

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the December 12, 2003/Agrahayana 21, 1925 (Saka)*

**(Ministries : Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and Forests;
Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development; Ocean
Development; Railways; Science and Technology;
Steel; Youth Affairs and Sports)**

Total number of questions—141

Crop estimates

1092. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with good monsoon we hope to get bumper crop this year; if so, the estimates of kharif foodgrains, oil seeds, cotton etc.;

(b) whether this would be an all-time high record; and

(c) how far it would take us to self-sufficiency and help us to control prices of foodgrains and edible oils?

Promotion of fisheries

1093. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of fisheries that were opened by farmers in the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Government have taken a pro-active step to promote fisheries to farmers of good climatic and water conditions to improve their economy;

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Drought assistance to States

1094. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of States were under grip of severe drought condition during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the foodgrain and other assistance released to various States plagued by drought; State-wise and year-wise?

**Madhya Pradesh
Agriculture remunerative in**

1095. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural land in Madhya Pradesh is constantly turning non-remunerative;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any step or incentive package to make agriculture remunerative;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Growth targets for Rajasthan

1096. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate of growth targeted and achieved in agriculture sector in Rajasthan during the year 2002-03; and

(b) the steps taken to improve the rate of growth of production in Rajasthan?

Implementation of the APMA

1097. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act prepared by the Centre has been taken up by the States for implementation; and

(b) which are the States that have taken initiatives for the implementation of the Act?

Assistance to Assam

1098. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount allotted for agriculture during the last five years in the country particularly for flood affected areas of Assam; and

(b) the total amount demanded by Assam Government and the amount

sanctioned by the Central Government for the purpose during this period?

Promotion of animal husbandry and dairy in Uttar Pradesh

†1099. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount has been allocated for promoting animal husbandry and dairying in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent for this purpose during the same period?

Production of rice, wheat and pulses

1100. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) per hectare production of rice and wheat in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of the area under production of pulses and per hectare production of pulses during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the measures taken by Government to match the agricultural growth rate particularly the pulses with the rate of population increase?

Schemes for development of agriculture in Bihar

†1101. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated and implemented any Central

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Scheme for the enhancement and development of agricultural sector in the backward and agrarian State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) steps taken by Government under new agricultural policy to give some incentives to small and marginal farmers of this State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of fisheries

1102. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to develop fisheries sector to boost economy;

(b) the details of action plan to encourage fish farming and whether Government propose to give some sort of incentives to fish farmers for the purpose; and

(c) whether the Orissa Government has made a proposal for construction of a Fish Landing Centre at Balugaon at an estimated cost of Rs.2.35 crores and whether this has been approved and funds sanctioned therefor; if so, the status of the case?

Assistance for upgrading SPTs

1103. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTs) are in bad shape and in no position to detect pesticides;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central

grants for upgrading these laboratories have also remained under-utilised;

(c) whether this was pointed out in the reports submitted by Central teams sent to States to carry out audit of such laboratories;

(d) whether it is a fact that NABL accreditation is not mandatory for such State run laboratories; and

(e) if so, the details of steps taken in this matter?

Special Drought Relief

1104. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Minimum Support Price, the Centre has sanctioned Special Drought Relief (SDR) of coarse grains and paddy at Rs.20/- per quintal considering the severe drought condition in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the number of States to which the SDR was extended during the last three years, with total amount sanctioned and released, State-wise, year-wise and grain/crop-wise;

(c) whether Government of Karnataka has requested for revision of SDR on coarse grains; and

(d) if so, the details and the Centre's reaction thereto?

Schemes for farmers of U.P.

†1105. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any scheme for the farmers of Uttar Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Activities of Agricultural Universities

1106. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Agriculture Universities presently functioning in Southern States of the country, State-wise and University-wise;
- (b) how many of these Universities are having research project on horticulture and floriculture which have abundant potential in the Southern region, University-wise; and
- (c) how the research outcome is percolating to farmers?

Research strategies for rainfed areas

1107. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have prepared any research strategies for rainfed areas for effective involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions to increase the productivity of dryland from the present level per hectare to meet the challenges of food and fodder requirement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken in this regard?

Increasing livestock production

1108. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have a proposal or introduced new schemes to increase livestock production in various States; and

- (b) the details of allocation of funds made to various States under those schemes during the last three years, year-wise?

Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

1109. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for implementation of the National Project on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Programme; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Irrigation facility

1110. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of districts in the country having irrigation facility, State-wise;
- (b) the impact of non-availability of irrigation on agricultural production per hectare of land;
- (c) whether it is a fact that only 13.65 crore acres of agricultural land has irrigation facility, in spite of the fact that country has an irrigation potential of 35 crore acres of agricultural land; and
- (d) how Government propose to bring more land under irrigation and thereby increase agricultural production?

