

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, the March 13, 2006/Phalguna 22, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Agro and Rural Industries; Communications and Information Technology; Development of North Eastern Region; Human Resource Development; Information and Broadcasting; Law and Justice; Mines; Minority Affairs; Parliamentary Affairs; Small Scale Industries; Social Justice and Empowerment; Tribal Affairs; Women and Child Development)

Total number of questions — 155

Job opportunities in non-farm sector under PMRY

2091. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking
steps to create extra job opportunities in
non-farm sector under the PMRY;

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially
in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years;
and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Scheme for poor villagers

†2092. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will
the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for the
poor villagers so that they don't have to
take loan from bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to
launch any scheme from its own funds for
encouraging entrepreneurs to establish rural
industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Applications received under PMRY

2093. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the
Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications
received from Maharashtra by Government
under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana
during the last two years;

(b) the details of the target fixed and
achieved in Maharashtra under the said
scheme;

(c) whether the achievements
thereunder are not satisfactory;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by Government in
this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Loans under PMRY in Andhra Pradesh

2094. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan disbursed by various banks under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana in each district especially in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years, bank-wise;

(b) the total number of beneficiaries for the said period, district-wise;

(c) whether Government are creating awareness among the rural people to avail loans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Promoting use of Khadi products

†2095. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any fresh initiative to promote the use of Khadi products among people;

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

(c) whether any fresh steps have been taken by Government to encourage khadi in urban areas in the country; and

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

Loans under PMRY in J&K

2096. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of educated persons in Jammu and Kashmir who have applied for loans to establish their ventures under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) the applications approved and loans sanctioned; and

(c) the guidelines laid down in this regard?

Performance of projects under PMRY in J&K

2097. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the performance of on-going projects under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Financial assistance by KVIC

2098. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRA-IAH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conditions stipulated to provide financial assistance by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to eligible entrepreneurs are being strictly implemented;

(b) if not, the number of complaints received by Government in this regard during the last three years for violation of these conditions;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether any mechanism is available with KVIC to enforce the conditions stipulated for the sanctioning of such financial assistance;

(e) if so, the reasons for the violation of stipulated conditions; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to further strengthen the mechanism?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Spinners and weavers of Khadi and Village Industries

2099. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employment given by khadi and village industries is going down and poor spinners and weavers are suffering;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to help this sector?

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in khadi and village industries during the last three years;

(d) if not the reasons therefor;

(e) the measures being taken to promote and to popularize the khadi and village industries;

(f) the Plan and non-Plan budgetary support given and the flow of institutional finance during the last three years as against its requirements; and

(g) the core reasons for the decline and fall of this sector?

Macro level thrust areas of agro and rural industries

2100. DR. K. MALAISAMY : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the major macro level thrust areas of agro and rural industries and to what extent they have been achieved;

(b) whether a comprehensive and thorough study was made to identify the weak and grey areas in this sector and the initiatives taken to correct the deficiencies;

(c) whether enough priority and importance of this sector has been ensured to implement the corrective measures; and

(d) whether there will be a time frame to set right the deficiencies identified?

Role of khadi and village industries

2101. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the role khadi and village industries play in rural economy and employment at present and whether it has been quantified;

Implementation of PMRY

†2102. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any detailed study of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), especially in backward areas of the country;

(b) if so, the number of people benefited by the said scheme, State-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to make the said scheme more result oriented?

Losses of MTNL and BSNL

2103. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL and MTNL have suffered heavy losses recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether MTNL has to recover more than Rs. 700 crores from its consumers; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by MTNL to recover the said amount?

Shortage of IT professionals

2104. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the report by McKinsey, India is required to produce 23 lakh technology experts by the year 2010 to maintain its superiority in IT and Business Process Outsourcing;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India is short by 5 lakh tech-experts so as to meet the demand; and

(c) if so, what long-term and short-term plans Government and NASSCOM have to meet this demand by 2010?

Amendment in IT Act to prevent cyber crimes

2105. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Information Technology Act to meet the increase in cyber crimes;

(b) if so, the sections identified for making amendments; and

(c) if not, whether Government are contemplating to study the problems faced by the industry due to cyber crimes?

Regulation of private courier services

†2106. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private courier services are working under different names to provide postal service parallel to the Department of Posts;

(b) the benefit that the Department of Posts and public are getting as a result thereof; and

(c) whether Government would formulate any rules to regulate the courier service?

Surrender of MTNL phones by subscribers

2107. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of MTNL landline phone subscribers have returned their phones to MTNL in the year 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the number of such phones returned to MTNL in the last two years in Delhi and Mumbai respectively;

(c) the reasons for the poor service of MTNL;

(d) how does MTNL propose to improve its various services; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Appointments on compassionate grounds in BSNL and MTNL

2108. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether appointment on compassionate grounds of the wards of deceased officers/employees has been stopped in the MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is an acute shortage of staff in MTNL and BSNL;

(d) whether vacancies caused due to the death or retirements of employees have not been filled up since a long time; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government for making appointments on compassionate grounds?

USO fund for rural telecom infrastructure

2109. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre propose to fund telecom companies to create telecom infrastructure in rural India from the Universal Service Obligation fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of creation of rural telecom infrastructure in Orissa under the above project and how far this will help improve rural connectivity in the State?

