R. DASARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of paddy or rice purchased by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and the period from April to September, 2002, State-wise;

(b) whether any State Governments have agreed to take up the responsibility of procurement of paddy and wheat; and

(c) the assistance given by Government to such States to procure paddy and wheat?

Dismantling of PDS

2246. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is felt in some quarters that Public Distribution System has become redundant due to the overflowing granaries of food in the country;

(b) whether Government are planning to dismantle the Public Distribution System;

(c) whether Government are planning to repeal the Essential Commodities Act so that the foodgrains can be moved freely from one State to the others;

(d) whether Government are trying to monetise BPL, PDS cards for cash, or food stamps instead of grain; and

(e) if so, the details thereof as to how Government are planning to organise the same?

Lifting of foodgrains

2247. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States including those with alleged starvation deaths, failed to lift the food grains allocated to them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the foodgrains allotted and the foodgrains lifted during the last two years, year-wise and State-wise?

Packing of exported sugar

2248. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1673 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 2002 and state:

(a) the actual quantity of sugar exported so far;

(b) the packing material used for the purpose indicating the Jute Bags of 50 kgs. and 100 Kgs. and PP/HDPE Woven Sacks of 50 Kgs. and 100 Kgs;

(c) whether it is a fact that almost entire packing was done in Non-Jute Bags such as PP/HDPE Woven Sacks of 50 Kgs. size; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Wastage of foodgrains in jute packing

2249. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2380 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August, 2002 and state:

- (a) whether Government have since implemented the steps to minimise transit losses such as complete switchover to 50 kgs. (or less) packing and improvement in size and quality of jute bags;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have also procured Non-Jute Bags such as PP/HDPE Woven Sacks of 50 kgs. (or less) to reduce both cost and losses in packing of foodgrains; and
- (d) if so, the quantity thereof?

Diversion of foodgrains by FCI

2250. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the findings of the probe into diversion of wheat meant for the consumers to the traders by the Food Corporation of India in Haryana;
- (b) the details of the *modus operandi* of the scandal;
- (c) the quantity and value of wheat diverted to traders, the monetary loss suffered by FCI and the estimated profits made by the traders by selling this wheat at exorbitant prices; and
- (d) the action taken against the concerned officials?

Central teams to enquire starvation deaths

†2251. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

- (a) whether Government had sent any Central teams to Rajasthan and Orissa after obtaining information of deaths due to starvation and malnutrition in the States;
- (b) if so, when these teams were sent alongwith the names of members of the teams; and
- (c) the findings thereof?

BPL families in Himachal Pradesh

2252. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the families living below poverty line have been identified in Himachal Pradesh for coverage under the Centrally sponsored schemes like Antodaya Anna Yojana etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted to find out their purchasing powers; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this behalf?

Additional storage capacity in Orissa

2253. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any request has been

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

received from Orissa for approval of construction of additional storage capacity under the 7 year guarantee scheme of FCI;

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

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

Demand for abolition of FCI

2254. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some farmers associations and leaders are demanding abolition of Food Corporation of India in view of its high operative and administrative costs;

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

(c) the action proposed to facilitate development of the post harvest infrastructure for storage, processing, transport and export of agricultural produce?

Changes in PDS

2255. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering drastic changes with a view to put in place an efficient and prompt delivery system to curb deficiencies persisting in the existing Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame by when the new system is likely to be introduced?

Shortage of FCI godowns

2256. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to shortage of FCI godowns, some State Governments are facing problems to store foodgrains supplied by the Centre under various Centrally sponsored schemes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Stock of foodgrains with FCI

2257. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) the quantum of wheat and rice available with the Food Corporation of India as on date;

(b) the quantity of wheat and rice lying open for want of godowns; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to dispose of surplus wheat and rice lying in open?