Assistance for shifting cultivation

1111. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the States where shifting cultivation is abundantly in vogue;
- (b) the number of families living mostly by shifting cultivation;
- (c) the steps taken by the Central Government to modernise shifting cultivation in this age of science and technology; and
- (d) the steps to be taken to extend assistance to Tripura in enriching shifting cultivation?

Pesticides in fruits and vegetables

1112. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that according to a leading NGO, vegetables and fruits brought at the city's markets contain unacceptable level of harmful pesticides and fertilisers;
- (b) whether, according to the Foundation of Food Research and Enterprise to Safety and Hygiene (FRESH) every fruit and vegetable has a fair amount of pesticides and fertilisers, unless it comes from an orchard; and
- (c) if so, the action Government propose to take in this matter?

Assistance to Maharashtra for Livestock Development Corporation

1113. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are

considering to provide financial and other assistance to Maharashtra Government to set up Livestock Development Corporation in the State;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government propose to set up Livestock Research Centre in Chandrapur; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Fish Landing Centre at Alvekodi, Karnataka

1114. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal from the Karnataka Government for construction of Fish Landing Centre at Alvekodi in Uttara Kannada District in respect of which a revised estimate has been submitted to the Central Government on the 17th June, 2003, is pending for clearance; and
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof and by when it is likely to be cleared?

Supply of spurious seeds and pesticides

1115. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite good monsoon this year, the farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and areas around suffered a lot due to supply of spurious seeds and pesticides;
- (b) if so, the districts mainly affected thereby; and
- (c) whether the Central Government had been apprised of the problems of the farmers in time; if so, what aid was given by Government to help the farmers?

Assistance for Animal Husbandry to States

1116. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of funds allocated to States, West Bengal in particular, to promote animal husbandry and dairy during the last three years, year-wise?

Southern States during the last two years, year-wise, State-wise and variety-wise;

(b) how it compares with the oil seeds production of other regions of the country; and

(c) what incentives Government have extended to the farmers of Southern States for increasing oil seeds production?

Agricultural growth

1117. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have advocated private sector participation and substantive reforms in policies to achieve economies of scales in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether India has not been able to achieve the agricultural reforms in the country, so far;

(c) whether Centre has assessed that there will be a handsome rise in farm production during the current year;

(d) whether keeping in view of the good monsoon, Government have fixed a target of growth in agriculture; and

(e) whether sufficient places have been found to accommodate the increased production of foodgrains in the country?

Oil seeds production

1118. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the production of oil seeds in Andhra Pradesh and other

Action against companies engaged in contract farming

†1119. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contract farming is banned in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that various companies are involved in the work relating to contract farming in different parts of the country for last many years;

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to identify the culprit companies and to take action against them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pesticides residue in food commodities

1120. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the seminar held on 'Pesticide Residue in Food Commodities' organised recently;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken note of the observations made in the seminar; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that pesticides free food commodities are available?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pest attack on Bt. cotton

1121. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the pink ball worm is emerging as a major pest in the cotton belt specially in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat;

(b) whether it is a fact that toxin in Bt.cotton is proving to be ineffective against it; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check the pest attack on Bt.cotton?

Reforming APMC markets

1122. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any strategy to reform Agriculture Produce Market Committee markets throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to bring forward amendments in existing marketing laws and structure;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures proposed to provide legal and administrative support for trade in various agricultural commodities?

Seed business

1123. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the seed business in the country is increasingly going into the hands of MNCs;

(b) if so, the percentage of seed business under the control of MNCs and the Indian Seed companies;

(c) the share of the Monsanto and Pro Agro in the business; and

(d) the efforts of the ICAR to develop pure varieties that would have the advantages of hybrids but seeds of which could be produced and used by farmers themselves?

Closed and sick fertilizer factories

1124. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the fertilizer factories in Public Sector in the country are either closed or sick or running in loss;

(b) whether there is sufficient demand of the fertilizer;

(c) if so, why such factories are either closed or sick; and

(d) whether Government are taking action for improving the conditions of such factories?

Use of drugs at higher rates

† 1125. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has identified some companies which are selling drugs coming under Price Control at higher rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the names of the drugs which are being sold at higher rates by these companies and since when; and

(d) the amount of money collected by these companies during this period from the common man?

IFFCO plants in Maharashtra

† 1126. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the current financial status of various plants/factories of IFFCO situated in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of employees appointed on various posts in each of the plant during the last three years;

(c) the number of employees retired during the same period; and

(d) the details with regard to promotions, service expansion and money spent on gifts during the last three years till 31st October, 2003?

Import cost of urea

† 1127. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep rise in import cost of urea during the last three years;

(b) if so, the price and quantum of import of urea during the last three years;

(c) percentage of import price of urea during the said period; and

(d) steps taken by Government in the matter?

Electricity from bio-waste

1128. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of press reports that bio-waste has been used to generate electricity in Kovalam, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would help NGOs and other organisations who are ahead in using bio-waste to generate electricity?

