

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the March 14, 2002/Phalguna 23, 1923 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

Misuse of KVIC's guest house in Delhi

1164. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether KVIC has hired a house in Neeti Bagh, New Delhi for being use as a guest house at a very high rental price, but in fact, it is being used as a residence by its Chairman;

(b) if not, the number and names of officials of KVIC who stayed in the said guest house from the date, the said house was taken on lease; and

(c) the amount paid by KVIC towards monthly rent of the said house?

Implementation of Margin Money Plan by KVIC in Rajasthan

1165. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a written request from the State Government of Rajasthan on 1st November, 2001 to release an amount of Rs. 3.75 crore for

Margin Money to the KVI Board, Rajasthan;

(b) whether the State Government has also requested the Centre to solve some problems arising in the implementation of Margin Money Plan being operated by the Khadi and Village Udyog Commission, Bombay, at present; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken till date in this regard?

Production of power from atomic energy

1166. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of electricity produced from Atomic Power Plants;

(b) by when country would produce 10 per cent electricity needs from Atomic Power Plants;

(c) whether Government would plan for providing electricity from atomic energy as recurring expenses are less; and

(d) the obstacles, if any?

Modernisation of telecommunications services

1167. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken, so far, for modernising telecommunication services in the country to international level and for incorporating state-of-the-art digital technologies in the MTNL network;

(b) whether Government have decided to cut registration charges for new telephonic connections as well as for mobile to mobile/STD calls rates as reported in The Hindustan Times dated the 27th and 31st January, 2002; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof indicating orders in this regard issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for benefits of the common citizens?

Growth of IT exports

1168. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the growth of IT exports during the current year;

(b) the export made in terms of rupees during the said period; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken by Government to boost the export prospects?

New companies in basic telephone facilities

1169. SHRI P. N. SIVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new companies functioning in the field of basic telephone

facilities; and

(b) the number of connections provided under the private sector upto March 31, 2001, State-wise?

Blast of a telephone exchange in Warangal

1170. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether People's War Group militants blasted a telephone exchange in Mallampalli in Warangal District in January, 2002;

(b) if so, whether any estimate of the loss has been made;

(c) if so, the details of the same; and

(d) whether culprits have been identified and arrested?

Mobile phone subscriber

1171. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of mobile phones subscribers as on September, 2001 and what are their number in the five Metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata and Chennai;

(b) what is the number of cellular operators and their names in the above five cities; and

(c) what is the growth rate of subscriber base in the first six months of the current financial year?

E-bill post service in Karnataka

1172. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to introduce e-bill post service in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the post offices in Karnataka selected for providing the above service;

(c) the post office selected for this purpose in Bangalore, Bellary, Mysore, Mangalore, Hubli ; and

(d) what are the advantages of having this facility?

Universal Service Obligation Levy

1173. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Telecom policy provided for a Universal Service Obligation Levy to be charged from all telecom operators primarily to fund unremunerative telephone connections in the rural and other backward areas;

(b) the status of its implementation;

(c) whether Government have indicated that BSNL would also be sold off on the occasion of handing over ceremony of VSNL; and

(d) if so, who would be handling the USO levy fund and other details thereof?

Waiting list in Najafgarh Telephone Exchange

1174. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Najafgarh Telephone Exchange, Delhi being in rural area, is the most neglected exchange and have the longest waiting period;

(b) if not, the date upto which waiting list for this exchange has been cleared;

(c) whether the MTNL staff of this exchange are also the most lethargic in attending the complaints;

(d) if not, the number of complaints lodged from Danyapur, Ujura and Samaspur villages during December, 2001 and January, 2002 and by when each of the complaint was attended to/rectified; and

(e) the steps taken/propose to be taken to enable this exchange to provide telephone on demand and its staff more consumer friendly?

New Telecom Policy

† 1175. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether Government had announced New Telecom Policy in 1999;

(b) if so, the targets fixed for setting up of telephone network in the country under the policy;

(c) whether telephone system has been expanded on the basis of said targets; and

(d) if so, the details with regard to achievement of the targets?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rural telephony obligations

1176. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sought from the Planning Commission for meeting the rural telephony obligations for the year 2002-2003;

(b) the amount approved by the Planning Commission; and

(c) how resources would be met for the rural telephony?

Commercial institutes relating to IT Industry

†1177. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that commercial institutes relating to information technology industry are functional in the different States;

(b) if so, the number of such institutes at the end of December, 2001, State-wise; and

(c) the increase in the number of these institutes during last three years, State-wise?

