

## RAJYA SABHA

### LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a setting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, the December 13, 2002/Agrahayana 22, 1924 (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—155**

#### **Coconut disease in Orissa**

2359. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:  
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that coconut crop in Orissa has been facing threat of mite in coastal districts, where about 70 per cent of the crop has been affected, as reported in the Indian Express dated the 10th September, 2002;

(b) whether Government are also aware that fund crunch has been holding preventive measures, as the Central assistance through Coconut Development Board is awaited; and

(c) if so, whether the Central assistance has since been released; if not, by when it would be released?

#### **Storage facility for onions**

2360. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no dedicated storage facility exists to prolong the life of onions in the country, by which the farmers are selling their onions at low prices; and

(b) if so, the details of steps Government propose to take to establish storage facilities for onions in the country?

#### **Doubling the foodgrains production**

2361. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-  
RAIAH: Will the Minister of  
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up an ambitious plan to double the foodgrains production in ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the crops identified under the scheme; and

(d) the subsidies and other fiscal incentives proposed under the scheme?

#### **Drop in agricultural production**

2362. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether the overall agricultural production is expected to drop by 4.9 per cent during 2002-03;

(b) if so, whether the foodgrains production would decline by 5.8 per cent and non-food crops by 3.6 per cent;

(c) whether with the revival of rains in August, sowing of kharif crops has been taken up again; and

(d) if so, to what extent the shortage of rains has affected the kharif crops and the rabi crops?

**Horticulture Development in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir**

2363. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to encourage horticulture in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir and to train the farmers in the trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be allocated for each of the above States during 2002-2003?

**Prices of pulses**

2364. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the production of pulses due to the drought situation this monsoon; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken to keep prices of pulses down?

**Procurement of copra by NAFED**

2365. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NAFED had started procurement of copra this season, on the new MSP;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**NOC from NAFED for export of foodgrains**

†2366. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) to which countries foodgrains have been exported by NAFED during the last three years and the varieties, quantities and rates of such foodgrains;

(b) whether exports have been made by private traders and cooperative institutions also after obtaining No Objection Certificate (NOC) from NAFED;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether gross irregularities are committed and commission is taken for issuing NOC; and

(e) whether Government would get the matter probed through CBI?

**Coconut Fibre Technological Research Institute in Kerala**

2367. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture and Coir Minister of Kerala has written to the Minister regarding the urgent need for establishment of a Coconut Fibre Technological Research Institute in the State, by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Procurement of chillies by NAFED in  
Andhra Pradesh**

2368. DR. DASARI NARAYANA  
RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICUL-  
TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NAFED had undertaken  
procurement of chillies in the recent past  
in Andhra Pradesh under Market  
Intervention Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what were the terms and conditions  
approved by the Ministry in this regard?

**Crop insurance in Tamil Nadu**

2369. SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether private insurance  
companies have been entrusted the work  
of crop insurance in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the number of farmers  
benefited therefrom; and

(c) the number of farmers for whom  
sanction for payment of insurance sum has  
been accorded due to destruction of crops  
during 2002-2003?

**Burning of sugarcane crops**

2370. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of  
the setting on ablaze the standing  
sugarcane crops by farmers in some parts  
of the country; if so, the reasons therefor;  
and

(b) what are the demands of the  
farmers and what steps are being taken to  
avert unhappy situation in the crushing  
season of the country?

**Production of fodder**

†2371. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a  
shortage of fodder for milch cattle in the  
country;

(b) if so, the total annual production  
of fodder in the country;

(c) the estimated requirement thereof;  
and

(d) the details of incentive scheme with  
Government to boost production of  
fodder?

**Income of farmers**

†2372. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN  
SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the income  
of a farmer in the country is continuously  
declining;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the annual income of an average  
farmer in the country at the beginning and  
at the end of 90s?

**Foodgrains export by NAFED**

†2373. PROF. RAM DEO BHAN-  
DARY: Will the Minister of  
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of varieties and  
quantities of foodgrains given to NAFED  
by the FCI for export during the last three  
years and to which countries the  
foodgrains had been exported;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether this export has not been effected by NAFED; and

(c) if so, the details of the exporting agency, including the details of foodgrains so exported and why NAFED did not undertake the export itself?

**Subsidy to agricultural products in foreign countries**

†2374. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN  
SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agricultural products are being made cheaper in US and in the western countries by providing subsidy, directly and indirectly to the farmers;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the farmers of India are being adversely affected due to the globalisation;

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

(d) the details of decision taken by Government to provide subsidy to the farmers in the country or to raise the amount thereof?

**Export of horticulture products**

†2375. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to encourage the export of horticulture products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to encourage the production

and export of horticulture products, State-wise and the names of these products?

**Import of cattle**

†2376. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that symptoms by foreign dreadful diseases known as BBD and MCF had been found in the bulls and pregnant cows imported from Australia;

(b) if so, whether the cattle afflicted with such diseases were imported in the country earlier also;

(c) whether there are rules for conducting tests of cattle, before their import in the country;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for import of such cattle suffering from diseases; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government for its prevention?

**Devastation of Bt cotton by American Bollworm**

2377. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUK-  
KARASU:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that American Bollworm has devastated Bt cotton crop against which it was supposed to have been genetically fortified at Anandwan College of Agriculture Farm near Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to re-examine the efficacy of Bt cotton being marketed by Mahyco;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) which are the other places where Bt cotton seeds were sown and the result thereof?

#### **Testing of imported cattle in UK**

2378. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 333 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 2002 and state:

- (a) whether the samples of the cattle imported from Australia were sent to the International Epizootics Referral Laboratory, UK for testing; and
- (b) if so, the results of the laboratory on the blood samples of the cattle?