Allocation of essential items to NER States

2258. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the allocation of wheat, rice, edible oil, kerosene etc. made to the States of the North Eastern Region during the last three years and till-date, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the quota of above item released to NER are inadequate in comparison to the existing demands;

- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Discontinuing PDS sugar to BPL families

2259. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking of discontinuing PDS sugar to BPL families;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether his Ministry could achieve a consensus among the sugarcane growers for a uniform formula for fixing the statutory minimum price;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of foodgrains to Gujarat

2260. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are allotting BPL quota of wheat and rice on the basis of 21.20 lakh BPL families instead of about 35 lakh BPL families in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government intend to increase monthly quota of BPL wheat and rice as per the State's demand?

Procurement centres in MP

†2261. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of procurement centres opened by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Madhya Pradesh during this year and procurement made therefrom; and
- (b) the quantity of wheat procured at minimum support price declared by the Central Government in the State during the last three years?

Accumulation of foodgrains in FCI godowns

2262. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the sugar and foodgrains remained accumulated in various godowns of FCI;
- (b) the quantity of foodgrains spoiled as a result thereof; and
- (c) the details of the action taken by his Ministry for effective Public Distribution System with adequate coverage during the last three years, if any?

Foodgrains stock with FCI

2263. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the stock holdings of the Food Corporation of India of various types of foodgrains, category-wise, as on date;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) the quantity in each category which is not fit for human consumption due to long storage period, deterioration in quality or any other causes; and
- (c) the value of these foodgrains as on date and the money Government spent on maintaining these stocks annually?

Diversion of foodgrains released for export

†2264. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether FCI releases foodgrains to private traders for export;
- (b) the details of the varieties and quantity of foodgrains supplied to the private traders during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether the foodgrains released for the purpose are recirculated to the godowns of FCI through markets;
- (d) whether it is a fact that one lakh tonne of wheat and rice have been released to M/s Piyare Lal and Sons of Delhi in connivance with FCI and NAFED; and
- (e) whether Government would conduct a CBI enquiry into the matter?

Sluggishness in sugarcane prices

2265. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the rising unsold stocks of sugar and also rising sugarcane arrears

promised by the respective State Governments have resulted in lower sugar prices;

- (b) if so, whether it is feared that around 30 per cent less sugarcane would be sown by farmers because of consistent sluggish prices;

- (c) whether this has prompted the farmers to shift to other paying crops; and

- (d) if so, what are the concrete remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

Minimum support prices for rice and wheat

2266. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the minimum support prices fixed for rice and wheat;
- (b) the quantum of rice and wheat procured by the FCI and its agencies during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and the period from April, 2002; and
- (c) whether procurement of rice and wheat at MSP would continue without any change?

Foodgrain stocks with FCI

2267. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the stocks of rice and wheat with the FCI as on March 31, 1999, 2000, 2001 and the 31st October, 2002?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Export of bad quality rice	(c) if not, the reasons therefor?
2268. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: (a) the quantum of foodgrains sold to the Indian businessmen during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and during the six months from April 1, 2002; (b) the rates at which these foodgrains were sold; (c) whether Government have noticed that these businessmen had exported bad quality rice and wheat thus creating a bad opinion about our foodgrains in the international markets; (d) whether there are any instances when the foreign countries had rejected the foodgrains on the ground that these were of bad quality; and (e) if so, the details thereof?	Representation of claimants before Consumer Courts 2270. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: (a) whether the Tamil Nadu Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ruled that only lawyers can represent claimants in a Consumer Court; (b) whether the Consumer activists say that allowing only lawyers to plead consumer dispute cases would complicate matters and would defeat the very purpose of the Consumer Protection Act; (c) whether under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, a consumer in distress is not bound to hire a lawyer to represent him before the Consumer Courts; and (d) whether Mumbai High Court has laid down that a claimant can be represented in Consumer Courts through an authorised representative not necessarily a lawyer?
CBI raid on Central Warehouse Khandwa	Import of foodgrains
2269. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: (a) whether CBI has raided the warehouse of the Central Warehouse, Khandwa on the 13th August, 2002 and exposed a large scale bungling there; (b) what action has been taken in this regard; and	† 2271. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: (a) whether foodgrains were imported during the year 2001-2002; (b) if so, the names of the countries, quantity of foodgrains and the price at which the import was made; and (c) whether foodgrains were also exported during said period and if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