Telephone network in rural areas

†1178. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether Government had entrusted the work of setting up of telephone network in rural areas to private and Governmental institutions;

(b) if so, the number of villages where the work of setting up of telephone is entrusted to private and Governmental institutions separately; and

(c) the number of villages where telephone facility has been set up by December, 2001, in both the sectors?

Telephone connections in Sugauli Telephone Exchange

†1179. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections issued so far from Sugauli Telephone Exchange in Motihari district of Bihar;

(b) the number of applications received so far and the number of connections provided as well as the number of applications pending in this regard;

(c) whether the ongoing expansion of the exchange has since been completed and if not, by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) whether there is any plan to convert that Exchange into an electronic exchange so that fast dialling facility is made available?

Branch post office at Nandla in Shimla

†1180. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open a branch post office at Nandla village in Shimla district so that adjacent villages can also be benefited;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Software offshore projects

1181. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the persistent tension between India and Pakistan has created a cloud of uncertainty in the field of software offshore projects; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Capital investment in commercial institutes

†1182. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether Government have ascertained the capital investment made in the commercial institutes relating to Information Technology during the last few years;

(b) if so, what was the capital investment in such business institutes as on 31st March, 1999, 2000 and 2001, respectively; and

(c) the annual dividend rate on the capital investment during the above period?

Reduction in STD, ISD rates

1183. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sad plight of the PCO operators, due to steep reduction in STD/ISD rates and proliferation of Mobile phones and Virtual Calling Cards;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the PCO operators take out a living solely by the commission earned from PCO operation as their earnings have declined;

(c) whether the Federation of PCO Operators in the country has represented for plight of its members and sought immediate relief measures through enhanced commission on telecom tariff handled by them; and

- (d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Penalty imposed by courts in U.P.

†1184. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of officers and employees of Telecommunications Nigam in U.P. have been found guilty by some of the courts and consumer protection fora for negligence;

(b) whether these courts have punished them and imposed a penalty on the Department;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large number of such cases have come to light in Mainpuri (U.P.);

- (d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to take any action against such officers; and

- (f) if so, the details thereof and by when?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Slowdown in IT sector

1185. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the slowdown in the IT sector after the 11th September, 2001 attack in USA;

(b) if so, the conclusions arrived at and the steps taken to bolster the IT sector;

(c) whether some recent surveys and presentations at various fora of business and trade have pleaded for increasing Government investments in IT sector; and

(d) if so, the details of the plans finalised, if any, for the purpose?

Reduction in registration charges for telephone in Haryana

† 1186. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to reduce the telephone registration charges in Haryana;

(b) if so, to what extent and whether Government would consider to extend this facility to the telephone subscribers of Gujarat and other States; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Internet services in Chhattisgarh

† 1187. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Chhattisgarh connected with the internet services;

(b) the details of the facilities provided to these districts;

(c) the number of hours these services remained out of order in different districts during last eighteen months, district-wise; and

(d) the details of the measures taken to make available this service in each district regularly?

Upgradation of branch post offices in Punjab

† 1188. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for upgradation of branch post offices in Punjab;

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

(c) the number of branch post offices functioning in the State at present, district-wise;

(d) whether Government have received any applications for opening of branch post offices in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when a decision would be taken thereon?

VSNL services

1189. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited to provide National Long Distance (NLD) free of cost;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the VSNL would get licence of NLD free of cost; facility by March, 2000 and 2001 in the State;

(c) whether any decision for inviting final bids for VSNL disinvestment has been taken; and (c) whether the facility has been provided by the stipulated time;

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

(e) by when the said facility is likely to be provided to the remaining Gram Panchayats in the State?

Reduction in STD tariff

1190. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN
AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

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

(a) whether with the cut in STD tariffs by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), from 14th January, 2002, other private and public sector players in the field have followed suit;

(b) if so, the details of the tariff reduction affected by other public and private sector operators; and

(c) how this tariff reduction has affected the over-all revenue-receipts of BSNL and other operators during the months following the reduction and the viability of the tariff structure?

VPT facility in Gujarat

1191. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats provided with the village public telephone facility in Gujarat;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats proposed to have been provided with this

Post offices in NER

1192. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open post offices in tribal, remote and far-flung areas of NER;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

IT for rural students

1193. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to provide Information Technology to the rural students in order to develop the rural areas through knowledge data base etc.; and

(b) whether Government have any scheme for scholarship for the rural students who want to pursue studies in Advanced Communication and Information Technology?