Dues of private telecom companies

2110. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private telecom companies owe huge amount to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how and when Government propose to recover the dues from those operators?

Levy paid to BSNL

2111. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some private operators have paid whopping amount as levy to BSNL on dispute on fixed wireless phone services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for charging this amount;

(c) whether some companies have opposed the demand to deposit levy from retrospective effect; and

(d) what action Government have taken in this regard?

Financial burden due to One India Scheme

2112. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI SHANTARAM
LAXMAN NAIK:

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

- (a) whether the MTNL and BSNL propose to launch the One India Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details of the scheme; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the scheme would put financial burden on the MTNL and BSNL; if so, how do these service providers propose to offset the burden?

Quality of IT professionals

2113. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR
SANGHI:

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

- (a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the recent study by the NASSCOM-McKinsey on the need to enhance to the quality of IT professionals in the country;
- (b) the steps suggested in the said report to improve the quality of IT professionals;
- (c) whether Government have also taken cognizance of other independent report on the issue;
- (d) whether Government are in agreement with the conclusions of reports on the need to improve the quality of IT professionals;

(e) if so, the details of the steps being taken to enhance IT education and training in the country; and

(f) how Government propose to raise the resources for this?

Regulation on Access Deficit Charge

2114. SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

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

- (a) whether Government have asked the Telecom Regulator to issue regulation on Access Deficit Charge (ADC) to the Cellular Operators at the earliest while Cellular Operators Association of India have sought more time to send their comments on the various consultation papers issued by the TRAI in the last few months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what action Government have taken or propose to take to remove the impasse?

Merger of circles of BSNL

2115. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

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

- (a) the details of merger of circles by BSNL;
- (b) whether the merger of circles is in line with the concept of a National Flat Rate for mobile and fixed landline calls;

(c) whether it is a fact that the concept of 'One India' which was to be started from January 26, 2006 has been postponed due to some technical problems;

(d) if so, the details of problems faced by his Ministry and by when the problems would be sorted out and 'One India' concept is going to be started;

(e) whether any players, private or otherwise, are opposing 'One India' concept; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Fall in profits of MTNL and BSNL

2116. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS*
BAL APTE:

SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) whether the profits of MTNL and BSNL have fallen sharply during the last two years;

(b) the details of profits earned by these PSUs during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the sharp fall in their profits; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that these PSUs do not become sick?

Imposition of fine on phone tapping

2117. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) proposes to impose fine on phone tapping;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the extent of this menace in India and how far the new measures will help control this?

Expansion of mobile telephone network

2118. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are undertaking major mobile telephone network expansion projects in various zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the poor quality of equipment and infrastructure supplied by some of the private companies is impending early completion of the expansion projects and resulting in heavy revenue loss to BSNL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated against the defaulting companies and speed up implementation of the projects?

Bangalore as world class digital city

2119. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has taken up 'Unwire Bangalore' project to make Bangalore a World Class Digital City;

(b) the salient features of the project and whether it will be taken up under public-private partnership or solely by Government;

(c) whether the project enables Bangaloreans to enjoy broadband in their homes, offices, schools and public places; and

(d) whether the Department of Information Technology will integrate applications and database in a cost effective manner?

Vacancies in IT sector due to brain drain

2120. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several posts in the Information Technology sector are lying vacant in our country as the experts having high technical qualifications are migrating to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of loss caused by this brain drain; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to fill up the vacant posts?

Revised norms for quality of service

†2121. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 143 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 2005 and state:

(a) the details of the revised norms of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India regarding the quality of service *vide* their regulation issued on the 8th July, 2005;

(b) the places where the quality of

service has been noticed to be below the norms relating to quality of the services prescribed by TRAI;

(c) whether the SMSs are not received by consumers on time especially during the season of festivals due to shortage of Base Station Tower though they are charged for the same; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to control the situation?

Insurance premium charged on Tarang hand-sets

†2122. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that insurance premium is charged monthly for "Tarang" hand-sets;

(b) if so, the amount of premium being charged and the types of facilities being provided to the subscribers as a result thereof;

(c) whether these facilities are available in other hand-sets too; and

(d) the details of insurance amount paid to the subscribers due to damage or loss of "Tarang" hand-sets in Chhattisgarh, year-wise?

Mobile towers in Andhra Pradesh

2123. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile towers installed by the BSNL, so far, in Andhra Pradesh for Global Mobile System-based mobile services;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) what could be the range of the base stations;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the towers have become defunct in the last six months;

(d) if so, the details of such towers; and

(e) the action taken to rectify them?

Launching of 3-G services

2124. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to launch third generation (3-G) services which helps in high speed download of data and video clips on mobiles;

(b) whether this is in continuation of 2/2.5/2.75-G services like GRPS and EDGE;

(c) whether any consultations have been held in this connection with the stakeholders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Quality of services provided by BSNL in Bihar

†2125. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards deterioration in quality of telephone and mobile services being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. in Bihar;

(b) whether Government are aware that the problem of network jam is getting serious day by day and the consumers are facing great difficulty; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to bring improvement in the situation?