Integrated Forest Protection Scheme to increase forest cover

1129. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated an integrated Forest Protection Scheme to increase forest cover in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the targets fixed for afforestation in Ninth Five Year Plan have been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) what target has been fixed for forest cover in Tenth Plan period; and

(f) the measures to be adopted to achieve it?

Joint Forest Management Programme

† 1130. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Joint Forest Management

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Programme for conservation and growth of the forests in the country;

(b) if so, whether any targets have also been set therefor; and

(c) if so, the details of the targets and the total amount likely to be spent to achieve these targets?

Rehabilitation of villages on the periphery of Oscoto Deer Sanctuary

1131. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all development works in villages on the periphery of Oscoto Deer Sanctuary (Uttaranchal) have been impeded and villagers have lost their traditional rights;

(b) whether Government are also aware that a demand has been made to restrict the area of the said sanctuary by bringing an amendment in the Deer Sanctuary Area Act or to rehabilitate villagers elsewhere; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to solve problems of these villagers?

Improvement in waste management

1132. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the TERI review, the amount of solid municipal and other waste generated between 1997 to 2002 rose by around the same rate as the country's GDP;

(b) whether it is a fact that over 58 per cent of total farm land in the country is affected by either water logging or salination;

(c) whether this has resulted in a loss of production anywhere between 11 and 26 per cent in the agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve its waste management?

National Board of Wildlife

1133. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bombay Natural History Society has been denied a chair on the newly organised National Board of Wildlife alongwith the World Wildlife Fund;

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

(c) the name of the organisation adjusted in place of BNHS?

Impact of Jhada Bandha irrigation project on wildlife in Orissa

1134. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNITA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irrigation project at Jhada Bandha in the Ganjam district of Orissa, has been approved, which would involve submergence of a large portion of prime forestland;

(b) if so, what would be the area likely to be submerged and which wildlife is present in the area; and

(c) whether the State wildlife wing of Orissa has carried out any study regarding the negative impact of this project on wildlife and if not, by when would it be done?

Monetary allocation for National Lake Maintenance Plan

1135. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

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

(a) what is the monetary allocation made for National Lake Maintenance Plan and how many lakes are identified for the purpose, State-wise;

(b) whether the Kankaria Lake, Lakhota Lake, Hamirsar Lake and Nal Sarovar Lake in Gujarat have been considered by the Ministry for National Lake Maintenance Plan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Shrinking of Dal Lake

1136. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Asia's largest freshwater Dal Lake in Srinagar is shrinking;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tributaries connected with the Dal Lake and the Jhelum river have been turned into cesspools and Nagin lake is more or less a marsh now; and

(c) if so, the steps Government plan to take to restore the original beauty of 'paradise on earth'?

Loss in forest plantation Development Corporation Ltd.

1137. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andaman

and Nicobar Islands Forests Plantation Development Corporation Ltd., the PSU under his Ministry is consistently running in losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for losses of the Corporation; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to remove the bottlenecks and revive this Corporation on priority?

Dumping of toxic material at Alang on Gujarat coast

1138. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre is seized of the growing environmental hazard caused by dumping of toxic material during ship-breaking at Alang on Gujarat coast;

(b) whether a scrapped Norweigan LPG tanker recently berthed at Alang with hazardous waste in violation of Basel Convention regulations; and

(c) whether the workmen at the Alang yard are exposed to toxic material and if so, steps being taken to protect them from environmental hazards?

Loss in tiger conservation

1139. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the details of the Organisations in the Non-Governmental sector actively involved in tiger conservation in the wild/natural habitats in the State of Orissa during the last five years?

People residing in reserved and protected forests

1140. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people residing in the reserved forests and protected forests in different States of the country at present, State-wise;

(b) how many of them have been residing there since the period prior to 1980;

(c) for how many people the State Governments have forwarded proposals to the Central Government to finalise orders of settlement in their respective areas; and

(d) the status of the proposals?

Migratory birds in Delhi Zoo

1141. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Zoo normally receives 300 local migratory birds during the onset of the winter every year, but this year it is likely to get more migratory birds;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) how many such birds have arrived in the Zoo, so far?

Loss due to fire in pine forests

†1142. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the losses being suffered annually as a result of fire in the pine forests State-wise;

(b) whether Government provide monetary assistance for protection against fire to the States every year where pine forests are in existence;

(c) if so, the details of assistance provided to Uttaranchal during the last five years under this head;

(d) whether his Ministry is contemplating to increase the assistance being provided under this head, keeping in view the environmental importance of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Poaching of waterfowl in Chilka Lake

1143. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the State Government of Orissa to curb poaching of waterfowl in the Chilka Lake; and

(b) the details of the organizations in the Non-Governmental sector actively involved in prevention of poaching of waterfowl in Chilka Lake since 2000?