Irregularities in telephone department

† 1194. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption, "Adhunikikaran ke naam par telephone vibhag mein kroron ki loot" published in Patna issue of "Dainik Jagran" dated the 19th May, 2001;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any investigations into the large scale irregularities in laying of cables and scans in purchase of materials without inviting tenders;

(c) if so, the action taken against the guilty officers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Export of IT

† 1195. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether percentage of export with regard to information technology sector has declined;

(b) if so, the percentage of decline during the last two years;

(c) the money involved in the information technology business at present; and

(d) the theoretical and practical efforts made by Government for increasing the business of this sector?

OCB telephone exchanges in Himachal Pradesh

† 1196. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to establish OCB telephone exchanges based on modern system of Communication in Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Una districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay if any?

Supply of telephone directories

1197. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that authorised regular telephone users are required to be provided with telephone directories periodically, free of cost by their respective Telephone District Authorities;

(b) if so, the details of the Rules/ Government orders regulating publication and supply of telephone directories to the users;

(c) whether it is also a fact that telephone directories are not published at a regular intervals by various telephone districts as well as MTNL;

(d) whether some Telephone Districts are not providing telephone directories to its users free of cost instead they are charged for it; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Department of Posts' new agenda

1198. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has formulated new agenda in its operation to raise productivity and lower costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any MoU has been signed with La poste of France and Emirates Post in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the step proposed to be taken for corporatisation of postal services in the country?

Hauz Khas Telephone Exchange

1199. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that Hauz Khas Telephone Exchange is neglected exchange in shifting telephone connections from one place to another in the same exchange;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that it has longest waiting list for new connections/ shifting telephones to Khirki Extension and Malviya Nagar;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the telephone connections are likely to be shifted/allotted?

Telephone complaints under Nalanda Exchange

1200. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the complaints of out of order telephones under Nalanda Exchange, Bihar are not attended to for weeks by the local officials;

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

(c) the details of the telephone connections which were out of order during January, 2002 togetherwith the number of days for which they were non-functional;

(d) what were the reasons for the delay in making these telephones functional; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to expedite speedy rectification of the complaints?

Revenue arrear of MTNL and BSNL

1201. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arrears of MTNL and BSNL are shooting up;

(b) the unpaid telephone bills of MTNL, VSNL since 1995; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to recover the amounts from the subscribers?

Attrition rate in IT sector

1202. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attrition rates in IT sector are falling constantly;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) if so, the attrition rates during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Annual growth rate of IT industry

†1203. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate of Information Technology industry in the country has been increasing constantly during the last three years;

(b) if so, the annual growth rate during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) whether there are estimates of increase in the number of people working in the said industry; and

(d) if so, the number of people working in the said industry at the end of each of the above years?

Change of headquarters of post offices in Bihar

1204. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director, Eastern Region postal network had received any representation forwarded by Members of Parliament for change of headquarters of Tetar and Airi post offices from Nawada to Gaya in September, 2001;

(b) if so, what action has since been taken in the matter; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor and by when appropriate action would be taken?

Spur in STD traffic

1205. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent cut in telecom tariffs has spurred the STD traffic;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bharti's rate cut has also been made effective from 26th January, this year; and

(c) if so, the per cent of increase in metered call units because of both the cuts?

New internet connections in Assam

1206. SHRI INDRAMONI BORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that VSNL has stopped giving new connections for internet in Assam;

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

(c) whether Government are aware that apart from Guwahati, in other towns of Assam, VSNL is the only service provider; if so, how VSNL is trying to improve the situation;

(d) what are the towns in Assam presently having internet access; and

(e) what are other towns in Assam that would be included in the near future and by when?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Revenue earned from International long distance telephone

1207. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by VSNL from international long distance telephony during the last three financial years, year-wise;

(b) the revenue earned by BSNL and erstwhile DoT during the corresponding years for carrying ILD traffic as NLD carriers and circle operators, year-wise;

(c) whether BSNL would now have to depend on VSNL for international long distance incoming traffic;

(d) whether VSNL itself has NLD licence and this puts BSNL at disadvantage in getting incoming ILD traffic;

(e) if so, whether Government's action for not allowing BSNL to bid for VSNL is discriminatory; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of foodgrains under TPDS

1208. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of foodgrains under the targeted Public Distribution System during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the lifting of foodgrains by the States during the above period;

(c) the States which have not lifted even 50 per cent of their allocations;

(d) the reasons for poor off-take by these States;

(e) whether the BPL population has suffered due to poor lifting of foodgrains by these States; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the situations?

Supply of foodgrains to States

1209. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains supplied to the States under the centrally sponsored scheme of providing nutritional support to primary schools during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether some of the States have requested recently for increase in quota from 3 Kgs. to 5 Kgs. to each student; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Funds for purchase of mobile vans and trucks for PDS goods

1210. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central funds are made available to the States to purchase mobile vans and trucks to ensure better mobility of PDS goods in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds made available to Gujarat under the scheme during the last four years and the number of vans, trucks, purchased, year-wise; and

(d) whether desired results have been achieved in mobility of PDS items in the State?