New schemes by BSNL

2126. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new schemes have been introduced and a new strategy devised to counter the extremely strong competition being posed to the BSNL by various private operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Subscriber base of BSNL

2127. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cell phones operating under the BSNL all over the country;

(b) the figures thereof, State-wise;

(c) the targets for the year 2006-07;

(d) whether it is a fact that BSNL has not been able to streamline the commercial and service aspects of its mobile service; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Overcharging by private cellular operators

2128. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many private cellular operators are frequently overcharging their subscribers by flouting the set norms and over and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

above actually advertised and promised by them to their subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government propose to rationalize the procedure to prevent the violation of rights of the cellular subscribers?

Poor quality of customer service of MTNL

2129. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL has a phone service called 'Dolphin';

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that MTNL has not been able to properly prepare its bills and provide customer information on such bills which are generally on a very poor paper;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no proper and useful phone numbers are given on such bills so that customers could contact appropriately; and

(d) the steps proposed by MTNL to properly design bills with useful information?

Allocation from USO funds for rural telephony

2130. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total USO collected till date since its inception, year-wise; and

(b) how much of this has been given to the USO Fund and what portion of that has been allocated on a company-wise basis for deployment of rural telephony, year-wise?

New guidelines and licenses for improvement in telecom density

2131. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the current rural teledensity, urban teledensity and total teledensity; and

(b) the number of applications received in response to the new ILD and DLD guidelines and licenses issued by the DoT in December, 2005 company-wise and foreign holding in each of these companies towards augmenting teledensity?

Collection of ADC

2132. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how much Access Deficit Charge has been collected against the target since its inception till date, year-wise; and

(b) the relative amounts contributed through various types of calls—STD, ISD and others?

Increase in cyber crimes

2133. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has been witnessing increase in cyber crimes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have set up any committee to probe the issues concerning cyber crimes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have made any agreement with foreign countries to deal with cyber crimes committed on foreign lands but affecting India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Agreement on sharing of optical fibre network between BSNL and RAILTEL

2134. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement has been executed between BSNL and RAILTEL for sharing of the optical fibre network of Indian Railways by BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the revenue sharing under the agreement; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed to implement the MoU?

Development of Information Technology sector in Northern India

†2135. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the northern part of the country is still lagging behind in the Information Technology sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the efforts of Government to develop the infrastructure are also not encouraging;

(c) if so, whether Government would take any initiative to spread the benefits of Information Technology to the small cities of the country;

(d) if not, the details of the efforts of Government in this regard, State-wise;

(e) whether Government are considering to develop Bhopal on the lines of Bangalore; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Improvement in quality of service provided by Department of Posts

†2136. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that performance of private speed post and parcel service is better than that of the Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the performance of the Department; and

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

Threat posed by cheap Chinese mobile sets

2137. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any threat from cheap Chinese mobile handsets;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken to include mobile sets in the watch list to counter dumping of cheaper products from China;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Schemes of BSNL and MTNL

†2138. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL and MTNL have introduced many schemes regarding cellular and landline phones;

(b) the details of those schemes and the utility of 'Jeevan Sathi' and the scheme of one rupee for entire country etc. and the benefits thereof to the public; and

(c) whether the interests of existing consumers will be safeguarded?

E-readiness Assessment Report

2139. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to India E-readiness Assessment Report 2004, Madhya Pradesh is positioned as "Expectant" below 13 States; and

(b) if so, what initiatives have been taken by Government in order to boost e-governance initiatives in Madhya Pradesh?

Role of electronics in automotive sector

2140. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electronics is slated to play a key role in the automotive sector;

(b) if so, what is the scope of electronic application in the automotive sector; and

(c) what would be the electronic component part of the motor vehicle?

Implementation of the Talwar Committee Report

†2141. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recommendations of the Talwar Committee regarding granting of pension to the Gramin Dak Sewaks have not been implemented till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that according to the Committee's recommendations, Gramin Dak Sewaks who have passed Intermediate examination and who are having three years of experience have not been allowed to appear in the departmental examination for the posts of clerk;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether payments are not made to the Gramin Dak Sewaks by adding 50 per cent D.A. in their basic pay; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

TRAI order on reducing international bandwidth prices

2142. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Tribunal has set aside TRAI order of reducing the international bandwidth prices by upto 70 per cent;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) how this decision will affect the IT-enabled service providers in the country since they are the chief users of this bandwidth; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in view of this decision?

Norms for late payment charges

2143. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms laid down by TRAI for late payment charges;

(b) whether Government are aware that Airtel is charging exorbitant late payment fee from its subscribers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to levy reasonable late payment fee from subscribers?

Private cellular service providers

2144. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the private companies providing cellular phone services in India alongwith their investment and the number of subscribers, as on date;

(b) how do they compare with B.S.N.L. and M.T.N.L. in terms of size, technology and infrastructure; and

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the private companies are using the infrastructural facilities of BSNL and MTNL for their cellular services?

Amendments to Indian Post Office Act

†2145. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring amendment to the Indian Post Office Act to check the increasing competition faced by postal department in view of the expanding network of courier companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of small and big courier companies at present which have been given licence?