#### **Import of cattle from Australia**

†2379. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 337 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 2002 and state:

- (a) the number of cattle imported from Australia during the last one year; and
- (b) the total foreign exchange spent thereon and whether any health check-up was carried out before their import?

#### **Conservation of flood water for drought**

2380. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether drought or floods have been afflicting the same region or States like Orissa, one after the other since decades;

- (b) whether any short, medium or long term measures have been devised to conserve flood water, for use in drought-hit areas; and

- (c) if so, how far these have proved effective to control miseries and devastation?

#### **Drinking water and fodder in drought-affected States**

2381. DR. DASARI NARAYANA  
RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether availability of drinking water and fodder was reviewed by Government in the wake of severe drought conditions in Andhra Pradesh and other drought-affected States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken to tackle the situation?

#### **Drought measures for Kerala**

2382. SHRI N. K. PREMACHAND-  
RAN: Will the Minister of AGRICUL-  
TURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Kerala Government sought financial grants to undertake relief measures in drought hit places in the State;
- (b) if so, the decision taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Kerala Government declared the State as drought-affected and brought the matter into the notice of Government;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether the recent announcement of Prime Minister exempting the agricultural debt and interest covers the farmers in Kerala; and

(e) if so, to what extent and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **NAIS for drought-affected farmers**

2383. SHRI N. R. DASARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount of money was disbursed under Crop Insurance Scheme to farmers who suffered heavy losses due to damage to their crops, caused by the recent drought in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the districts, the number of farmers affected and the extent of losses incurred by them; and

(c) the crop insurance money paid to them?

#### **Production of tomatoes developed by America**

†2384. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that PURDE University in America and United States Department of Agriculture has developed any species of tomato which contain anti-cancer lifoyin element;

(b) if so, whether Government would make efforts to produce these tomatoes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Notices by NPPA for over charging**

2385. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Revital is being marketed by Delta, a sister company of Ranbaxy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s Delta have not taken any price approval for this formulation;

(c) whether NPPA has issued notice to Ranbaxy for overcharging for this drug; and

(d) if so, the amount overcharged and the amount recovered?

#### **Use of bio-fertilizers**

2386. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to undertake concrete steps to promote use of bio-fertilizers, biomanure, micronutrients as a supplement to chemical fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the reasons for closing down operation of eight bio-fertilizer units under Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division (FP & ARD) of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation?

#### **Changes in fertilizer pricing**

2387. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved pricing for fertilizer industry

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

with retrospective effect, from July 1, 1997;

(b) if so, whether such changes in basic parameters would adversely affect viability of a number of fertilizer companies, due to huge recovery for the past five years, after companies have finalized their accounts, distributed dividends and paid taxes as applicable; and

(c) whether Government have undertaken any study about the actual profitability of fertilizer companies and whether there would be adverse impact on production of fertilizers and continued reasonable level of self-sufficiency; if so, what are the details in this regard?

#### **Fertilizer production under Rourkela Steel Plant**

†2388. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN  
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a project for production of chemical fertilizers was being run under Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, when the project was undertaken and the total capital investment made therein; and

(c) the amount of financial losses suffered by this project, till March, 2002?

#### **Distortions in fertilizer sector**

2389. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have moved one step closer to removing

distortions in the fertilizer sector, with the Group of Ministers finalizing the broad parameters of a new fertilizer policy;

(b) whether Rs. 6,500 crore fertilizer subsidy is a matter of concern and an urgent need for reforms in this sector is imperative; and

(c) if so, what are Government plans in this regard?

#### **Bid for NFL by IFFCO and KRIBHCO**

2390. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers has urged the P.M., to allow Co-operative Sector Companies, namely IFFCO and KRIBHCO, to bid for National Fertilizer Limited;

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

(c) the reaction of Government on his recommendation, so far?

#### **Accountability of fertilizer companies**

2391. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer manufacturing companies have recently been made accountable for the first time for their efficiency;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the impact of the same on the fertilizer industry;

(c) the details of the innovative measures taken by Government, to give a boost to the fertilizer industry; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) what are the salient features of the Fertilizer Policy, with specific reference to subsidies?

#### **Botanical and Bio-fertilizer units**

2392. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more emphasis is proposed to be given to the development of botanical and bio-fertilizer units in the new fertilizer policy; and

(b) if so, the details of such units to be developed during the next two years, the production capacity, fertility and selling price, as compared to chemical fertilizers?

#### **GoM recommendations on closure of fertilizer units**

2393. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Group of Ministers has recommended closure of a large number of fertilizer units in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of these units, the financial performance of each of them during the last three years and the number of workers employed by each of them; and

(c) whether there have been any arrears of wages and other statutory dues to the employees; if so, the details thereof?

#### **Impact of fertilizer pricing on domestic units**

2394. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as a result of some recent decisions on Fertilizer Industry Pricing, the viability of domestic fertilizer plants will be affected, in turn, reducing the domestic production;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to meet the demand of fertilizers, by increasing imports; and

(c) if so, whether any assessment of the impact on international price of fertilizers has been made, which normally shoot up whenever there is heavy import by India, leading to higher subsidy on imports, as was the experience in the past?

#### **Bids for FACT**

2395. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has invited Expression of Interests (EOI) for the sale of 51 per cent stake in Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT);

(b) if so, what are the minimum qualifications fixed for the prospective bidders; and

(c) what is the total asset of FACT, as on 30th September, 2002?

#### **Melting of Glaciers of Himalayas**

2396. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Is a blanket of smog choking South Asia" appearing in the Times of India dated the 13th August, 2001;

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\*Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a recent study by the Delhi University in Kullu Valley has revealed that 67 per cent of the 1500 major Glaciers in the Himalayas are receding, which could result in abrupt transition in climatic conditions, causing rise of 9.88 cm in sea level by 2100 and erosion of low lying areas; and

(c) if so, what is Government's perception about this new phenomenon and the steps being contemplated, so that such a situation could be averted?