PDS commodities to Kerala

2272. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar and kerosene given to Kerala per month/year for distribution through the Public Distribution System during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02;

(b) whether Government intend to give up distribution of sugar and kerosene through the PDS and to leave them for open market sales; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the fishermen using boats without board engines are forced to buy kerosene at black market prices?

Recommendations by Shri Sharad Joshi regarding FCI

†2273 SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received the report of working group constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sharad Joshi;

(b) if so, when Government received this report;

(c) what recommendations have been made with regard to Food Corporation of India in the said report; and

(d) what action Government have taken for the implementation of these recommendations?

Chinese views on Indian position in Kashmir

2274. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'China reluctant to endorse Indian position in Kashmir' which appeared in "The Hindu" dated the 18th November, 2002;

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

(c) whether any attempt has been made to ascertain the reasons for the Chinese position; and

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

Compensation to Indians by Myanmar

2275. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 7981 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st May, 1995 and state:

(a) the cases of compensation to Indians by Myanmar which have been settled finally;

(b) the cases which have not been settled so far;

(c) the reasons for non-settlement of the cases; and

(d) the steps taken/are being taken to get the cases settled expeditiously?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Indian Consulate at Jalalabad in Afghanistan	Illegal immigration of Indians to West European countries
2276. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:	2279. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
(a) whether Afgan Government has refused India to open its Consulate at Jalalabad; and	(a) whether it is a fact that there had been a sudden jump in the number of cases of illegal immigration of Indian citizens to West European countries <i>via</i> Poland through Moscow;
(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to open an office at Jalalabad?	(b) if so, the number of persons repatriated by those countries during the last one year;
Indian Missions without heads	(c) whether the agents who were involved in this racket have been arrested;
2277. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:	(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(a) whether several Indian Missions abroad are without regular heads;	(e) what action Government have taken against the persons who tried to reach those countries illegally?
(b) if so, the names of such Missions and since when they are without heads; and	Indian citizens detained in Pakistani jails
(c) the steps taken by Government to fill up these vacancies without any further delay?	†2280. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
Infrastructure for cross-border terrorism in PoK	(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "Bhartiya Jasoos ki Jaan Dene Ki Dhamki" published in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated the 15th August, 2002;
2278. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:	(b) if so, the time since when more than 1300 Indians are detained in the Pakistani Jails;
(a) whether Pakistan is reluctant to dismantle the infrastructure for cross-border terrorism in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir;	(c) the steps taken by Government to get them released; and
(b) whether the United States has urged India to consider going back to the round table talk with Pakistan and want to see rail and air links restored between the two countries; and	(d) if not, the reasons therefor?
(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?	

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Indo-Israel relations

2281. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's growing closeness with Israel has created a feeling that it would give up its traditional friendship with palestinians and also created misgivings among the Gulf countries and Arab world, which are strategically very important for India; and

(b) what action Government have taken in this regard to allay fear of these nations?

Closure of passport collection centre at Mangalore

2282. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the passport collection centre in Mangalore has been closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to re-open the above passport collection centre?

Undertaking about Abu Salem

2283. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given an undertaking to the Government of Portugal that Abu Salem, involved in Mumbai blasts and 70 other cases in the country would not be given death penalty on his conviction after his deportation to India; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Anti-Indian activities in Ladakh

2284. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the reported statement of the ITBP DG that Chinese have built a railway line connecting Beijing with the areas of Ladakh occupied by them; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government both at the diplomatic level and the national security angle to ensure that such anti-Indian activities at LAC are adequately curbed and national integrity is safeguarded?