Improvement in technical education

1144. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a recent policy shift or improvement in technical education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such changes have taken into account the rulings of the Supreme Court of India?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Drop-out rates from school

1145. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the percentage of drop-out rates from school education, State-wise?

Computer education in Government schools

1146. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive plan for starting Computer education system in all Government Schools functioning in different parts of the country particularly in rural areas;

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

(c) the details of financial allocation made for the purpose during the current financial year?

International University of Buddhist Studies in Dharamsala

1147. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish an International University of Buddhist Studies in Dharamsala;

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to the University to construct its own building; and

(c) the help received from the UNESCO in this regard?

Autonomy to colleges in Karnataka by UGC

1148. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UGC has granted autonomy to some colleges in Karnataka; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

CBSE courses in schools of other countries

1149. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools in other countries that offer CBSE courses;

(b) the names of the countries where these schools are located;

(c) whether Government intend to introduce CBSE and other courses to under developed countries in bilateral agreements;

(d) if so, the names of countries to whom Government have offered this proposal; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Financial assistance for promotion of education by World Bank and IFIs

1150. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank and International Financial Institutions are providing financial assistance for promotion of education in the country;

(b) if so, the details of financial allocation made by these financial institutions during the last three years and till date; and

(c) the details of achievements made so far in this regard?

Quality Improvement Scheme in Schools

1151. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nodal scheme of Quality Improvement in Schools is a non-starter with the entire fund remaining unutilized in the current year;

(b) whether one implementing agency is getting more than 50 per cent of the total grant on environmental education for one State; and

(c) if so, the details of the grants given to NGOs on environmental education during the current and last three years and their percentages to the total utilization?

Vacancy in KVs and NVs

1152. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas functioning at present in the country;

(b) by when these posts are likely to be filled up; and

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

National Education Policy

† 1153. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take any concrete steps to make 20 crores of students studying at primary and secondary level creative and diligent;

(b) whether Government would formulate a National Education Policy so that it could be implemented uniformly in all the States and the same should remain consistent with each and every Government;

(c) if so, by when, Government would take steps in this direction; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

MBA entrance examination

1154. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to conduct MBA entrance examination from 2005 for State and private run colleges imparting education for MBA and post graduate management diploma programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the candidates proposed to be selected through this entrance examination will be related to the anticipated vacancies/employment opportunities in these disciplines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Marketing of projects of IIT Kanpur

1155. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of useful inventions and technologies developed by the scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and other such prestigious institutes have not been allowed to make a transition to the market, but are only stacked in the archives or recorded in journals, due to reported bureaucratic inadequate evaluation of the new device or technology for its marketability;

(b) if so, the details of such known cases; and

(c) the steps being taken for better co-ordination with the scientific fraternity to ensure marketing of the projects after their completion?

Setting up of IIT in Karnataka

1156. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any proposal to set up an Indian Institute of Technology in Karnataka; and

(b) whether Government would take steps to set up an Indian Institute of Technology in Karnataka, in view of the Karnataka being considered as the IT Capital of the country?

Schemes for welfare of destitute women and children

1157. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes and programmes formulated and being implemented for the welfare of destitute women/children in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of financial assistance provided to each of the States during each of the last three years for implementing the above schemes in the country?

National Literacy Mission Programme in Kashmir

1158. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to extend National Literacy Mission Programme to Kashmir shortly;

(b) if so, the districts proposed to be covered under the programme; and

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated by the Central Government for the purpose and by whom the teaching work is to be undertaken?

Strengthening of education system

1159. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country can create 40 million jobs worldwide in the next two decades in various IT and manufacturing sectors if our education system concentrates on improving skills and technical training; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government for strengthening education by improving skills and technical training based valued added education services to our younger generation so that unemployment problem should not increase further in the country?

Common All India entrance for computer application courses

1160. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce a common all India entrance list for computer application courses (MCA); and

(b) if so, what are the details of this scheme and its implications?

Vacancies in Central Universities

1161. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of teaching posts vacant in Central Universities; and

(b) the action taken to fill the vacancies early?

Assessment and Accreditation in respect of Open Universities

1162. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the Assessment and Accreditation conducted by the IGNOU in respect of Open Universities;

(b) whether such an Assessment and Accreditation has also been conducted by the UGC in respect of regular Universities; and

(c) if so, what are its salient points and how far these assessment studies improved the level and conduct of University Education?

Conditions of hostels in Government colleges

1163. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hostels provided for Government Colleges in small towns are in a pathetic conditions;

(b) if so, the details of hostels where students have complained to the authorities of bad and mismanaged hostel facilities, State-wise, district-wise;

(c) whether the basic amenities provided here like food, toilets and recreation is very poor;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and details of funds granted to States to maintain these Government hostels; and

(e) whether States have asked for increase in funds to maintain these hostels and whether Government have granted the same to them?