#### **Discussion on farm subsidies at Earth Summit**

2397. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India demanded in the recent Earth Summit at Johannesburg, that the developed countries should lift farm subsidies; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the developed countries thereto?

#### **Law for use of forest materials**

2398. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests had received proposal during June, 2001 from Orissa Ex-MLAs Council, to make Law for not using the forest materials in buildings, except thatched houses and instead of using iron, aluminium, plastics as alternatives; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far, by Government in this regard?

#### **Pine forests in Central Himalayan region**

†2399. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that underground water level of Central Himalayan region is continuously declining, due to expansion of Pine forest there;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the recent years, the area covered by wide leaf trees has shrunk while the pine forest cover has expanded; and

(c) if so, the steps his Ministry is going to take to promote afforestation of wide leaf trees in the said region, for environmental balance?

#### **Water treatment plant for Puskar Sarovar**

†2400. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme to set up a water treatment plant for cleaning the polluted water of the famous pilgrimage place Puskar Sarovar, in Rajasthan is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, by when this scheme would be implemented, giving the details thereof?

#### **Simlipal, Satkosia and Sunabeda as Tiger Reserve Forests**

2401. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forests Department, Government of Orissa, has sent proposals

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to declare Simlipal, Satkosia and Sunabeda Reserve Forests, as Tiger reserve forests; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government thereon?

#### **Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution Authority**

†2402. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Authority, called Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution Authority, was constituted under the Pollution Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the number of schemes implemented under the above Act, for the protection of Taj Mahal, alongwith its impact on curbing the pollution; and

(c) the amount spent on this Authority and the above schemes, during the last three years?

#### **Clearance to Bt. Cotton**

2403. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether conditional commercial clearance was given by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee on Bt. Cotton;

(b) if so, the details of the conditions;

(c) whether the claim of Monsanto-Mahyco Seed Company that Bt. Cotton was effective pest-resistant crop, was false in the fields of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, where Bt. Cotton was sown;

(d) whether the conditional clearance given to Genetically Modified Bt. Cotton would be withdrawn, in the light of above facts;

(e) whether Competent Authority is considering clearance to Transgenic Mustard; and

(f) if so, the details of complete trials of Genetically Modified Seeds, Bt. Cotton and Transgenic Mustard on bio-safety and the effect on non-GM crop?

#### **Field trials of Bt. Cotton and Mustard seeds**

†2404. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted field trials of Cotton and Mustard seeds, modified by Genetic Engineering;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the farmers had a very bad experience with regard to Cotton seeds, modified by Genetic Engineering;

(c) whether the conclusions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research on proposed Mustard seeds are not being made public; and

(d) if so, the reasons for sanctioning the field trials of Mustard seeds also?

#### **Cutting of Surru trees in Vasai**

2405. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, appearing in Sagar, a Marathi Daily dated 15th October, 2002, about mass cutting of Surru trees along the Coastal area of Vasai, Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against the people, who have

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

deserted the Coastal area and affected the environment; and

(c) whether it is a fact that these trees have been sold to one shipping company?

#### **Endangered Hoolock Gibbon in Assam**

2406. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that upper Assam's rare Hoolock Gibbon are at the verge of extinction, because of poaching by the people across the border;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to protect the Hoolock Gibbon?

#### **Eco-strips along irrigation canal in Karnataka**

2407. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had sent any project to develop eco-strips along its 1.2 lakh km. irrigation canal network;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of the above project;

(c) whether Government have given approval to the above project; and

(d) whether Government have agreed to provide funds for implementation of the project?

#### **National Forest Commission**

2408. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to constitute a National Forest Commission, in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the tasks proposed to be assigned to the Commission; and

(c) by when the Commission is likely to be put in place?

#### **Environmental reports by States**

2409. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the State Governments are not adequately sensitised to environmental concerns, and do not have even the basic data, necessary for analysis;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has asked the State Governments, to prepare regular environmental reports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have decided to provide help/assistance to State Governments; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Killing of Mongoose in Tamil Nadu**

2410. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that field Mongoose are killed in Tamil Nadu, as its hair are used to make painting brushes; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government and the State Government, to put an end to the brutal killing of these Mongooses?

**Environmental clearance for Ong Dam**

2411. SHRI B. J. PANDA:  
SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:

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

(a) whether the Ong Dam Irrigation Project, which envisages construction of dam across river Ong in Orissa, has been received by Government for environmental site clearance;

(b) whether this project has already been cleared by the 74th TAC, of Ministry of Water Resources on 29th September, 2000, at an estimated cost of Rs. 304.60 crore; and

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

**Formation of eco-battalion**

2412. SHRI B.J. PANDA:  
SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:

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

(a) whether the Orissa Government has proposed to the Centre for formation of an eco-battalion; if so, the details of the proposal;

(b) whether such eco-taskforce has already been set up in other States; if so, the names of States and the kind of projects entrusted to this taskforce; and

(c) whether expenditure on such projects is shared by the Centre with the States; if so, the proportion thereof?

**Hunting of Siberian Crane in Azamgarh**

†2413. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:  
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Siberian Cranes, the guest migratory birds are being hunted illegally, in connivance with

officials/employees of local police and forest department, in the pond spreading in the area of 989 bigha at Jamuawa Gramsabha, district Azamgarh of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to protect the Siberian birds; and

(c) by when this illegal hunting of migratory crane would be stopped?

**Clean Development Mechanism for gas emissions**

2414. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), to control gas emissions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the CDM is likely to be put in place and which metro cities it is expected to cover?