Indian Mission in Rome

2285. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints including from Members of Parliament have been received against corruption and inefficiency prevailing in the Indian Mission in Rome;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the involved persons and to stop corrupt practices in foreign offices?

Indian steps towards de-escalation with Pakistan

2286. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is taking all steps towards de-escalation with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the groundwork prepared by Government in this direction?

Report of the Second Labour Commission

†2287. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of the Second Labour Commission;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has expressed concern regarding creation of less job opportunities as against the requirement for the last few years in the country;

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

(d) whether the Commission has identified certain areas regarding creation of more job opportunities to remove unemployment in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Rehabilitation of child labourers

2288. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has submitted to the Supreme Court a Scheme for rehabilitation of about four lakhs children employed in hazardous industries across the country;

(b) whether his Ministry has pointed out that in a survey it has been found that about four lakh children are employed in various industries;

(c) if so, whether the Planning Commission had allocated Rs. 50 crores for the purpose;

(d) if so, the latest position of the scheme; and

(e) to what extent this scheme has been implemented by Government?

Closure of industrial units

2289. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 250,000 industrial units have closed down over the last few years, costing jobs of large number of workers; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to prevent such disruption of the industry causing hardships to the workers?

Child labour

2290. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Child labour narrate tales of woe" which appeared in the "Deccan Herald", dated the 16th November, 2002;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the number of child labour and the sectors employing them in the country, State-wise and sector-wise; and

(c) the details of the measures taken to free the child labour from their employers, to rehabilitate them and to eliminate child labour?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Impact of globalisation on agricultural labour

†2291. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn towards the report of the International Union of Food and Agriculture Workers on the impact of globalisation on agricultural labour in the country;

(b) if so, whether this report mentions about the new facilities provided to the agricultural labour after globalisation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the views expressed in this report on the condition of the agricultural labour?

Setting up of an employment mission

†2292. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an employment mission is proposed to be set up during the Tenth Five Year Plan period to resolve the unemployment problem in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when, the Employment Mission would be set up and the need for this Mission after recommendations of the Second National Labour Commission?

Changes in Industrial Disputres Act

2293. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the changes proposed in the

Industries Disputes Act relating to compensation to be paid to the workers in case of retrenchment or closure of an industrial unit; and

(b) by when the changes are likely to be introduced?

Social security scheme

2294. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Social Security Schemes inforce for welfare of the workers;

(b) the funds of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) accumulated upto the 31st March, 2002 and the manner in which it is being invested;

(c) the annual Income from such Investments and the manner in which it is being utilised; and

(d) the details of the unclaimed amount upto the 31st March, 2002?

Expenditure on per I.P. family unit

2295. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to increase the ceiling of expenditure on the scheme per I.P. family unit per annum;

Identity cards to ESI beneficiaries

†2296. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Government order most of the people availing services of the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESI), who have been asked to get computerized identity cards within 15 days, have been deprived of the services since the first September;

(b) if so, whether it is possible to make ESI cards for lakhs of employees within 15 days;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the identity card making computerised machines of the corporation are out of order;

(d) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Schemes/programmes for labour

2297. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes/programmes announced by Government during the last six months;

(b) the manner in which these schemes/programmes are likely to benefit the labour class especially unskilled labourers;

(c) whether any target has been set under these schemes/programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Beedi workers in AP

2298. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are more than seven lakh beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government have extended any welfare schemes for such workers particularly in the fields of housing and social security; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Unemployed educated youth

2299. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the number of unemployed educated youth particularly the Graduates and Post Graduates in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) what steps the Central and State Government have taken to provide employment to the unemployed youth of the State within a time frame?