Issue of wheat and rice to Sikkim for animal feed

1211. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice issued to Sikkim by the FCI or through the PDS as animal feed during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(b) what were the issue rates, item-wise and year-wise?

Storage centres in U.P. for agriculture sector

† 1212. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed in the field of purchasing and storing the total production of agriculture sector in the country, as a result of which is going waste;

(b) if so, the number of storage-centres established in Uttar Pradesh, which are functioning properly and the product purchased, so far, by Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of Government purchase centres are in the clutches of mediators and the farmers are suffering; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by the Government to prevent it?

Identification of BPL families in Punjab

† 1213. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got identified the families living under poverty line in Punjab which are to be included under the targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether each of the family has been provided with a special ration card; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Physical verification and audits of godowns of FCI

† 1214. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the physical verification and audit of godowns of the Food Corporation of India during last three years;

(b) the details of the irregularities found therein, State-wise;

(c) the details of such godowns in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise; and

(d) the action taken against in the matter?

Transportation of wheat from Punjab and Haryana

1215. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of FCI to transport wheat from Punjab and Haryana month-wise during the years 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2002;

(b) whether the requirements are uniformly spread throughout the year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

BPL families in Rajasthan

1216. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Below Poverty Line families in Rajasthan have been identified for the coverage under the Antyodaya Scheme;

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

(c) whether a study has been conducted to know the purchasing powers of these families; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent diversion of Antyodaya foodgrains to black markets?

National Distribution Policy on foodgrains

1217. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of any uniform National Distribution Policy of foodgrains people are starving in many States and huge surplus of foodgrains mounting with FCI; and

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

Requirement of sugar under PDS in Andhra Pradesh

1218. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present requirement of levy Sugar of Andhra Pradesh for distribution to the eligible Consumers under PDS;

(b) whether the full requirement of the State is being released and lifted;

(c) if not, the gap between requirement and release; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

Sugar Development Fund

1219. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in his Ministry for raising the Sugar Development Fund so as to enable it to invest in technology for production of ethanol from sugarcane;

(b) if so, when such a request was received in the Ministry;

(c) what steps Government have contemplated thereon; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to encourage sugar factories for more production?

Foodgrains storage system

† 1220. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make foodgrains storage system more effective;

(b) whether Government have taken any action in this regard; and

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

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Issue of ration card to BPL families

1221. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether the task of identifying the Below Poverty Line households under the Antyodaya Anna Yojna, announced in December 2000, has been completed and ration cards have been issued to them in various States;

(b) if so, the estimated number of these Below Poverty Line households, State-wise; and

(c) the present status of implementation of the Targeted Public Distribution Scheme, State-wise, to supply 20 Kg. of rations to the poorest of the poor, at the rate of Rs. 2/- per Kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per Kg. for rice every month?

Food for work programme

1222. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain States have demanded increased quota of foodgrains under the Food for work programme for the poor families;

(b) if so, the States that have made this demand; and

(c) the centre's response thereto?

Authorised share capital of Central Warehousing Corporation

1223. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

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

(a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for increasing the authorised share capital of the Central Warehousing Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any data sought by Government with regard to physical financial performance etc. of the Andhra Pradesh State warehousing corporate has been received; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken or proposed to take to increase the authorised share capital of the Central Warehouse corporation to Rs. 15 crores?

Trilateral co-operation between China, India and Russia

1224. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russian Government proposed a trilateral co-operation between China, India and Russia to counter the increasing influence of the United States in the Asian sub-continent;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the Chinese Government has rejected the proposal and if so, on what grounds; and

(d) whether Government would take immediate steps to strengthen and improve bilateral relations with all superpowers in the interest of peace and security in the sub-continent?

Dawood Ibrahim's base in Nepal

1225. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Dawood Ibrahim, the Mumbai don has developed significant base in Nepal;

(b) if so, whether the said Mumbai don is meeting with ISI officials there and Chalking out strategy to create terrorism in India;

(c) if so, the details of the intelligence reports in this regard; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to smack the plans of the Mumbai don and ISI in Nepal?

Setting up of District Passport Offices

1226. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued necessary orders for setting up of District Passport Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such offices to be set up and by when;

(c) how long it would take to issue a Passport to an applicant; and

(d) the directions issued, if any, to check the applications of the anti-national elements?