**Polluting Industries**

†2415. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:  
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the State-wise and area-wise details of industries in the country, as on 31st October, 2002, which are polluting environment;

(b) whether Government propose to take any action against these units or to give them directions for installing treatment plants there; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and by when the country would be made pollution free?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Funds for forest development**

†2416. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched and annual allocations made by Government, for development of forests in various States, during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals pending with Government for development of forests in the country; and

(c) by when these proposals are likely to be cleared?

### **Unauthorised cultivation of forest land**

2417. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of small and marginal farmers are unauthorisedly cultivating the forest land in the country;

(b) if so, their number and the extent of land unauthorisedly cultivated by them, State-wise;

(c) whether most of this land belongs to the C&D categories of forest land;

(d) if so, what is the extent of this land cultivated by the small and marginal farmers, State-wise; and

(e) whether most of these small and marginal farmers do not own any other land?

### **Cut in JBIC assistance for YAP phase-II**

2418. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) has decided to drastically reduce its assistance for Yamuna Action Plan-II;

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

(c) the likely impact on the cleaning programme of Yamuna river; and

(d) whether Government would take up the matter with JBIC, to persuade it to rescind its cut and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Trading of Indian Saras**

2419. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trading of Indian Saras, the State bird of Uttar Pradesh, is prohibited under the Wildlife Protection Act;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are only 8000 Saras all over the world, of which 6000 are in Uttar Pradesh, but these are much on sale in the market of Lucknow; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to rescue the bird, for conservation?

### **Sophisticated weapons for forest officials**

2420. DR. KARAN SINGH:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government have any plan to equip various forest officials with sophisticated weapons and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

communication devices, to tackle the poaching menace;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to give more powers to forest rangers and officials, to combat poaching; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Environmental clearance for Orissa projects**

2421. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects in Orissa are pending with his Ministry for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, what are those projects, particularly related to irrigation and industry;

(c) the reasons for the delay in giving clearance to those projects; and

(d) the steps taken to accord early clearance to those projects?

#### **Commercial production of GM Mustard**

†2422. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to permit Genetically modified (GM) Mustard, prepared by mixing five types of foreign genes, for commercial production, is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

#### **GM Mustard**

2423. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether Government have given approval for genetically modified mustard being marketed in the country;

(b) if so, whether an evaluation has been made of the benefits of higher productivity *vis-a-vis* the risks to health and local varieties;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the insect-resistant Bt. Cotton crop has been found to be successful; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Refusal for Genetically Modified Mustard**

2424. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has refused to give its nod for Genetically Modified Mustard; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the rejection/deferring decision on the GM Mustard?

#### **FPIS by foreign industrialists**

†2425. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of foreign industrialists offered to set up Food Processing Industries in the country, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of units proposed to be set up under these offers; and

(c) the extent of foreign and domestic capital investments, targeted to be made in these units?

#### **Transfer of officials in Central Hindi Directorate**

2426. SHRI B. P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Vigilance Commission has issued any orders according to which Government officials holding the posts for sanctioning financial aid/grants should be transferred within a fixed period;

(b) if so, whether this order is not being followed in the Central Hindi Directorate and the officials working on the posts for sanctioning financial aid/grants to institutions are holding these posts continuously for the last 7-8 years; and

(c) if so, the necessary steps being taken by Government, to ensure compliance of aforesaid orders?

#### **Qualifications of persons writing text books**

2427. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names and educational qualifications of persons who have been entrusted with the task of writing the

NCERT textbooks;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the mistakes which include (i) 'Madagascar is an Island in the Arabian Sea'; (ii) 'The Czars is the name of dynasty'; and (iii) 'The Great Wall of China has been made of terra-cotta'; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

#### **Discrepancies in population policy**

2428. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission has asked to explain certain discrepancies in population policy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to review the National family welfare programme and policy to ensure that there is no violation of the spirit behind the policy?

#### **Vacancies in Kendriya Vidyalaya of Guwahati, Aizol and Silchar**

†2429. SHRI RAMDHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the subjects with regard to which posts are lying vacant in Kendriya Vidyalayas of Guwahati, Aizol and Silchar, as on 1st January, 2001;

(b) what are the post-wise, date-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the above posts have been filled up till now; if so, what are the date-wise details thereof; if not, the reasons

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

therefor; and

(d) whether Government would take special steps for improvement in education in North-East area?

#### **Indian Institute of Maritime Studies**

2430. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Indian Institute of Maritime Studies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the existing facilities available for maritime education in India?

#### **Harassment of women at call centres**

2431. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court, with regard to sexual harassment at the work place, are being followed in relation to young ladies, who work at call centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the rise in cases of sexual harassment at the work place even at higher levels, more particularly in call centres which function well at night; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, with the number of cases that have drawn the attention of the Ministry?

#### **Navodaya Vidyalayas in Manipur**

2432. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing Navodaya

Vidyalayas in Manipur;

(b) whether the schools are provided with the required staff, buildings, accommodation for students; and

(c) the plans in hand for development and providing facilities for these schools?

#### **Problems of higher education**

2433. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the problems of higher education in the country; and

(b) the action taken to solve these problems, in educational terms?

#### **Technical institutions in Bihar**

2434. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether major technical institutions of Bihar have gone to Jharkhand, after reorganisation of the State;

(b) whether this loss of technical institutions has caused immense damage to students of Bihar, who intend to pursue technical courses; and

(c) whether, in view of a large population and the need of the State to have technically qualified manpower, Government propose to establish an IIT in Bihar; if so, by what means and by when?

#### **Reservation for SCs/STs in paid seats in GGSI University**

2435. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:



(a) whether 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent seats are reserved for SCs/STs respectively, in universities;

(b) if so, whether reservation is being given only against free seats, *i.e.* only against 50 per cent of total seats to them for B.Ed. course in Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and they are being deprived of reservation in paid seats, with the result they get only 7.5 per cent and 3.75 per cent reservation, out of the total seats;

(c) if so, the reasons for deprivation of 7.5 per cent and 3.75 per cent seats in paid seats; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take against such usurping of reservation, constitutionally provided to SCs/STs?