Legislation and guidelines for phone tapping

2146. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the legislation under which phone-tapping is allowed by Government;

(b) the salient features of the existing provisions;

(c) whether any fresh guidelines have been issued in the matter of phone tapping;

(d) the sections under which these guidelines have been issued; and

(e) the details of these guidelines?

Setting up of IT Park in Goa

2147. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Goa propose to establish an Information Technology Park in the State;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the State Government have sought any assistance from his Ministry;

(c) whether his Ministry has got a scheme to give financial and technical assistance to the State Governments proposing to establish I.T. Parks; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme?

Recommendations to install telephones

†2148. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recommendations made by the questioner as a Member of Rajya Sabha to install telephones from M.P. quota during his tenure, so far, year-wise;

(b) the number of telephones installed each year and the reasons for its under installation and if the telephones could not be installed, whether the same were installed in the following year; and

(c) if even hundred of telephones are not installed every year despite recommendations, the difference between installation of telephones from M.P. quota and that of general quota?

Benefits to private sector telecom companies

†2149. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of those private sector telecom companies for which a congenial atmosphere was created and benefits extended by the previous Government;

(b) the loss suffered by the country as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Use of mobile switching centres by mobility service providers

2150. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Regulatory Authority has kept limited mobility and cellular mobility as distinct entities;

(b) if so, whether it has specifically disallowed mobility service providers using mobile switching centers;

(c) if so, whether Reliance Infocom launched Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) with the capability of full mobility cellular service, even though it had not secured the license, after the year 2001;

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

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

Development of bamboo based plywood industries of NER

2151. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request for channelising funds through Nort East Council for promotion/development of bamboo based plywood industries for replacement of wood by bamboo in industrial units of North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when the funds are to be placed with the North Eastern Council?

Project reports by NE States

2152. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have failed to cope up with the pressure to examine the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) submitted by the NE States due to lack of technical manpower and increasing workload;

(b) if so, the steps Government have initiated to make the Ministry a full-fledged one;

(c) whether it is a fact that a proposal for creation of a Technical Cell in the Ministry has been submitted to the Ministry of Finance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposed Technical Cell will come into force?

Projects under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources for NER

2153. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a total of 663 projects have been sanctioned at an approved cost of Rs. 4.151 crores under the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many projects have been sanctioned for Assam alone out of 663 projects under NLCPR?

Fund for Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal

†2154. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a package of 90 crores rupees was announced by three successive Prime Ministers for the institute of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) established in Manipur;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that no amount has been disbursed so far for development of RIMS under the said package; and

(c) the reasons for not disbursing the said amount and by when the said amount would be disbursed?

Accredited institutes in Karnataka

2155. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accredited institutions in Karnataka and the number of such institutions where Internal Quality Assurance Cell have been established as proposed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council;

(b) whether the institutions that have failed to establish this cell, would be disqualified for reaccreditation; and

(c) whether there is any proposal with the State Government to establish a State Quality Assurance Cell under the Higher Education Department to bring accountability of the institutions for quality and probity?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Deviation from curriculum by CBSE

2156. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many examinations for this year, CBSE is going out of the curriculum;

(b) whether Government have noted reports in the media that the latest exams of CBSE have become controversial;

(c) the guidelines which CBSE issues to the concerned people so that examinations should not create controversies and bring due pressure on students;

(d) the reasons for controversies coming up every year at the time of CBSE examinations; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the entire CBSE examinations system?

Ineffectiveness of mid-day meal scheme

†2157. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite providing mid-day meal in Government schools in the country, this scheme has not been proving effective in retaining the children in the schools;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken to improve the same?

IIMs in other countries

2158. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

have decided to allow Indian Institute of Management to be set up in other countries; and

(b) whether the IIMs in the country have been asked by his Ministry to come up with the common vision document?

Monitoring of SSA

2159. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN
PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has put in place a mechanism for strict monitoring of the results of Sarva Shiksha Schools with a view to address its problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the position of Orissa under this project and the action plan of Government to help the State Government improve the infrastructure facilities in the State *i.e.* drinking water, toilets, playgrounds and to provide financial support alongwith timely availability of books etc.?

Education to dropouts

2160. SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has recently ruled that it was obligatory on the part of the Government to provide education to school dropouts and help the elimination of child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken to prepare a road map to give effect to the directive of the Court?

Social security measures in JNU

2161. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any step to safeguard social security measures and encourage women employees working in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of women faculty and women candidates applied, short listed, selected and joined for faculty positions in University during the last three years, year-wise, department-wise and category-wise;

(c) the details of creche facilities and monitoring of creche facility, in campus, as on today; and

(d) the details of staff appointed/working, qualification/training of staff, budget allotted and facilities sanctioned and implemented, as on date?

Construction of classrooms in Karnataka

2162. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 4859 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 2005 and state:

(a) whether 50 per cent of the Central share as first instalment has since been released; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Falling standard of education

2163. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the standard of education in Government and Government aided schools in the country has fallen considerably in the past few years;

(b) if so, whether the exact cause of the fall in standard of education in such schools in the country has been assessed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have recently approved any schemes for the improvement of quality of education in Government and Government aided schools; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when such schemes are likely to be implemented?