Economic co-operation between China, India, Myanmar and Bangladesh

1227. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the four countries academic deliberation for economic co-operation between China, India, Myanmar and Bangladesh through CPR, New Delhi *w.e.f.* August, 1999 Kunming initiatives;

(b) whether Government propose to concretise these efforts through formal initiative with respective Governments;

(c) if so, the details of the plans thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

Nuclear disarmament

1228. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps Government have taken for universal nuclear disarmament in the unequal nuclear world order?

US Secretary of State's India visit

1229. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any achievement were made and decisions arrived at during the last two visits of the US Secretary of State Colin Powell; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Bringing of bodies of Indians working abroad

1230. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unduly long time is taken in bringing the dead bodies of Indian Nationals working abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would instruct of Indian Missions abroad to take it upon itself the duty of sending the body to the relatives in India without delay?

Secretary level talks between India and Nepal

† 1231. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issue of talks between the Home Secretaries of India and Nepal in February, 2002;

(b) whether any positive outcome has reached out of the last three rounds talks;

(c) whether any co-operation has been sought from the Nepal Government with regard to controlling the problem of prostitution caused by bringing in a large number of girls and women from Nepal to India in addition to the problems of terrorism and smuggling; and

(d) if not, by when Government would take joint and final decision with Nepal on these issues?

Withdrawing Pakistan from Most Favoured Nations list

1232. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering withdrawing Pakistan from its list of "Most Favoured Nations" and using the Indus Water Treaty to its advantage as a possible response to Pakistan's continued support to terrorism; and

(b) if so, what are the facts of the case and Government's views on the subject?

Pendency of applications at Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad

1233. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad is finding it extremely difficult to clear the pending passport applications resulting in harassment of the passport seekers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to redress the problem;

(c) whether Government are consistently receiving request for opening of passport offices at Surat and Rajkot in Gujarat; and

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

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

List of additional terrorists

1234. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to handover a list of additional 112 terrorists to Pakistan and America; and

(b) if so, by when?

Railway expertise to Iraq in exchange of oil

1235. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after bartering oil for food, Government plan to offer its expertise in Railways to Iraq in exchange for oil;

(b) whether UN sanction against Iraq has still not been lifted; and

(c) if so, what are the facts of the case and the action taken by Government to strike the deal?

Indian citizens in Oman Jails

1236. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens under imprisonment in Oman jails;

(b) whether any prisoners have been left off by reducing the form of imprisonment as a part of amnesty or whether the Oman Government proposes for the remission of the sentence of any Indian prisoners;

(c) whether any appeal or review or

mercy petition preferred by any Indian prisoner is pending with Oman Government or appellate courts for final verdict; and

(d) whether any prisoners have been kept under imprisonment even after completion of their term of imprisonment?

Extradition of Bhopal Gas Tragedy accused

1237. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that warrants had been pending against Mr. Warren Anderson, Chairman of the Union Carbide Corporation in connection with the Bhopal Gas Tragedy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have ever taken any measure to get Mr. Warren Anderson extradited to India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra through Ladakh route

1238. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approached the Government of China for allowing pilgrims to Kailash-Mansarovar from Ladakh route instead of route through Uttaranchal;

(b) whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have also requested Government for getting the Ladakh route opened; and

(c) what is Chinese Government's response in this regard?

"Jaipur Foot" for Afghanis maimed in war

1239. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether well-known Indian Orthopaedic Surgeons have been sent to Kabul, Afghanistan for organising camp to fit artificial limbs "Jaipur Foot" to the Afghan maimed in war;

(b) if so, for what times these surgeons are likely to stay there; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

Extradition treaties

1240. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with whom India has extradition treaties at present; and

(b) the countries with whom India has extradition arrangements and what are the reasons for not signing extradition treaties with those countries and by when it is likely to be done?

Arrest of Indian nationals sought for by FBI

1241. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received a list of 30 Indian nationals from

the Federal Bureau of Investigation who are suspected to have been a part of the Al-Qaeda network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many such persons have been arrested so far and handed over to US Government; and

(d) by when the remaining persons are likely to be arrested?

Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan

1242. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the population of Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan before the Taliban regime came to power there alongwith population at present;

(b) the number of Hindus and Sikhs who have come to India during the Taliban regime there; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to send them back to Afghanistan and provided help to them?

Secret Kashmir plan

1243. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned 'Secret Kashmir plan' appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 17th January, 2002;

(b) whether Government have secretly agreed to carve up parts of Kashmir between the two countries and give special autonomy to the Central Kashmir valley; and

(c) if so, what is Government's version on the press media report?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Talks with neighbouring countries
about terrorist activities**

† 1244. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are holding any talks with regard to the terrorists activities going on in the countries having common borders with our country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Assistance to Andhra Pradesh Haj Committee

1245. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Haj Committee has provided financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh Haj Committee for construction of Haj Houses in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Haj Houses constructed in the State and how many are functional?