**Admission in engineering and medical science studies**

2436. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that non-Government institutions, conducting professional courses generally take huge amount from the students seeking admission in engineering and medical science studies;

(b) what sort of control Government are maintaining over such institutions;

(c) whether Government are planning to increase the in-take capacity of Government sponsored professional colleges, to admit students in more numbers; and

(d) if so, the details of such plans?

**UNICEF projects in Rajasthan**

2437. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nation's International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) projects for children for 2003-2007 in Rajasthan have been drawn up; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Fund for Tezpur Central University**

2438. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how much fund has been released for the Tezpur Central University during the last three years;

(b) whether the amount sanctioned by the Department of North-Eastern Region (DONER) has been released fully; and

(c) if so, where it would be spent?

**Supreme Court clarifications on Education policy**

2439. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the clarifications made by the Supreme Court recently on misunderstood education policy; and

(b) the action taken to ensure that all the State Governments follow it, ensuring that all the religions over the world are learnt by the school students?

**Unauthorised constructions by Principals of KVs**

†2440. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas are not free to carry out unauthorised modifications in their official residence;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of complaints of such modifications have been received from Bhopal, Jaipur and Kolkata regions, during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the then Assistant Commissioners of the respective Regions have shielded these Principals, instead of initiating action against this act?

#### **Short hand examinations by NOS**

†2441. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Open School has been entrusted with the work of conducting examinations for Shorthand, in Voluntary Institutions under the Ministry;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not entrusting the same to Central Board of Secondary Education, which is fully competent in executing this job;

(c) whether the syllabus meant for students of National Open School has also been made mandatory for these Institutions, and restrictions have been imposed on them for teaching of books, pertaining to other methods of Shorthand; and

(d) what is Government's policy regarding use of books for teaching Shorthand subject?

#### **Central Schools in NER**

2442. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Schools in the seven sister States of the North-Eastern Region, State-wise;

(b) whether the schools maintain the same standards, as prevail in the rest of the country; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to open more Central Schools in the area, to maintain standards of education at par with the rest of the country?

#### **National Institute of Adult Education**

2443. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Adult Education is likely to be disbanded in the near future;

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

(c) the work which was entrusted to the Institute; and

(d) the organisation to which the Institute's workload would be transferred in the event of its closure?

#### **Children living with mothers in jails**

2444. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: DR. ALLADI P. RAJ KUMAR:

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the number of dependent children confined in jails, alongwith their jailed mothers;

(b) whether Supreme Court has asked the Centre and State Governments to inform it about their stand on suggestions by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), to ameliorate the conditions of children living in jails, alongwith their mothers, who are either undertrials or doing time;

(c) whether the Supreme Court had given a time-limit for States and the Centre to respond to the recommendations;

(d) whether the Centre and State Governments have conveyed their decision to Supreme Court; and

(e) if so, what final decision the Supreme Court has given?

#### **Central grants to State Universities in Andhra Pradesh**

2445. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of grants released by the Centre to all the State Universities in Andhra Pradesh, for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, University-wise;

(b) the details of schemes for which grants were released, each year;

(c) whether the grants released were spent by those universities for the schemes for which they were released;

(d) if not, whether there had been any diversion of funds by the Andhra Pradesh Government; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Centre to prevent diversion of Central Funds, meant for education?

#### **USA help for research in Orissa**

2446. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:  
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether certain universities and technical institutes of USA have shown interest to help and assist research activities of the Orissa Universities;

(b) if so, the details of these foreign universities with fields of assistance;

(c) whether a delegation of Orissa has visited USA for the purpose, as reported in The Indian Express dated the 6th August, 2002; and

(d) how far it would help the Utkal University in the exchange programmes?

#### **Students going abroad for higher education**

2447. SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-  
RAIAH:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of Indian students are going abroad for higher studies; and

(b) if so, what is the estimated number of students going abroad for this purpose per year?

#### **Introduction of new books**

2448. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced some new history and other subject books recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that half of the time of the new academic year has passed;

(d) if so, whether students have been asked to opt for new books;

(e) if so, whether Government are aware that the students are facing difficulty to cover these new books in short time; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

**Social Science text-books by opposition parties**

2449. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the rejection of National Curriculum Frame work for school Education (NCFSE) and the NCERT's social science text-books, brought out by the opposition parties in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether States can reject the NCFSE since the Education is in the concurrent list; and

(d) why Government have failed to consult State Governments before any change in the National Education Policy was introduced?

**Withdrawal of NCERT text-books**

2450. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in the country, which have requested Government to withdraw the NCERT text-books;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has also requested to withdraw the National curriculum framework, imposed by the Centre; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Sarva Siksha Abhiyan**

2451. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan proposes to put all children between 6—14 years in the country to school, by 2003;

(b) if so, the details of the programme and the achievements, so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of States and Union Territories have not responded with their perspective plans, thereby putting the programme in jeopardy;

(d) if so, the names of such States and how it is proposed to make them act; and

(e) the annual budgetary allocations made since inception of the programme, the amount released to each State/UT, and utilised by them?

**Central Advisory Board of Education**

2452. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 74, given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd November, 2002 and state:

(a) the reasons for not reconstituting the Central Advisory Board of Education; and

(b) by when the Board would be re-constituted?

#### **Mid day Meal Scheme**

2453. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 394 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd November 2002 and state the details regarding the number of students benefited by the mid-day meal scheme; State-wise?