Revision of basic minimum wages in AP

2300. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Andhra Pradesh the basic minimum wages of unskilled workers has not been revised since 1993 ignoring the inflation and other factors;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons cited by the State Government for non-revision of minimum wages in the State; and

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

Disinvestment of BALCO and Modern Foods

2301. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has been directed by the Prime Minister to constitute

a Committee to find out whether there is a difference of facts given by Government and the trade unions relating to conditions of disinvested companies like BALCO and Modern Foods;

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference and whether this exercise would be confined to only these two companies or similarly placed other disinvested companies; and

(c) what is the time-frame for submission of the Report of this Committee?

EPF subscribers

2302. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of EPF subscribers in the country; and

(b) what steps have been taken to ensure early settlement of their claims?

Employment scenario

2303. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of unemployment problem indicating the number of unemployed, both educated and uneducated, State-wise and the manpower planning made in this regard; and

(b) the number of direct and indirect employment generated through NGO by implementation of various Government/centrally sponsored schemes as well as the funding from other sources including foreign funding, State-wise?

Default in remittance of PF contribution

2304. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a good number of tea estate companies have defaulted in remitting provident fund contribution of the employees and also the amount they collected from the workers by way of provident fund contribution to the Employees Provident Fund Scheme; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken, so far, to find a solution to this problem?

Arrears of ESI contribution

2305. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) action taken to realize the arrears of ESI contribution from the tea estate companies; and

(b) whether such action has been a success?

Cardiology Superspeciality Wing at Asramam, Kerala

2306. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to the answer to Starred Question 26 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 2002 and state :

(a) whether the plan to set up a separate cardiology (Non-invasive) Wing, Superspeciality Department at Asramam, Kollam in Kerala has been finalised in consultation with the Central Public Works Department; and

(b) if so, by when this Superspeciality Wing would be functional?

Trade Unions opposition to labour reforms

2307. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be plesed to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that trade union leaders are opposed to labour reforms and disinvestment policy;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that according to them retrenchment is going on in the Modern Foods and BALCO and disinvestment in both these units has not been successful;
- (c) if so, what is Government's assessment; and
- (d) what concrete steps are being taken agaisnt the new management of both the companies?

Administrative officers for Uttaranchal

†2308. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Prime Minister be plesed to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware ofthe fact that Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh have differences over division of personnel;
- (b) if so, the number of IAS, IPS, PCS and PPS Officers sought to be included in the State cadre by Uttaranchal;
- (c) whether the state demand has been accepted; and
- (d) if not, the number of officers who have been included in the above zadres in newly created State and to what extent the number of officers is less them that of demand, cadre-wise?

Case pending before CAT

2309. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Prime Minister be plesed to state:

- (a) whether many cases reserved for judgement are pending before the Principal Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal as on date;
- (b) if so, the details of the cases on which judgements have been reserved for pronouncements but pending for more than one month as on day, category-wise; and
- (c) whether the Competent Authority would initiate steps for an erly pronouncement of judgements in which pleadings and arguments have been completed so as to avoid harassment and hardships to the employees and loss to Government Offices?

Banking experts as member of CVC

2310. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Prime Minister be plesed to state:

- (a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission, keeping in view the large number of frauds and corruption in banks, ahs decided to appoint banking experts as its membes; and
- (b) if so, by when these new members (Experts) would be included? and

Restoration of LTC facilities

2311. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Prime Minister be plesed to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal for restoration of LTC facilities to Government employees serving in different places including those in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Raids Conducted by CBI

2312. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Prime Minister be plesed to state:

- (a) whether the CBI had conducted raids on the premises of public servants all over the country on the 8the November, 2002;
- (b) if so, the seizures of money/financial instruments, locations-wise and the status of such servants;
- (c) whether Government propose to take any further action agaisnt them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Central Vigilance Commission provides inputs to CBI for identifying corrupt public servants?

Revamping of public grievances redressal system

2313. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Prime Minister be plesed to state:

- (a) whether CVC proposes to revamp the public grievances redressal system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reforms proposed to be implemented to curb corruption specially in Government offices and also to make the grievances cells in different departments more effective?