Anganwadi centres in Madhya Pradesh

†1164. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded sanction to a special proposal for increasing the number of anganwadi centres in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Maharashtra under the Child Development Service Scheme;

(b) whether additional allocation of funds has been made for the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; district-wise?

Optimal use of fund for women and child welfare

1165. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop an effective mechanism to ensure that the allocated sum for women and child welfare is spent optimally; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Permission for professional institutions

†1166. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that permission has been granted to start several professional institutions during the last five years;

(b) if so, the total number of these institutions; and

(c) the number of these institutions in Government and Non-Government Sectors separately?

Oriya medium schools in Orissa and West Bengal borders

1167. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oriya dominated villages on the Orissa-West Bengal borders falling in West Bengal do not have Oriya medium schools and the students are forced to receive education in Bengali medium;

(b) whether as a result the Oriya language in these villages is on the verge of extinction and it is a cause of discontentment among the Oriya speaking people; and

(c) if so, whether Government would prevail upon West Bengal Government to make arrangement for Oriya medium schools in these villages to redress the grievances of Oriya population?

Untrained teachers for elementary education

1168. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to employ totally untrained teachers for elementary education in the proposed alternative schools;

(b) if so, what is the justification thereof;

(c) whether this proposal is not against the constitutional right for equal education for all; and

(d) what steps are being taken for providing teachers training to unemployed youth of the country on large scale?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Performance of Central Universities

1169. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the performance and functioning of Central Universities;

(b) if so, the details of the assessments made in respect of each of the Central Universities especially their achievements; and

(c) the problems faced by them?

Navodaya Vidyalayas

†1170. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such districts in various States where Navodaya Vidyalayas have not been opened till date;

(b) the names of those districts in Uttaranchal State where Navodaya Vidyalayas have not been opened so far and by when Navodaya Vidyalayas are proposed to be opened there;

(c) whether the Ministry propose to open Navodaya Vidyalayas in each district during current Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

National Curriculum Framework for School Education

1171. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two of the three judges of the Supreme Court in their

judgement delivered on September 12, 2002, regarding the National Curriculum Framework for School Education had directed Government to consider filling the vacancies in the CAGE and convene the CAGE to consider the National Curriculum Framework for School Education brought out by NCERT; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to implement the direction of the Supreme Court?

Its branches in foreign countries

1172. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI PARMESHWAR
KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up branches of Indian Institute of Technology in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the purpose of tapping overseas market in this regard?

Convention on the Rights of the Child

1173. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has ratified the UN adopted 1989 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' which, *inter alia*, gives guarantee for full ranges of rights from survival and development, to protection from exploitation and abuse and full participation in family, etc;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, have we fulfilled the envisaged commitment by passing the relevant legislation in line with the CRC which aims to defend, protect and fulfill the rights of children; and

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

Urdu education in Central Schools

1174. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Schools which have provisions of Urdu education; State-wise; and

(b) the number of Urdu teachers engaged in these schools?

Number of children not going to school

† 1175. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of children not going to school for getting primary education at present;

(b) the number of boys and girls out of them;

(c) what are the reasons that these children are not going to school;

(d) what steps Government have taken for providing compulsory and free education to all the children between the age group of 6-14 years after making announcement in this regard; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

Leakage of CAT papers

1176. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

SHRI JANARDHANA

POOJARY:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI

REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI A. VIJAYA-

RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the leakage of question paper for common admission test for Indian Institute of Management held on 23rd November, 2003; and the consequent cancellation of the examination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any C.B.I. enquiry has been instituted;

(d) if so, what are the terms of reference;

(e) by when the cancelled examination would be conducted;

(f) whether it is also a fact that the question paper of entrance exam of pre-medical of CBSE and bank's probationary officers exams are also leaked; and

(g) what measures are proposed to be taken to ensure that such incidences do not recur in future?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Permanent station in Antarctica

1177. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India plans to set up permanent station in Antarctica;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the studies proposed to be made in country's interest like under sea mining and unravelling monsoon mystery?

Problems at Vijayawada and Guntur

1178. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether problems of Vijayawada and Guntur Railway divisions were put before Railway Authorities in September, 2003 to run new railway trains besides providing facilities to passengers; and
- (b) if so, the response of Railway Authorities in this regard?

New train from Yeswanthpur to Nizamuddin

1179. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a new train from Yeswanthpur to Nizamuddin;
- (b) if so, by when the new train will be introduced;
- (c) number of coaches and berths proposed to be provided in the said train; and
- (d) whether it will run daily or bi-weekly?

Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Railway employees

1180. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Railway employees in near future;
- (b) if so, by when this scheme is likely to be notified; and
- (c) the number of employees to be retired under the proposed scheme?

BG line from Pipavav Port to Surendranagar

1181. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the work of the Broad Gauge Line from Pipavav Port to Surendranagar has been completed;
- (b) if so, by when the passenger train will be started from Pipavav Port to Palanpur via Surendranagar; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and solution thereof?