#### **Introduction of bio-technology in class XI by CBSE**

2454. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether bio-technology has been introduced as an elective subject in Class XI by the CBSE;

(b) whether its implementation has been successful, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would study thoroughly the introduction of bio-technology, before and after its implementation in school;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Departmental action against KVS officers**

2455. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases wherein Central Vigilance Commission had advised the Ministry/KVS during the preceding three

years, to initiate suitable departmental action against erring and charged officers;

(b) the details of the opinions, in each case; and

(c) the details of action taken/initiated/contemplated in each case?

#### **Poor UGC funding of research and development**

2456. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Expenditure Reforms Commission, in its recent report, has highlighted, *inter-alia*, that the universities are steadily losing primacy in the research and development efforts in the country, due to poor funding by the University Grants Commission; and

(b) if so, the details of the major observations/recommendations of the Commission and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon, so as to improve the standards of teaching and research in universities?

#### **Non-availability of NCERT books**

2457. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have failed to provide NCERT books to school students, though the Supreme Court has given a final verdict in this matter;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce the new course from the next academic session, in view of the very short period remaining for the closure of this present session; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Inspection of schools by CBSE in  
Chhattisgarh**

†2458. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schools in Chhattisgarh, subjected to inspection by the Inspection Board of Central Board of Secondary Education;

(b) the shortcomings found therein;

(c) the time-period allowed to remove these shortcomings; and

(d) the details of schools which have removed these shortcomings in the 2002-2003 academic session?

**Mid-day meal Scheme**

2459. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the students, eligible to get mid-day meal in schools, are getting this benefit;

(b) if not, what is the number of children not getting the benefit and in which State; and

(c) how much is the quantum of Cereals to be given to each State, for providing mid-day meals to students?

**Teaching of Astrology, Vedic  
Mathematics and Karmakand**

2460. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of universities/colleges, where Astrology, Vedic Mathematics and Karmakand are being taught;

(b) the number of students who are enrolled to study these subjects; and

(c) the number of teachers appointed in each university/college, to teach these subjects?

**Extra remuneration to Anganwadi  
workers**

2461. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States where ACA for Supplementary Nutrition in the Anganwadi centres under the PMGY is being implemented; and

(b) how many Anganwadi workers and helpers are being paid extra remuneration by Government, for this extra work?

**Free education to girls in Punjab**

†2462. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government's schemes with regard to free education to girls;

(b) the funds allocated under these schemes; and

(c) the details of funds allocated so far to Punjab Government and Non-Governmental Organisation of Punjab, for this purpose?

**Operational ICDS projects**

2463. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the total number of operational ICDS projects in the country, as on date; and

(b) the details regarding the total number of Anganwadi centres and the Anganwadi workers and helpers, working in the country, State-wise?

#### **Effective implementation of ICDS**

2464. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether Integrated Child Development Scheme, popularly known as Anganwadi programme, started a decade ago under the aegis of United Nations Development Projects, is being affected due to official apathy;

(b) whether around 2.5 lakhs children are enrolled under this scheme, which includes education of economically poor kids;

(c) whether the aim of the project was to bring these kids at par with the children of middle class families; and

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for not implementing the child welfare project, effectively?

#### **Pre-Harappan Civilization**

2465. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Institute of Ocean Technology had indicated a likely pre-Harappan Civilization;

(b) if so, what is the basis for the exploration; and

(c) what further steps have been taken to conduct research in the matter?

#### **Statutory status for CRS**

2466. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioners of Railway Safety, who conduct inquiries into major rail accidents, cannot function independently and impartially, as they are dependent on the Ministry of Railways for all their important requirements, like office and residential accommodation, transport and other perks for their officers, as well as for submitting their findings on accidents to the Railway Board;

(b) if so, the details of the review undertaken, if any, to ensure an independent statutory authority status for the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety; and

(c) the comparative set-up obtaining in some other countries, like Britain, USA, etc.?

#### **Bifurcation and creating new Railway Zones**

2467. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has directed to place before it, the basis of bifurcation and creating of seven new Railway Zones; and

(b) the basis of splitting of the existing zones?

**Misconduct of railway officials at  
Rajdhani accident site**

2468. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was gross misconduct by the Railway officials at the accident site of Howrah-Delhi Rajdhani;

(b) whether the railway officials refused to hand over dead bodies to the relatives of the deceased at some particular stage, even after they were identified and post mortems were over; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the officials who mistreated people, at the time of such crisis?

**Karnataka proposal on re-organisation  
of Railway Zones**

2469. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Karnataka Government regarding re-organisation of Railway Divisions and Zones is still pending with Government; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for the delay in this regard; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be considered by Government?

**Milk vendors in EMUs**

2470. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether milkmen and vendors virtually takeover the Electrical Multiple Units (EMUs), popularly called shuttles,

plying between Faridabad-Delhi, and dump their milk cans in the doorways of the trains;

(b) whether it has become difficult for 50,000 office-goers and students, who commute to Delhi in the EMUs everyday, especially women and the elderly, to alight and enter the shuttles; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to solve the problems of EMU commuters?

**Terminal rail station at Anand Vihar**

2471. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that decision to convert Anand Vihar railway station into a terminal station has now been finally taken;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the budgetary allocations, the number of proposed platforms, stabling lines and washing lines, completion period and approach roads from East and West side of the station;

(c) whether there is a proposal to develop the Anand Vihar terminal by some private organisation also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Repair of railway bridges**

2472. SHRI JIBON ROY: : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old railway bridges which need repair in 2002-2003;

(b) the estimated expenditure for the above purpose;

(c) the funds available so far in Railway Safety Fund; and



(d) the funds utilised, so far?