Creation of jobs in Tenth Five Year Plan

2314. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Prime Minister be plesed to state:

- (a) what are the steps taken by Government to create/generate more jobs during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and
- (b) if so, the number of jobs to be generated;
- (c) the areas which would provide these jobs;

(d) by when, it would be operational; and

(e) what would be the criteria for selection of the candidates for such jobs?

Catchy slogan for Tenth five Year Plan

2315. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Planning commission is in search of a catchy slogan for the Tenth Plan;
- (b) if, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether public response has been invited for the purpose and if so, the success achieved in this direction?

Financial package for backward districts

†2316. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) whether central Government have provided any financial package for economically backward districts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps by Government in this regard?

Allocation to Gujarat

2317. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) the details per capital amount allocated for agriculture and rural development during the last three years, especially for drought prone areas of Gujarat; and
- (b) the amount demanded by the state and the amount sanctioned by the Planning commission for the purpose?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Achievements of Madhya Pradesh

2318. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh has lately earned appreciation of the Planning Commission with marked improvement in respect of various social indications like literacy, health, material mortality and school enrolments;

(b) if so, the details of the social indications taken note by the Planning Commission, indicating the achievements made by the State in respect, of the different indicators;

(c) whether the State Government has submitted any specific proposals to extricate the State out of the BIMARU category; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Central aid sought for implementation thereof?

Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

2319. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether 25 districts have been selected under a Special Scheme for development with a new vision, under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details of the districts selected for special development under this Yojana in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and other States; and

(c) the steps so far in this regard?

Employment programmes in Tenth Plan

2320. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what are the action proposed to be taken to focus on employment programmes while finalising the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) what is the annual growth rate targeted during the plan; and

(c) what are the other details of Tenth Plan development strategy?

Solution of unemployment problem

2321. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an employment mission involving both the corporate and non-corporate sector to find a solution to the in employment problem of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any fresh steps have been taken by Government to create gainful and growth oriented employment opportunities during the Tenth Plan period keeping in view large scale unemployment all over the country?

Economic package for Bihar

2322. SHRI BASHISHTA NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have prepared a Economic package for the growth and development of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when it is likely to be prepared?

Sasan Canal System

2323. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for investment clearnace of the project "Improvement to Sasan Canal System" in Sambalpur District of Orissa, is pending with the Planning Commission;

(b) whether the project, which involves modernization etc., has been cleared at the 74th TAC held on the 20th September, 2002, at an estimated cost of Rs.34.92 crores; and

(c) if so, the present status of the proposal

Package for KBK region of Orissa

2324. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount earmarked for Speacial Reform linked Development Package for poverty stricken KBK region of Orissa, recently announced by Government;

(b) whether first phase amount has been given to the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof, indicating the development projects to be executed; and

(d) by when the next installments would be disbursed and the projects to be executed therewith?

Debt position of Orissa

2325. SHRI B.J. PANDA
SHRI MAN MOHAN
SAMAL

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Orissa State is a revenue deficit State

from the very beginning and has the highest debt which by the end of 2001-2002 has risen to 24,000 crores and is unsustainable;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration for waiver of the old outstanding loans;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Kanpur irrigation project

2326. SHRI B.J. PANDA
SHRI MAN MOHAN
SAMAL

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kanupur Irrigation Project in Orissa is pending with the Centre for investment clearance;

(b) whether Government are also aware that all other statutory clearances have already been given int he matter; and

(c) if so, the present status of the case?

Financing of Tenth Plan

2327. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Government propose to finance the Tenth Five Year plan;

(b) whtat is the share of deficit finance in 'financing the Tenth Plan;

(c) how it compares with that of the Eighth and the Ninth Five Year plan; and

(d) the details of the efforts being made by Government for reducing its reliance on deficit finance for financing the Plans?

Tax holiday scheme

†2328. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister during his stay in Uttaranchal has declared that benefit of TAX Holiday scheme of central Governments would be provided to industries and enterprised set up int he State for industrial development on the line of North Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether the scheme been extended for the entire State; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the said scheme would be extended?