Clusters by the side of rail track

1182. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that JJ clusters located by the side of rail tracks in the capital pose a grave danger to the safety of running trains;
- (b) whether Government have ever visualized the magnitude of a mishap in case of derailment around such concentrations on the ring railway and

other rail track specially of trains carrying tonnes of inflammable material; and

(c) if so, details of action plan to clear these encroachments in a phased manner?

Filling of posts in Railway Police

† 1183. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Board had given consent for filling up 4370 posts of railway police personnel in the year 2000-01;

(b) whether the pending amount to meet the expenditure incurred on these activities have not been released;

(c) whether the amount of 23.81 crores of rupees had been spent on filling of 1322 posts;

(d) what policy Government have adopted to refund the amount to the Department of Railways under the Government of Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Withdrawal of Shatabdi Express between Howrah and Patna

1184. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shatabdi Express Trains running between Howrah and Patna have been withdrawn after its two years run;

(b) if so, whether it was due to mismanagement of Railway Administration that this prestigious train was discontinued; and

(c) what are other details in this regard?

Poor safety record of Zones and Divisions

1185. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of action contemplated by Government against the Zones and Divisions which have been identified by the Railway Board with poor safety records?

Special train for tourist destinations

1186. MISS MABEL REBELLO: SHRI B.J. PANDA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have developed a tourist train concept which would encourage chartering of special trains for tourist destinations;

(b) if so, details of the project and whether this has been tried on experimental basis in some parts of the country and has given encouraging results, if so, details thereof; and

(c) areas where this would now be experimented?

Circular train through South India

1187. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for running a circular train through South India to boost tourism; and

(b) if so, the action taken to implement the circular train connecting important South India tourist destinations?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Funds for gauge conversion of
Nizamabad to Secunderabad**

1188. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have requested the Centre to release additional funds of Rs.50 crores in the budget for 2003-04, for completion of gauge conversion of Nizamabad to Secunderabad from Meter Gauge to Broad Gauge;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Railway projects in Bihar

1189. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing projects in Bihar and the progress made till date;

(b) by when the projects are expected to be completed;

(c) the details of expenditure incurred thereon till date, project-wise;

(d) the funds required for completion of the pending projects indicating the amount of cost escalation, the cost of each project from the date of sanction; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government for their expeditious completion?

Taking over of Bharat Wagon Ltd.

1190. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to take over

Mokamah and Muzaffarpur units of Bharat Wagon Ltd., a PSU under Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. (BBUNL), is under consideration of the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar two wagon manufacturing companies viz. Burn Standard and Braithwait under BBUNL would also be considered for take over; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pending gauge conversion projects

1191. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the gauge conversion work pending as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether target date has been fixed for the completion of these projects;

(c) if so, the project-wise details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the conversion work?

Development of new locomotive

1192. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railways have developed a new locomotive which can reduce the journey time;

(b) if so, how much time can be reduced in long journeys; and

(c) by when these locomotives are likely to be introduced for use of passenger and express trains?

Violation of BIS norms

1193. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sample of bottle of Rail Neer supplied to the passengers has been found to be chemically contaminated and in violation of the norms specified by Bureau of Indian Standards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action proposed to be taken in this regard?

Renewal of tracks

† 1194. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details with regard to renewal of rail tracks proposed in the year 2003-2004;

(b) whether Government have made any action plan jointly with State Governments in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Linking of Pondicherry and Bangalore

1195. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have already ordered survey for linking Pondicherry and Bangalore through railway line; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the survey and by when it will be implemented?

Rail line from Gandhinagar to Moti-Adaraj

1196. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Railways has agreed to connect Gandhinagar with the Ahmedabad-Delhi Gauge line;

(b) what is the planned time frame for completion of broad gauge of Kalol Moti-Adaraj;

(c) the budget provision for the same *vis-a-vis* the planned time frame; and

(d) the position of the new railway line from Gandhinagar to Moti-Adaraj?

Palampur-Gandhidham rail line

1197. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of project of conversion to broad gauge of the Palampur-Gandhidham rail line;

(b) whether Railways have a time bound programme for completion of this conversion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Battery regeneration in Railways

1198. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 284 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd August, 2002 and state:

(a) the reason why concerned Railways only propose procurement of batteries without enhancing life of used batteries by regeneration;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the specific voltage/s, AH rating-wise application of batteries being used in various Railway departments including S&T, showing population and cost of each voltage application with annual cost incurred during 2001-03;

(c) approximate cost of batteries for one set of A.C. Coaches; and

(d) compelling circumstances making RDSO to conduct life cycle test of battery at manufacturers premises instead of conducting at National Test Laboratory or other Government premises?