Navodaya Vidyalayas

†2164. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of Navodaya Vidyalayas opened so far in the country alongwith the number of those yet to be opened;

(b) the reasons for not being able to open all Navodaya Vidyalayas and since when it is pending;

(c) the time when the concerned State Government had been contacted for the allotment of land in this regard alongwith their reaction thereto; and

(d) the number of students who will be admitted in the Navodaya Vidyalayas which are proposed to be opened?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Colleges for UGC recognition and financial assistance

2165. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of colleges in the country that have applied to the UGC for recognition and financial assistance, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases out of the above which have been pending for over a year as on 1st January, 2006;

(c) the normal time taken by the UGC in according recognition and providing financial assistance to the newly opened colleges; and

(d) by when the cases pending for over a year are likely to be cleared?

Yoga and physical activities in schools

2166. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Yoga and physical activities will be made mandatory in schools to prevent the onset of lifestyle-related illnesses among the younger generation; and

(b) if so, whether the directions to this effect are sent to schools?

Expenditure on NV students

2167. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government spend Rs. 30,277/- on each student studying in Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the break-up of the facilities provided to the students;

(c) the details of Navodaya Vidyalayas in the State of Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(d) the number of students studying in these Vidyalayas, district-wise; and

(e) the performance of the students studying in the above Navodaya Vidyalayas in Class X and XII during the last five years, year-wise and class-wise?

Nomenclature of institutes

2168. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that innumerable private Management and Engineering Institutes are operating in the country bearing the prefix "Indian" or "National" affecting adversely the brand equity of IITs and IIMs which function under Government participation, management and patronage; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to curb this practice and take deterrent and preventive action against the erring institutes?

Concession to handicapped students

2169. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Board of Secondary Education has given concessions to physically handicapped students appearing in 10th and 12th examinations this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such concessions are being given to the visually-challenged students throughout the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Student-class ratio under DPEP

2170. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average student-class ratio for schools covered under the District Primary Education Programme has come down;

(b) if so, the comparative figures for the last five years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Dissemination of education to poor and marginal classes

†2171. SHRI ABU ASIM AZIM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.G.C. have any scheme to ensure dissemination of education among poor and marginal classes, to meet the rising necessities of economy and to encourage human rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final touch is likely to be given to such schemes?

Moral science in schools

2172. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to introduce moral science as a compulsory subject in the various schools of the country in view of the fast receding moral values among the youth of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla

2173. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present role of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies located at Shimla;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have been increasing its budget every year for the institute;

(c) the future goals of the IIAS;

(d) whether Government would consider reviewing the need for this expensive institution; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that institutions which are not contributing to national development are reviewed?

Failure of National Literacy Mission

†2174. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that details of achievements of National Literacy Mission can be seen only on papers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that special literacy drive being run in 150 districts having minimum literacy rate in the country has become only a formality in the absence of proper monitoring;

(c) if not, the State-wise details thereof;

(d) whether Government are considering to formulate a concrete scheme for overall development of the above 150 districts;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof; and
(f) if not, Government's reaction in this regard?

Recognition to hotel management courses

2175. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to recognise courses offered by various hotel management institutes by the University Grants Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Education zone in the country

2176. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up 'Education Zone' in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Central University status to Barkatullah University

†2177. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted a proposal to Government for granting status of Central University to Barkatullah University, Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh in September, 2004; and

(b) by when the status of Central

University would be granted to the said university?

SC direction regarding Right to Education

2178. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has issued a notice in December, 2005 to the Union Government in connection with the enforcement of Right to Education of every child in the age group of 6-14 years by abolishing child labour in all forms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reply given by the Centre;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are thinking of setting up of National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights;

(d) if so, the salient features of the Commission; and

(e) how the proposed Commission would help in eliminating the child labour from the country?

Drop-out of SCs, STs and girls

2179. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of students enrolled in class I who can complete class X, the percentage of such students in case of SC, ST and girls alongwith the reason for failing to check the high rate of dropouts;

(b) whether there is any law to ensure that children from all economic background have access to elite private schools;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the economically backward children have a right to get education with equity; and

(d) whether a law would be made to provide education with equity?

Children out of school in BIMARU States

2180. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of children out of school in all the BIMARU States;

(b) whether the high percentage is due to failure of these States in implementation of SSA; and

(c) whether these States should be provided 100 per cent Central assistance for SSA?

Computerised version of books

2181. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce computerised version of books of some classes in the next few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the decision would deprive students belonging to weaker sections of the community not having computers at home;

(d) whether Government propose to help such students or has an action-plan to do so;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Student teacher ratio

2182. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the student teacher ratio in the schools of the country taken together and its comparison with the last five years; and

(b) whether it is a fact that in some schools in Delhi alone, there are only two teachers for more than 400 students; if so, the reasons therefor?

Extension of time-limit for Ph.D. and NET aspirants

†2183. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended time-limit for completing Ph.D. degree besides National Eligibility Test (NET) for appointment to the posts of lecturers in universities and colleges;

(b) if so, the basis for the same and whether Government are considering the above time-limit in case of M.Phil. degree also; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether any scheme is under consideration to extend such time-limit in future?