**Discontinuation of Bhopal-Jodhpur passenger train**

†2473. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to discontinuation of Bhopal-Jodhpur passenger train *via* Gulabganj, the people of this area are facing problems;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are considering to make a provision for alternative arrangements, for the convenience of passengers of this area; and

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

**Enquiry Committees for rail accidents**

2474. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that enquiry committees, appointed to conduct enquiry about rail accidents, take long time to submit their reports;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the unwanted delay in submitting their reports;

(c) the steps taken by Government after getting the reports; and

(d) the details of enquiry committees appointed for enquiry of rail accidents and their reports, from 1998 to 2002?

**Train from Sambalpur to Delhi**

2475. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight of the people of Orissa, due to absence of daily, direct Express train, between Sambalpur and Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps taken to run a direct train between Bhubaneswar and Nizamuddin, *via* Talcher and Sambalpur, during the current financial year;

(c) whether the existing Hira kud Express is proposed to be made a daily train, in addition to that new direct train; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

**Bogies on MG rail lines**

2476. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic conditions of Rail bogies used on meter-gauge rail lines;

(b) whether Government would come forward to replace the existing bogies, by the new ones;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**BG lines in Tamil Nadu**

2477. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total distance of rail tracks of Southern Railway in Tamil Nadu, likely to be converted in during this fiscal year;

(b) the total area which would be operational as BG in that State;

(c) by when the tracks in the State would be completely converted into broad-gauge; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the total expected expenditure on this project?

#### **Delhi-Dehradun Shatabdi Train**

†2478. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shatabdi Trains running on Delhi-Dehradun route, *via* Saharanpur, take more time to reach their destinations;

(b) if so, whether passengers from Uttaranchal using this Shatabdi train have been demanding reduction in the time being taken by it in reaching its destination; and

(c) if so, the steps to be taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Train between Mumbai and Goa**

2479. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway propose to introduce a fast train between Mumbai and Goa, to cover the distance within five to six hours;

(b) if so, whether it is going to be the fastest train in India;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the main features of the train and its cost; and

(d) the progress made in this direction so far, and by when the services are likely to commence?

#### **Connecting rail tracks with electric circuits**

†2480. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme under consideration to connect rail tracks with electric circuits to make train journey more safe and to prevent accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rail coaches are being modified for this purpose; and

(d) if so, by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

#### **Rail Cargo Depot at Visakhapatnam**

2481. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to negotiate with the container Corporation of India, for setting up a cargo division depot at Visakhapatnam, to provide sufficient transportation for agriculture, aquaculture and horticulture products in the State; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken to expedite the project?

#### **Halt of Superfast trains at Satna**

2482. SHRI B.P. APTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 2142 Superfast train which departs from Lokmanya Tilak Terminus to Rajendra-nagar does not pass/halt at Satna;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any plan to provide halt to the above train at Satna Jn. and

(d) if so, by when the final decision in this regard would be taken?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Mud and waste along rail lines**

2483. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large quantity of mud water and other waste are lying dumped alongside rail lines in Punjab, thereby causing danger to Railway property, as well as to rail lines;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) how Government propose to check this menace?

#### **Sanitary conditions at Visakhapatnam Railway Station**

2484. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam Railway Station is overcrowded and sanitary conditions are very poor; and

(b) if so, the action taken to improve the station and its surroundings?

#### **Stoppage of Lichchavi Express at Aligarh**

†2485. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consequent upon non-stoppage of Lichchavi Express at Aligarh Station, which reaches Delhi covering Bihar and whole of Uttar Pradesh, the students of Aligarh Muslim University have to face many problems while other trains coming from various places stop there; if so, the reasons for non-stoppage of this train at this station; and

(b) whether Government propose to

provide stoppage of the said train at Aligarh Station; if so, by when; and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Doubling of Lucknow-Varanasi rail track**

†2486. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the work of the doubling of the Lucknow-Varanasi rail line;

(b) whether it is a fact that this work is lagging too much behind the schedule, and the contractor levelling the ground, left the place without completing the work;

(c) by when this work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether there is any proposal for electrification of this route also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Ticketless rail passengers**

†2487. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons apprehended travelling in trains without tickets and without proper tickets in the country, during each of the last three years, zone-wise;

(b) the amount of money recovered therefrom, zone-wise; and

(c) the details of action taken to curb such tendencies?

#### **Rail link of religious and tourist centres**

2488. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to link religious and tourist centres in the country, through rail lines; and

(b) if so, the details of such centres identified for linking, the revenue implications and the time-frame for implementation of the proposal?

#### **Train from New Delhi to Azamgarh**

†2489. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no train facility has been provided from New Delhi to Azamgarh (Uttar Pradesh) by Government, while all other parts of the State have been provided adequate train facilities;

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

(c) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration to provide train facility from New Delhi to Azamgarh in view of the needs of the people of the area; if so, by when Government are likely to approve the scheme, so as to mitigate the problems of the area?

#### **Recruitment by R.R.B., Guwahati**

2490. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the demand made by the Railway Recruitment Board, Guwahati in the recent past, for technical/non-technical posts, the educated persons from Assam were neglected, while priority was given to persons from other States; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of technical and non-technical staff employed recently?

#### **Operationalisation of Mehsana-Viramgam rail line**

2491. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the projected time-period in which the Mehsana-Viramgam rail line would be fully operational as broad gauge; and

(b) the details of funds provided to achieve the said objective, in relation to the projected time-period?

#### **Conversion of Rajkot-Veraval rail line**

2492. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the physical and financial progress with respect to conversion of the Rajkot-Veraval rail line into broad gauge;

(b) whether the Ministry of Railways has a time-bound programme for completion of this conversion work; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether allocations for this work are commensurate with that time-frame; and

(d) the status of extension of this project to Somnath and Kodinar?

#### **Maintenance of rail tracks**

2493. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount spent annually by each Railway Division on rail track and related feature maintenance; and

(b) the number of maintenance projects underway under each Division and the

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

estimated time taken for each project to be completed?