Measures to increase committee for Foreign Direct Investment

2329. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report prepared by the Committee appointed by the Planning Commission and submitted to the Prime Minister has suggested steps to facilitate substantial increases in foreign direct investment in several sectors of the economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the report has been considered by Government and if so, their reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to given effect to the same?

Gini ratio

2330 SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gini ratio which captures the consumption expenditure

has declined in rural areas as shown in the National Human Development Report;

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

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the action plan with Govenrment to improve the consumption expenditure of rural people?

Reforms in Economic Sector

†2331 SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attentions have beendrawn towards newsitem captioned "Central Economic Reforms takes shape" published in Indian express datedthe 9th October, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would be possible to monitor the future reforms in each sector through this body; and

(d) if so, the intention behind setting up of this new Commision?

Economic reforms

2332 SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the economic reforms taken up to meet the objective of poverty eradication, employment generation and fillip to economic growth by promoting investment?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Central plan assistance

2333 SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modify the existing formula of Central Plan assistance to the States;

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

(c) whether the matter has been discussed with the various State Governments;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the revised formula is likely to be finalised?

Assistar for repair of danged roads

2334 PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
Will the MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any States Government have requested for any help in repairing the roads damaged due to heavy floods and rain since January, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Govenrment have thought of any programme to extend help to such States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Funds Andhra Pradesh in for constructing roads

2335 SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for allocation of funds to take up the road connectiveity to minor ports of gangavaram, Krishnapatnam and vodarevu from NH-5;

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

(c) the steps taken by his Ministry to release the funds?

Development of roads in Uttar Pradesh

2336 PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of developmental works to be undertaken on various National Highways in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the time schedule for completion of the works; and

(c) the details of the funds sanctioned, released and utilised for this purpose during the last three the last three years?

Upgradation of roads

2337 SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cement roads, tough costing double that of asphalt roads, are long lasting and is a cost effectibve soulution to than National Highways; and

(b) whether we have a large, under utilized capacity for production of in the counsntry; and

(c) if so, why Government are not following advice of the expert agencies to go for a long term solution to road problem?

Declaration of national highways

†2338 SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of roads in various Himalayan States which have been declared as National Highways State-wise;

(b) whether Government are considering only proposal to declare more roads as National thoughways in the states with rail and air links to expand transport system;

(c) if so, by when a final decision would be taken on such proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons for neglecting such States?

Laying of optical fibres along Natioal Hgihways

†2339 SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India is laying optical fibre cable along the National Highways; and

(b) if so, the amount being spent there on and justification therefor?

National Highways Project

†2340 SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far with respect to National Highways Project started by the Prime Minister;

(b) the number of employment opportunities generated and the industries for whcih demand has increased;

(c) whether it is a fact that the investment by the private parties in much higher in the construction of roads than expected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Road accidents in Chandigarh

†2341 SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of persons dying of head injuries in road accidents in Chandigarh is much more than that of Metro Cities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number ofr persons died of head injuries in road accidents in Chandigarh during the last three years; and

(d) the effective steps proposed to be taken by Government to check the road accidents in the said area?

Subsidy to Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation

2342 SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government of has sought 40% subsidy to Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation towards its investment of Rs. 2.000 crore for construction of 6 lane Expressway between Mumbai and Pune being inter-alia an integral part of the Golden Quadrilateral being implemented by the National Highways Authority;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Govenrment have acceded to the request; and

(c) if not, whether MSRDC is being entrusted construction of NH-4 and partnerships in administration of toll regime for both upgraded NH-4 and Expressway?

National Highwazys in Manipur

23453 SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ntioal highways connecting Manipur with the rest of the country;

(b) whether transporters have block the highways in September 2002 and demanded adequate forces along the highways for their safety; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed by Govenrment to ensure that Manipur is not cut off from rest of the country in future?