Revenue sharing by RailTel Corporation

1199. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RailTel Corporation has decided to offer telecom bandwidth to optical fibre cable along its 62,000 km. Track network;

(b) whether RailTel has also decided to follow revenue sharing model with Cable TV operators; and

(c) if so, the complete details thereof and to what extent the RailTel will be benefited from these projects?

Cancellation of recruitment examination by Railways

1200. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have cancelled/postponed some of its recruitment examination which were to be held in November, 2003; and

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

Report of Disaster Management Committee

1201. SHRI MOOLCHAND

MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI

REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new action plan based on Corporate Safety Plan (2003—2013) and report of Railways Disaster Management Committee has been prepared by organisation to ensure effective implementation of issues;

(b) if so, whether Railways have decided to complete speedily all targeted projects without compromising with the quality of procurement of materials;

(c) whether nexus between Railway officials and scrap mafia which resulted in a scam worth hundred of crores each year has compelled Minister to discuss this issue with GMs; and

(d) if so, whether Ministry has accepted recommendations made by recently constituted high-level Committee to review disaster management system of Railways?

Rail line between Gargara Halt and Shahjahanpur

†1202. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that doubling of railway lines has not yet been done between Gargara Halt and Shahjahanpur which makes a train to stay for a long time to give pass to another train;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when this project is planned to be started?

Use of steam engines to encourage tourism

†1203. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase the utilisation of steam engines to encourage tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of steam powered engines India is having at present?

Construction of new railway station in Delhi

†1204. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to construct a new railway station in the capital city, Delhi in view of increase in number of rail passengers and increase in volume of traffic at the present railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target fixed with regard to completion of construction of new railway station?

ROSBs in Karnataka

1205. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have identified projects for Road Over Bridge and Road Under Bridge at unmanned level crossings in the Karnataka State;

(b) if so, the number of unmanned level crossings in Karnataka; and

(c) the number of Road Over Bridges and Under Bridges proposed to be constructed in Karnataka?

Irregularities in disposal of scrap in Railways

†1206. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of gross irregularities in transportation of goods and disposing of scrap in railways;

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken to deal with the evasion of revenue going on at large scale; and

(c) the extent of amount of revenue evasion detected by Government till October, 2003?

Computerisation of Railways

1207. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have taken any step for computerisation of railways in Kerala and the rest of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of railways earmarked for computerisation, State-wise;

(d) the number of railways computerised; and

(e) whether any budgetary allocation has been made for this purpose during the current financial year?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

MG lines in Maharashtra

†1208. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length in terms of Kilometer of meter gauge rail lines in Maharashtra at present;

(b) the area-wise details of these rail lines;

(c) whether some rail lines out of these are lying damaged for many days;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take for reconstruction and reoperationalise these rail lines in the State?

Creation of Rail Bijlee Company

1209. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new The Rail Bijlee Company has been created to realize the rail dream of generation of power, as a joint venture;

(b) if so, the details of the project with its location;

(c) what are the deciding factors for location of such units in backward areas; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to set up such a unit in the most backward, poverty-stricken State of Orissa to generate employment and boost its economy, if so, details thereof?

PRS in Andhra Pradesh

1210. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 98 per cent of total reservations of Indian Railways is on PRS;

(b) if so, the locations computerized for in the country during the last four years zone-wise;

(c) the stations identified for the computerization of PRS in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the stations with the facility of Computerized Passenger Reservation System in Andhra Pradesh?

Rail coaches from aluminium

1211. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railways propose to build aluminium rail coaches with the help of Bharat Earth Movers and National Aluminium Company;

(b) if so, how far these coaches would minimize loss of lives of passengers and damage of rail property in the event of rail accidents; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to control rail accidents?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Developing RIM

1212. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

SHRI RUMANDLA
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Meteorological experts failed to predict the inadequate rainfall in Ananthapur district of Andhra Pradesh and excessive rain in other districts; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to develop a high tech Radar Imaging Satellite Mission for improving all weather predictions for agricultural activity, disaster management, geology etc.?

Production of flowers for odour and medicinal use

† 1213. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for the harvest of flowers for odour and medicinal use in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details of centres set-up in this regard and the capacity thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to expand the Uttaranchal based centres and to set up new centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Functioning of Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre, Nagpur

1214. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre at Nagpur, established in collaboration with Nagpur University during the eighties, by the Department of Science and Technology, equipped with imported instrument worth crores of rupees for research and industrial analysis, is lying idle, thus depriving researchers an opportunity for research analysis;

(b) if so, who is responsible for this; and

(c) when this Centre would become functional?

Price Index

1215. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last three years the price index of foodgrains have remained almost stationery while the price index of all commodities has gone up by 14.6 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the rural economy?