Reduction of seats in technical courses

2184. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the AICTE rolled back from the reduction in seats it

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

made in engineering, MCA and nursing colleges across the country;

(b) if so, the details of seats reduced initially and rolled back afterwards, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for reducing the number of seats in various colleges;

(d) whether seats have also been reduced in some Government colleges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Mobilization of mothers in mid-day meal scheme

2185. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has requested the CMs of States to provide personal leadership and to guide mass mobilization of mothers in regard to mid-day meal scheme for children;

(b) if so, the reaction of each State received so far; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

Increasing fees in universities

2186. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC has been told to instruct the various universities to increase fees so that at least 20 per cent of their expenses can be met through fee hike;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the universities like JNU, Delhi University and AMU will have to go for ten fold increase in order to comply with the instructions; and

(d) if so, the details of expected increase in fee structure in various universities under UGC?

Children falling ill due to mid-day meal

2187. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were reports of several children dying and a large number of falling ill after eating rotten food at schools in Meerut, Kanpur and Unnao under mid-day meal scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to provide safe and hygienic foods to schools under mid-day meal scheme?

Portrayal of Gandhi in textbooks

2188. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, is not being portrayed properly in some of the textbooks for schools;

(b) if so, the measures being taken to correct the images; and

(c) whether any study of textbooks used in various schools, Government as well as private schools, is being undertaken?

Selection of children under SSA

2189. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any criteria has been fixed

for selection of children for special needs under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for this programme especially to Bihar and Maharashtra;

(d) the States where this programme is not initiated successfully; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

Selection of candidates for admission to Medical, Dental and Engineering courses

2190. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the present status of the proposal of the Karnataka Government for the inclusion of the Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Medical, Dental and Engineering Courses (Special Provision) Act, 2004 in the IXth Schedule to the Constitution?

Schemes in Bihar and Maharashtra

2191. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to State Governments particularly Bihar and Maharashtra under various schemes during the last four years, scheme-wise;

(b) whether the sanctioned amount is utilized by State Governments for the purpose for which it was provided;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Screening films for festivals

2192. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a policy that will not require movies to be cleared by the Censor Board prior to being screened at the film festivals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this will smoothen the process of getting foreign films for festivals in our country?

Telecast of DD-1 and DD-2 programmes by cable operators

2193. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a mandate to all cable operators to telecast DD-1 and DD-2 without interruption;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the cable operators across the country are not following the mandate of Government which causes inconvenience to the public;

(c) whether Government have issued any direction or order to strictly adhere to Government's direction; and

(d) what steps Government have initiated to strictly monitor the cable operators to telecast the DD-1 and DD-2 channels with clarity?

Functioning of DD stations in Punjab

2194. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Doordarshan studios presently functioning in Punjab;

- (b) whether any new Doordarshan Studio is being planned in the State;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Staff of DD/AIR

2195. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the staff for the newly opened DD and AIR are sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance;
- (b) if so, whether Government have started to fill up the vacancies; and
- (c) if not, how many vacancies are there in DD and AIR in different categories?

Installation of DTH sets

2196. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal to install DTH sets free of cost in public institutions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of DTH sets so far installed in Andhra Pradesh?

DD transmitters in Andhra Pradesh

2197. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Doordarshan transmitters in Andhra Pradesh that became operational during the last two years alongwith their locations;

- (b) the expenditure incurred thereon;
- (c) whether required staff has been provided for operation and maintenance of these transmitters;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and
- (f) the annual estimated expenditure to be incurred on the maintenance and operation of these transmitters?

Screening of non-Kannada films

2198. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1086 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th December, 2004 and state:

- (a) whether the issues involved have been satisfactorily settled; and
- (b) if not, by when they are likely to be settled?

TV serials shown on private channels

2199. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that most of the TV serials being shown on some of the private channels keep on dragging the serials for years together on the basis of conspiracies, misunderstanding and crimes;
- (b) if so, whether Government have ever issued any warning or raised any objections against any of the current serials; if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether there is any Censor Board to censor the objectionable and shameful contents of the various programmes shown on TV; if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of community information project

2200. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State Government of Kerala is implementing a community information project namely 'Akshaya' providing the services as envisaged in the CIC Scheme of Government;

(b) whether Government of Kerala sought the sanction for including this 'Akshaya' project under the CIC Scheme; and

(c) whether Government will consider to include the above project under the CIC Scheme and extend the benefit of this scheme for the State project?

Equipments for projects under DTH

2201. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan and All India Radio have installed equipment worth Rs. 143 crores for 34 projects under the DTH but are unable to utilize it due to lack of trained manpower;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that five Doordarshan studios and 9 low power transmitters are technically ready but due to non-sanctioning of the staff, they cannot be commissioned; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the Standing Committee on Information Technology has also made similar comments about ineffective tackling of the manpower problems in Prasar Bharti during the year 2004-05?

Broadcasting of programmes by FM stations

2202. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have analysed the programmes broadcast by FM stations in the country;

(b) if so, whether they conform to the mandate given to them;

(c) whether it is a fact that these stations are not permitted to broadcast local or regional bulletins; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Insurance scheme for journalists

2203. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide insurance scheme for journalists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Law for common age for marriage of girls and boys

2204. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken the final decision regarding common age for marriage for boys and girls;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend the existing law for the purpose; and

(c) the details of the salient features of the proposed amendments?