Eleventh SAARC Summit

1246. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the Eleventh SAARC Summit held in Nepal recently;

(b) if so, the issue raised by India at the Summit;

(c) the SAARC nations' reactions thereto;

(d) how far India has been successful in presenting its case; and

(e) the outcome of the SAARC Conference?

Formulation of economic diplomacy

1247. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has recently gathered some sectoral notes from key countries in the areas of prime economic interest to India, like Energy Security, Investment Policy Infotech, Pharma, Patents etc. for policy formulation by the various Ministries;

(b) if so, the highlights of major inputs received so far from the Envoys and the steps taken to share the information with the concerned Ministries for fresh policy initiatives; and

(c) the other schemes worked out, if any, to strengthen the economic diplomacy?

List of fugitive militants to United States

1248. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has given a list of 22 fugitive militants, criminals and economic offenders to the United States;

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

(c) by when the US Government is likely to send these offenders and criminals to India?

Anti-Indian activities in Bangladesh

1249. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, captioned "Militants get Dhaka address" published in the Hindustan Times dated the 17th February, 2002;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) whether Government are aware that Bangladesh is fast emerging as a favourite destination for the terrorists and militants for cross-border terrorism against India;

(d) if so, whether any steps have been taken so far in the matter and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the issue would be taken up with the Government of Bangladesh and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Waiving of Visa charges for Hindu and Sikh Afghan nationals

1250. SHRI P. N. SIVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have waived visa charges for all Sikh and Hindu Afghan nationals for entry into India; and

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

Banning Indian satellite channels in Pakistan

1251. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan Government has ordered all the cable TV operators to stop relaying telecasts and broadcasts of all Indian satellite TV channels;

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

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to check and counter Pakistan TV's anti-India propaganda?

Indian fishermen captured by Pakistan

1252. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of fishermen abducted by the Pakistani Marines recently near Jakhus of Kutch and other areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the fate of these fishermen;

(c) the number of fishing boats captured during the last two years; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to bring them back to their families?

Indo-Nepal agreement to monitor borders

1253. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have entered into an agreement to monitor the borders and to prevent flow of arms and ammunitions to terrorists and Maoists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite agreement flow of arms and ammunitions and terrorists continue from borders of Nepal; and

(d) if so, the further strategy to be adopted by Government to prevent entry of arms and ammunitions and terrorists from the Nepal borders?

Discussion with British Foreign Secretary

1254. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government held discussion recently with visiting UK Foreign Secretary Mr. Jack Straw and apprised him regarding attack on the Parliament on 13th December, 2001;

(b) whether UK Foreign Secretary publicly accused Pakistan and demanded a firm/much more effective action against activities of Kashmiri terrorists operating from Pakistan and against "calling terrorists as freedom fighters" as reported in Hindustan Times dated 29th December, 2001; and

(c) if so, the other countries with whom India held similar talks recently and outcome thereof?

Public relations war with Pakistan

1255. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian losing public relations war to Pak" published in the Hindu dated 18th January, 2002;

(b) Government's perception thereto;

(c) the steps taken to improve intelligence of public sector and diplomatic work for arresting the alienation of public opinion abroad; and

(d) whether the army position taken after terrorist attack on Parliament has caused the waning of initial advantage in the diplomatic front?

Regulation at madarsas in Nepal

1256. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepal Government has

taken a decision to regulate the functioning of madarsas along its borders with U.P. and Bihar;

(b) if so, whether such steps taken by the Nepal Government are posing threat to security of the country;

(c) whether the Nepal Government has been encouraging Islamic groups to set up more madarsas near U.P. and Bihar borders;

(d) if so, whether Government have taken up the issue with the Nepal Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Afghanistan's request for assistance

1257. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interim Government of Afghanistan has requested India's assistance in setting up of schools and colleges;

(b) if so, whether in addition to this, the Afghan Government has urged for having a medical services and other social infrastructure;

(c) whether Government have agreed to help and assist the Afghan Government;

(d) whether he met the Prime Minister of Afghanistan during his visit in December, 2001; and

(e) if so, what were the main points discussed?

Vocational training to women and girls

1258. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Employment and Training is providing vocational training to women and girls in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) the number of women and girls that benefited during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise?

Exploitation of labourers

1259. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to check the economic exploitation of labourers in the country;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the details of the industries against whom the necessary action is being taken for violating the labour laws during the last one year; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect interest of labourers in the country?