Bio-technological developments for agriculture

1216. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per a recent report, India's population would stabilize by 2050 when the population is expected to be 1.9 billion;

(b) whether, in order to provide food security to such a huge population, farmers will have to resort to new bio-technological developments; and

(c) if so, Government's plans in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Installation of telemetry system

†1217. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Meteorological Department of India is installing telemetry system in the country, especially in thickly populated cities for the purpose of collection of accurate data regarding seismological activities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the forecast made by geologists, Muzaffarpur district of Bihar including neighbouring districts have been declared as very sensitive zones like Orissa and Ahmedabad from seismological point of view;

(c) if so, steps taken by Government to tackle the calamity; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Herbal contraceptive pills

1218. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Scientists have developed World's first herbal contraceptive pills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to patent the drug as well as popularize it?

Export of herbs germplasm and micro-organisms

1219. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to convert bio-diversity resources into value-added products for use in domestic requirements and also for exports; and

(b) the total amount of herbs, germ-plasm and micro-organisms exported by India during the last five years, year-wise?

Development of Chiria Iron Ore Mines of IISCO by SAIL

1220. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL is investing Rs. 300 crore in development of Chiria Iron Ore Mines of IISCO, as reported in the media recently;

(b) if so, whether the same is carried out as a part of revival package of IISCO; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount mobilised, so far, through market bonds floated by IISCO for its revival;

(d) whether any provision has been made to make up the short fall in mobilisation of the above fund against the targetted amount; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Working of SAIL plants

1221. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India plants worked well above capacity, operating at an average of 102 per cent of their capacity during the first six months of the current year; if so, the details of production and productivity, plant-wise;

(b) how the per Rs. 1000 crore productivity of the SAIL plants compare with that in Japan, Germany and other major steel producing countries; and

(c) the details of the capacity expansion plans of the SAIL?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Prices of H.R. Coils

1222. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the specific rates on which H.R. Coil of various sizes/makes were sold by Steel Authority of India during the last three financial years, quarter-wise;

(b) the specific rates of the same varieties of H.R. Coils imported by the Steel Authority of India during the same period; and

(c) whether there is any mechanism evolved to monitor and oversee the prices of the commodity so as to ensure that private sector companies manufacturing the commodity do not indulge in malpractices at the cost of the financial term lenders?

National steel policy

1223. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a national steel policy that would aim at cutting costs for steel producers and increase exports;

(b) if so, whether a meeting of primary producers has been called to discuss the issue of price stability and lowering of import duty on steel;

(c) whether Government have constituted a committee to address iron ore related issues faced by sponge iron industry;

(d) if so, whether Government would provide relief to Indian steel sector which is reeling under steep fall in global prices of the metal; and

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

Steel production

1224. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steel production in the country have increased manifold during the last six months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian steel makers exported 2.35 million tonnes during April-September 2003; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for exerting pressure on steel makers and manufacturers not to increase steel prices?

UN volunteers programme

1225. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians, at present participating in the United Nations Volunteers Programme, the areas of their assignments and the countries to which the volunteers have been assigned;

(b) the normal tenure of these volunteers in a particular country; and

(c) the number of Indian volunteers selected during 2002 and so far, during 2003?

Imports by National Rifle Association

1226. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) how much arms, ammunition, accessories has been imported by National Rifle Association of India during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the details of distribution to the State Rifle Associations, clubs etc. during the same period, year-wise;

(c) whether there is any method to check that the respective clubs have utilised the ammunition for the benefit of shooters and for sport purposes only; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Unused shooting equipments

1227. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of equipments purchased/imported for use by the sport persons which are lying unused in the game discipline of shooting; and

(b) the details of funds spent for purchase of these equipments and equipments which are lying unused for many years and the reasons for not using these equipments by the sport persons?

Assistance to N.Y.K. in U.P.

† 1228. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of activities of the Nehru Yuvak Kendras in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the amount allotted by Government during this period and the amount spent out of it; and

(c) the reasons for not spending the whole amount?

Assistance to Karnataka for golf-club

1229. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government has sought financial assistance for developing a golf-club at Chickmangalur under Large Revenue Generating Project; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the Centre's reaction thereto?

Anti-doping measures vis-à-vis of THG

1230. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tetrahydro-gestrinone (THG) manufactured by Bay Area Laboratory, similar to anabolic steroids, is alleged to be used by Indian Sports persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for effective anti-doping test measures in India?

Assistance to M.P. for construction of Stadia

1231. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to Madhya Pradesh for the construction of Stadia as of now;

(b) the number of stadia constructed and under construction;

(c) how much financial assistance would be provided for the stadia under-construction; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) by when the work is going to be completed?

**Inspection of facilities for
Commonwealth Games**

1232. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the
Commonwealth Authorities had visited

India recently to oversee the facilities for
allowing Indian to eventually allow
bidding for the forthcoming
Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, which is the venue city,
Government have decided to bid for
hosting the Commonwealth Games; and

(c) the details of result of the visit of
Commonwealth Authorities to India?

NEW DELHI;
The 6th December, 2003

Agrahayana 15, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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