Central assistance to Chhattisgarh for roads

†2344 SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount sanctioned under the Central assistance during the year 2002 for Chhattisgarh for construction of culverts and bridges, road renovation, leveling, improving the surface, broadening, four laning, side drain work, plantation and sign boards; and

(b) the number of work, still pending and by when the sanction is to be accorded?

Vehicle Registration plates

2345. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: whether it is a fact that Government had suggested means of tender for selection of manufacturers for the sale of Vehicle Registration plats in various states for a period of 15 years mentioning the security reasons; and

(b) the other countries where security features are used on Vehicle Registration Plates?

National Highways in Assam

2346. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways construced in Assam during the last five years;

(b) the details of the expenditure incurred thereon during this period; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government for constructing new National Highways in the State during the current financial year?

Renaming of Yanam-Yedurulanka bridge in Andhra Pradesh

2347. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact thave Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

rename Yanam-Yedurulanka bridge in the East Godavari District as Balayogi Vaaradhi in the name of late Speaker Shri Balayogi;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by his Ministry in this regard?

Exemption limit for SSI sector

2348. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry has agreed to restore the exemption limit on Rs. 1 lakh to small scale sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether his Ministry has taken up the issue of giving sales tax relief on electronic toys with the Finance Ministry; and
- (d) if so, Finance Ministry's response thereto?

Quality and Cost of SSI products

2349. SHRI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Small Scale industries are able to compete will foreign products from quality and cost of production point of view;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to help the small scale industries to improve the quality and reduce the cost of production to compete with foreign products; and
- (c) the names of the sectors where Government have come to rescue of the SSI?

Encouragement to small and mechine enterprises

2350. SHRI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Small Scale Industries Corporation has drawn up schemes to restructure small and medium enterprises in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the small and medium enterprises inthe country are not properly encouraged resulting adverse impace on growth of such units; and
- (d) if so, the factsw thereof and the concrete steps taken to encourage small and medium enterprises in the country?

Sick SSIs in Rajasthan

2351. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of sick small scale industries in Rajasthan as on date;
- (b) the sector in which maximum number of sick SSI Units fall; and
- (c) the manner in which Government propose to help these units?

Employment in SSIs

2352. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN RAO:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that small scale industries export around 35% of the exports of the country;

- (b) if so, the estimated employment generated by this sedctor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to promote small scale sector?

Restarting closed SSIs in UP and Delhi

†2353. SHRI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether small scale industries in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi are lying closed;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government propose to restart the said small scale industries which are lying closed; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Suggestion of MCCI in respect of SSIs

2354. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether her Ministry has received a memorandum from Mahakoshal Chamber of Commerce and Industry which has suggested that sick small scale industries be provided rehabilitation rather than taking legal action to recover NPAs;
- (b) if so, her Ministry's response thereto;
- (c) whether the chamber has demanded five year exemption from Excise and Custom studies for small scale industries; and
- (d) whether her Ministry is taking any steps to take it up with CBEC?

Closure of SSIs in Tamil Nadu

2355. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Small Scale Industries closed down in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;
- (b) the reasons for their closure; and
- (c) the efforts made and the steps taken by Government to revive these units before their closure?

Indigenous satellite

2356. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to put indigenous satellite into the orbit in near future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the satellite would also be launched by indigenous space ship; and
- (d) if not, how long it would take to develop launching space ship?

Status reporton central projects

2357. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have prepared any status report as to the Central projects which are presently being implemented by Government;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases which have reported time and cost overrun together with details thereof, project-wise;
- (d) whether any reasons have been identified for the time and cost overrun and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the preventive and remedial steps contemplated in each case?

Speeding up of central projects

2358. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1040 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 2002 and state:

- (a) the details of the measures proposed to speed up central projects; and
- (b) the measures proposed for speedy acquisition of land for the projects?

NEW DELHI;
The 5th December, 2002
Agrahayana 14, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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