Pending cases in labour courts

1260. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labour disputes pending in various labour courts in the country and the rate of disposal during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000;

(b) the number/rate of cases solved in favour of the employees and workers and the employers, separately; and

(c) the number of cases where employees had violated the industrial and labour laws in the country?

Pending medical bills with ESI hospital, Modinagar

1261. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of medical bills of the employees of the Modipon Fibre Company are pending for payments with the Employees State Insurance Hospital, Modinagar, Ghaziabad, (U.P.);

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such pending bills;

(c) since when these bills are pending and what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what action Government propose to expedite the payments; and

(e) by when all the pending bills would be settled?

Wage cut for plantation labour

1262. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea planters in the south have enforced a wage cut of 11 per cent for the plantation labour;

(b) whether the plantation workers have been forced to sign productivity agreements with a penal clause;

(c) whether Government apprehend that the planters community in Assam, Darjeeling etc. would follow suit thereby curtailing the wages of its workforce; and

(d) whether Government would intervene in the matter to ensure a fair deal for the workers?

Medical/insurance facilities to unorganised workers

† 1263. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to organise and provide medical and insurance facilities etc. to the labourers of unorganised sector on the line of such facilities being provided to the labourers of organised sector; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Opposition to amendment of labour laws

1264. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre of Indian Trade Union alongwith other major Central Trade Unions have opposed the proposed amendments to labour laws;

(b) if so, whether the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has proposed many changes in the labour laws to the Union Government;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have considered these suggestions made by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister in labour laws; and

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

Cheating in the name of jobs abroad

† 1265. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang involved in cheating people in the name of providing jobs abroad has come to light;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action against the said gang; and

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

Increase in unemployment

1266. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the number of unemployed persons during the year 2000-2001 in comparison to 1999 and the details of skilled, semi-skilled and educated males and females who are unemployed, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have contemplated to control the increasing unemployment; and

(c) if so, what are the concrete steps taken by Government to control this problem?

Child labour

1267. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court on January 24, 2002 referred to the fact that 44 to 100 million children are forced to work in hazardous industries, and directed that the "All India evil" be banned to keep the promise made to "the children under the Constitution"; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to carry out direction of the Apex Court?

Irregularities in Kendriya Bhandar

1268. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

items like ink cartridges, towels, stapler machines (numbering 25 items) worth about Rs. 10 lakhs whose closing balance as per stock was running in minus were shown sold and huge balances was shown in physical verification in hand, in Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) whether counter manager has been charge-sheeted for this amongst other grounds;

(c) if so, whether the matter has been investigated and any action taken against the individual and senior officers engaged in supervision; and

(d) whether Kendriya Bhandar sold items, like computers, photocopier papers of Modi Xerox, JK at higher rates than the market price?

Corrupt Government departments

1269. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of top 20 corrupt Government departments as per analysis of the Central Vigilance Commissioner; and

(b) the action taken against such officials involved in marring the honest image?

Determination of seniority

1270. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure to be followed for determining the seniority if Recruitment Rules provide 50 per cent of the vacancies of Grade 'A' to be filled by promotion and remaining 50 per cent by Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE);

(b) the details of Government's order in the above context; and

(c) what would be the relative seniority of LDCE and promotee if vacancies of particular year of LDCE Quota is not filled up in that year and subsequently filled up through LDCE in later year?

Officers under deputation in C.B.I.

1271. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers under deputation in the Central Bureau of Investigations from the Customs and Central Excise and Income Tax, at present; and

(b) the number of vacancies at present in these grades in the CBI?

Consideration of officers of Central Services Group-A for Secretaries

1272. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that officers from Central Excise and Customs, Income Tax and other Central Services of Group 'A' are not being considered for posts of full fledged Secretaries to Government of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what has been the percentages of increase of posts of Secretaries and equivalent in the Central Government being occupied by officers from the IAS, IPS, IRS (Customs and Central Excise), IRS (Income Tax), Indian Audit Accounts Service, Indian Railways Traffic Service, Indian Railways Accounts Service, Indian Railways Personnel Service from 1990 to 2002?

Guidelines to protect honest officers

1273. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, in order to protect honest officers, new guidelines are being prepared by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Compliance of official language policy by UPSC

† 1274. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UPSC are following the orders pertaining to the official language policy; and

(b) the action taken so far by Government for the compliance of the O.M. No. 130340/37/92 O.L.(C), dated the 2nd June, 1992 of the Ministry of Home Affairs in connection with recruitments and interviews?