**Setting up of new rail coach factory**

†2494. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up any new rail coach factory in the country, in view of the growing need thereof;

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

(c) by when, it is likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Broad gauge rail connection for Gandhinagar**

2495. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways has agreed to connect Gandhinagar with the Ahmedabad-Delhi broad gauge line;

(b) what is the time-frame for completion of broad gauge rail line work 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 rail line from Gandhinagar to Moti Adaraj?

**Rail reservation counter at Ganj-Basoda**

2496. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the Up and Down trains which halt at Ganj-Basoda railway station of Central Railway;

(b) whether it is proposed to increase the number of reservation counters for this station in view of the number of such trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Stoppage of Express trains at Lalitpur**

2497. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people from Lalitpur in Central Railway have requested the Ministry of Railways for stoppage of 2780 Goa Express or any other Express trains at that station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have seriously considered the said request;

(d) if so, by when the Railways propose to stop the said trains; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Problems regarding rail bridges**

2498. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article captioned, "the thing about bridges—some are distressed and other distressing", which appeared in The Indian Express, dated the 7th October, 2002;

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

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to address various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the news article, for improving the condition of rail bridges and their safety?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Ticketless rail travel by rallyists**

2499. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special trains and additional coaches were provided at Lucknow, for the use of persons who attended BSP's Dhikkar rally, to enable them to go back to their places;

(b) whether these people were allowed to travel without tickets;

(c) if so, the loss of revenue suffered by the Railways on this account;

(d) whether Government propose to claim charges from the organizers of the rally; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and what are the policy guidelines of Railways for the ticketless travellers for attending political rallies?

**Unreserved train coaches**

†2500. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total number of general category, unreserved coaches, in trains going beyond 500 kms., never exceeds four;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no space for standing even in the unreserved coaches due to the increasing number of passengers day-by-day and bribe is also taken forcibly at the railway stations, to get into them; and

(d) if so, what action is being taken/is likely to be taken in this regard?

**Rail accidents**

†2501. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of minor and major rail accidents during the last six months, alongwith the number of accidents which have been averted;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the concrete steps taken/being taken by Government to prevent accidents?

**Unfit bridges for rail traffic**

2502. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of bridges on the Indian Rail Network, Zone-wise;

(b) how many of them are over 100 years old and how many are over-aged, dangerous and unfit for rail traffic; and

(c) how many of these are considered distressed bridges and what are the norms and criteria for their maintenance and use for rail traffic?

**Sabotage as cause of Rajdhani accident**

2503. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a goods train passed safely over the rail bridge over Dhaba river, just 40 minutes before 2301 Up Rajdhani Express met with the accident;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the editorial, Improving railway safety, published in the Tribune, Chandigarh, dated 14th September, 2002; and

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Encouraging bio-generic drugs**

2504. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even as global pharma majors are struggling to bring out new drugs at a faster pace due to lack of product pipeline, the bio-generic drugs are all set to replace 70 per cent of the conventional therapies by 2025;

(b) whether growth rate of the biotechnology sector is exceeding 15 percent per annum, with only 30 major players in the fray;

(c) whether foreign countries are now sourcing India for cost-effective research and production; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking to encourage this Industry to grow?

#### **Monitoring water quality by Kudremukh Company**

2505. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kudremukh silt goes into the river Bhadra and is polluting the water with this iron ore;

(b) whether any regular tests on the water are being conducted to ensure the water quality, so that water could remain usable for both the human beings and the animals; and

(c) what monitoring Kudremukh Company does in the upstream and downstream of Bhadra River to ensure the quality of water?

#### **Production of Steel**

2506. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of steel in the Public and Private sectors in the country increased during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are monitoring the Steel Industry in the private sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of steps being taken by Government in this respect?

#### **Value-addition to Durgapur Steel Plant products**

2507. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Durgapur Steel Plant is unable to make net profit even after achieving nearly 100 per cent rate of production;

(b) what are the reasons for not breaking even, despite such a high level of production;

(c) what steps are being taken to add value to the products of Durgapur Steel Plant; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the finished to semi-finished steel ratio, in the near future?

#### **Loss of SAIL**

2508. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what were the figures of loss of SAIL, as on 31st March, 2002;

(b) which of its steel plant are earning profit and which are suffering losses;

(c) what steps are being taken to make all the plants profit earning; and

(d) whether SAIL is likely to break even this year?

**Drug scam at Busan**

2509. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:  
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-  
RAIAH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some of our athletes tested positive for Nandrolone, at the Busan Asian Games, concluded recently;

(b) if so, what are the complete details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any action against the officials and doctors for such lapses and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Preparations for Afro-Asian and Olympic games**

†2510. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state the present status of preparations for Olympic and Afro-Asian games?

**Adolescent population in India**

2511. MISS MABEL REBELLO:  
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether, as per the WHO reports, the country has around 260 million adolescents, which is 23 per cent of the population;

(b) whether a National Policy has been formulated or is proposed to be formulated,

to transform them into an asset; if so, what are its salient features; and

(c) the details of agencies engaged or proposed to be engaged for the purpose?

**Revenue and expenses of BCCI**

2512. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount earned by the BCCI during the last three financial years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the revenue earned is not properly utilised for development of cricket;

(c) the total expenses incurred by the Board on each plan, by way of perks and allowances; and

(d) the payment made by the Board to various Cricket Associations, while conducting international matches?

**National Sports Development Fund**

2513. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had created National Sports Development Fund, for mobilising resources from Government and Non-Government agencies, for promotion of sports and games in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount received in the Fund, and the details of funds utilised for developing sports in the country, so far; and

(c) the total amount available at present in the Fund?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 7th December, 2002*  
*Agrahayana 16, 1924 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



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