Supreme Court's criticism of States not setting up Fast Track Courts

2205. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has recently criticised the States which have defaulted in setting up the requisite number of Fast Track Courts despite procuring full central grant for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these States are likely to set up the Fast Track Courts?

Cases pending in courts

2206. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total pending cases in the Supreme Court and each High Court as on the 1st January, 2006, court-wise;

(b) the reasons for such mounting number of pending cases; and

(c) the steps proposed to clear the huge stockpile of cases in the Supreme Court and various High Courts?

Use of certain expressions in court rooms

2207. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request has been received to do away with the age old post colonial practice of use of "My Lord" and "Your Lord ship" inside courtrooms;

(b) if so, whether Government are planning to wipe out the old system and to introduce a new terminology to be used inside courtrooms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Appointment of Notary Public

2208. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Notary Public appointed during the last three years; and

(b) the number of posts of Notary Public lying vacant in Punjab?

Expenditure on elections

2209. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by Government on conduct of the elections for the 14th Lok Sabha in the year 2004; and

(b) how it compared with that of the elections for the preceding Lok Sabha?

Election petitions filed after Lok Sabha elections

2210. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of election petitions filed following the Lok Sabha elections conducted in the country in 2004;

(b) the number of petitions disposed of so far and the number of those which are pending;

(c) whether any election results have been revoked/cancelled on conclusion of the proceedings of election petitions mentioned in part (a) above; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Misappropriation of revenue and encroachment of forest by BALCO

†2211. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Chhattisgarh has brought into light misuse of revenue and encroachment of forest land by BALCO (Chhattisgarh);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total area of land allotted to BALCO at the time of disinvestment; and

(d) the details of action being taken by Central Government to make this land free from encroachment?

Disinvestment of BALCO

2212. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether disinvestment of the remaining forty-nine per cent of the shares of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) is contemplated;

(b) if so, the details of the exercises carried out in that regard so far, including the present status thereof;

(c) the details of production, turn-over, gross profit and net worth of BALCO as per the reports of statutory audit of its accounts conducted for the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(d) the dividends disbursed in the respective years; and

(e) the details of measures taken to ensure maximum yield to the national exchequer from this proposed disinvestments?

Holistic view to mineral laws

2213. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mineral laws in the country are being given a holistic view;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

Mining lease to foreign companies

2214. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRA-IAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign companies including Australian companies are keen to take mining lease in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the mines under consideration for lease; and

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

Lease of ironore mining

2215. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether iron ore mines have been given on lease to various companies especially in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether they are ensuring to adhere to the guidelines of Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the action initiated against them?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Tremors and landslides
in KGF**

2216. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there had been a series of tremors and landslides in the mining areas of KGF in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the National Institute of Rock Mechanics (NIRM) has taken up studies to find out the reasons for the tremors;

(c) whether some of the closed BGML mine shafts have opened out due to landslides and tremors; and

(d) the steps taken to allay the fear in the minds of the local people?

Rehabilitation of land oustees

2217. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any specific rehabilitation and resettlement plan for the land oustees in different States;

(b) whether Government have given any specific guidelines for rehabilitation of land oustees by different mining and industrial concerns;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether these guidelines are being implemented properly by respective industries; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to safeguard the interest of the land oustees?

**Amount for Maulana Azad Education
Foundation**

2218. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount sanctioned for 'Maulana Azad Education Foundation' is not adequate to help the deserving proposals, sent to the Foundation;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to increase the amount in big way; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Commission for development of
Minorities**

2219. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any Commission to study the conditions of Minorities in the country and for their development;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the terms of reference of the Commission and its composition;

(c) whether the Commission has submitted its reports;

(d) if so, the details thereof including its features and the follow-up steps being taken to implement the recommendations; and

(e) if not, the time by when the report is likely to be submitted?

Schemes for welfare of minorities

2220. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented for welfare of minorities in Punjab;

(b) the details of actual benefits that have accrued to the minorities in the State as a result thereof;

(c) the details of the complaints/suggestions received so far in respect of such schemes; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to improve the situation?

Package for revival of SSIs

2221. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special economic package has been provided to various States of the country particularly the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and till date to revive the Small Scale Industries; and

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

Losses to SSIs due to dumping of Chinese goods

†2222. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dumping of Chinese goods in Indian markets is causing loss to Indian Small Scale Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are going to dereserve more than half of the 508 products meant to be produced specially by Small Scale Industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Issues of SSIs

2223. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the major issues of Small Scale Industries under the category of credit, technology, infrastructure, marketing and institutional support;

(b) the Macro level approaches needed to tackle above said issues;

(c) to what extent such approaches have succeeded to solve the problems; and

(d) the steps taken to have a complete solution?

Enactment of legislation for maintenance and care of senior citizens

2224. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to bring a legislation to provide for maintenance of dependent and senior citizens and help them live with dignity;

(b) if so, by when the Bill will be introduced;

(c) the funds Government have released during 2004-05 under various Central schemes for the maintenance of senior citizens; and

(d) the details of the suggestions in this regard given by the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry?

Reservation in private sector

2225. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers set

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

up by Government to prepare a roadmap for extending job reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes in the private sector has submitted its report;

(b) if so, whether minority communities have also been included in the list for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto particularly with respect to minority communities?

Funds for Post-Matric Scholarship to students in Karnataka

2226. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have yet to release Rs. 8163.33 lakhs to Karnataka Government towards Post-Matric Scholarship to the Scheduled Caste students in Karnataka during the year 2005-06; and

(b) if so, by when the same will be released?

Financial assistance under Integrated Programme for Street Children

2227. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Non-Government Organizations which have been granted financial assistance by Government under Integrated programme for Street Children during the last three years in the North Eastern Region, particularly Assam;

(b) whether the NGOs have spent the grant judiciously and for the purpose it was allocated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken against the defaulter NGOs?

Status of proposals received from Chhattisgarh

‡2228. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh for Central grants in the year 2005-06;

(b) the number of proposals pending with the Ministry at present, out of above;

(c) the steps being taken by Government for the speedy disposal of the pending proposals; and

(d) by when a final decision will be taken in this regard?

Drug addiction among children

2229. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of drug addiction among children in juvenile homes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the action taken thereon; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to prevent such a situation in future?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Opening of de-addiction centres

†2230. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to open new de-addiction centres in order to prevent the youth from drug abuse;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of de-addiction centres being run presently in the country;

(d) the number of persons who have been de-addicted in these de-addiction centres during the last three years; and

(e) the total amount spent on these de-addiction centres during these years?

Preference to foreign foster parents in adoption of children

2231. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign foster parents are being given preference over intending Indian parents for adopting children;

(b) the number of NGOs or such agencies functioning in India that are engaged in looking after orphan and abandoned children; and

(c) the number of such children who were adopted during the years 2003 and 2004?

Funds for Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation

2232. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for Scheduled

Caste Finance and Development Corporation is being implemented satisfactorily;

(b) if so, the funds released during the current financial year; and

(c) if no funds have been released, the reasons therefor?

Reservation in private sector

2233. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across hurdles in attaining the objective of giving reservation in jobs to SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes in private sector;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to enact a legislation for the purpose;

(c) whether any amendment to the Constitution is being considered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Schemes for welfare of older persons

2234. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of older persons is increasing every year;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for their care and protection; and

(c) whether any new schemes have been launched for the welfare of older persons?

Schemes for welfare of SCs and STs

2235. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes available

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to NGOs/Voluntary Organizations in Karnataka to improve socio-economic conditions of SCs and STs;

(b) the details of the NGOs/Voluntary Organizations in Karnataka which have sought assistance to implement various socio-economic welfare schemes for SCs and STs during 2005-06; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to motivate more NGOs/Voluntary Organizations to take up various welfare schemes meant for SCs and STs welfare in Karnataka?

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for tribal students

2236. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved a new scheme entitled "Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship" to provide a liberal fellowship to ST students for M.Phil and Ph.D. courses recently;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the number of students proposed to be provided scholarships every year; and

(d) the districts and States identified for this purpose so far?

Tracts of tribal land

2237. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large tracts of tribal land have been alienated from Tribals for development in various States;

(b) if so, details of such lands alienated during the last five years in various States, State-wise, category-wise and year-wise;

(c) if so, whether the competent authority was consulted before marking the above land for development purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Schemes for education development in Tribal Sub-Plan Area

2238. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes presently running in Tribal Sub-plan Areas to develop the education; and

(b) the funds allocated to Orissa during the last three years, scheme-wise and year-wise?

Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan for development of forest dwellers

2239. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released Rs. 181.08 crore as Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub-Plan for the all round development of forest dwellers in forest villages;

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

(c) whether some States have come up with special proposals to develop forest villages during the current year; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon, State-wise?

Causes of oppression of women

2240. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether illiteracy and ignorance are the major causes for suffering among women and their suppression in India;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes promoted by the Centre to empower women through education, particularly professional education, entrepreneurial and managerial training;

(c) whether any special assistance is extended to organisations imparting such education and raining exclusively to women, including provision of ancillary infrastructure like hostel, library, health check-up camps, transportation, etc; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of assistance released during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise and activity-wise?

Child adoption rackets in Andhra Pradesh

2241. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some child adoption rackets have been reported during the last two years especially in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether children have been sold in the name of adoption;

(d) if so, the details of such cases filed in police stations in each district;

(e) the action taken in each case; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government to curb such illegal activities in future?

Anganwadi Centres in the country

2242. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRA-IAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Anganwadi Centres functioning in the country at present including Andhra Pradesh, State-wise;

(b) whether Government are considering to expand Anganwadi scheme in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Fund for ICDS in Karnataka

2243. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government to release 2nd instalment of grants for the year 2005-06 relating to centrally sponsored scheme of ICDS;

(b) if so, by when it was released and the amount released; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Swadhar scheme for the poor widows

2244. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have launched Swadhar Scheme in 2001-02 for the welfare of poor widows;

(b) if so, the number of such women covered under the above scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh since its inception, district-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the details of components covered under this Scheme?

Shelter homes/widow homes in Punjab

2245. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up shelter homes/widow homes in Punjab State;

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

(c) the funds likely to be allocated for this purpose during the last two years and the current year?

NEW DELHI;
The 7th March, 2006
Phalgun 16, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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