Salient features of VRS

† 1275. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of VRS approved by Government recently for their employees;

(b) the main differences in Government scheme from a similar scheme which is in force in nationalised banks; and

(c) the justifications for these differences?

Training abroad

† 1276. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I.A.S., I.P.S. and I.F.S. (Forest) officers who took training abroad during last 10 years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the amount spent in this regard?

Pay fixation of deputationists

1277. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what are Government's order and prescribed rules and regulations with regard to the pay fixation of the deputationists who have continuously been working more than five years with the Central Government Offices to Central Government Offices and Central Government Offices to Autonomous Bodies and *vice-versa*?

Time limit for completion of disciplinary cases

1278. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the time limit fixed for completion of various actions in a disciplinary case against the Central Government employees;

(b) whether "sealed cover procedure" is mandatory in a disciplinary case pending against an employee;

(c) whether any safeguard is available to an employee if these time limits are not scrupulously adhered to and the conclusion of the case is inordinately delayed and also the sealed cover procedure is not followed by the concerned authority; and

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

Promotion/Regularisation of officers

1279. DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases of promotion/regularisation of *ad-hoc* service of Officers of the Ministries of Textiles and Commerce pending with the Union Public Service Commission for clearance for more than

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

6 months, 12 months and 18 months from the dates of their original receipts, Ministry-wise;

(b) the reasons for inordinate delay in clearance of these cases; and

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

Floating of tenders by Kendriya Bhandar

1280. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kendriya Bhandar floated tenders but have not disclosed therein the conditions, violation of which can result into scrapping of the successful tender;

(b) if so, the reasons for scrapping supplies of successful tenderers in the absence of such conditions and whether it is not violative of Article 14 of the Constitution that cast an unwritten obligation to act in manner consistent with concept of a Welfare State Governed by rule of law; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

Powers to Chairman of Kendriya Bhandar

1281. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether mere provision of delegation or assigning powers to the Chairman in the Kendriya Bhandar does not entail conferring powers on him under the bye-laws of the Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if so, how has the Chairman exercise the powers with regard to purchases detrimental to the proper control over the affairs of the Bhandar; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to fully enquire into the violation of the bye-laws and fix accountability and responsibility and to check the recurrence thereof in future?

Evaluation of employees' strength

1282. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any criteria to determine the number of employees and officers required in each Ministry/Department of Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the Ministries/Departments who have completed evaluation of their required strength; and

(d) whether remaining Ministries/Departments have been directed to complete their evaluation?

Instructions for promotion through Departmental Examination

1283. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1324 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd August, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Ministry of Urban Development and poverty Alleviation has not followed the Order of DOPT; No. 22011/2-79-Estt. (D) dated the 8th February, 1982 in the case of promotion of Junior Engineers to Assistant Engineers through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination 1999;

(b) if so, whether Government have since amended the above said order;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take to implement the said order in various Ministries?

Parameter to determine poorest of poor

1284. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any formula/parameter to determine the person as the poorest of the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of facilities/incentives being given by Government to the people living Below the Poverty Line?

Growth rates of States

1285. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of growth rates in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and other States of the country during the post reform period as compared to the previous years, from 1980-81 to 1990-91;

(b) the specific reasons for declining in annual growth rates in Bihar, UP and Orissa during the post reform period; and

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

BPL families in Bihar and UP

1286. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people living Below the Poverty Line in Bihar and Uttar

Pradesh as per the survey of 1993-94 *vis-a-vis*, 2000-01;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a considerable increase in their number in these States during the period from 1993-94 and 2000-01; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the assistance provide by Government to these States on the basis of the latest survey?

Special and non-special category States

1287. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the States which are included or considered in the Special and Non-Special categories; and

(b) whether Government have framed any guideline in this regard for giving loans, financial assistance and grant-in-aid for various projects/schemes to each of these categories?

Utilisation of PMGY funds by States

1288. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the sum provided in the current years budget for the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY);

(b) the amount released to the States during the current fiscal upto 31st December, 2001;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the rate of utilisation; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Public welfare schemes

† 1289. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether the certain public welfare
schemes funded by Government are being
implemented in the fields of Agriculture
Education, Labour, Information
Broadcasting sector etc.;

(b) if so, the number of such schemes in
each of the said sectors during 1999-2000;
and

(c) the average amounts spent on these
schemes annually?

49th meeting of NDC

1290. SHRI AIMADUDDIN
AHMED KHAN
(DURRU):
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased
to state:

(a) whether at the 49th meeting of the
National Development Council, Rajasthan
made out a special plea for Central aid,
concessions or moratorium in repayment
of Central loans;

(b) if so, the details of the financial issues
pressed by the State Government thereat
and the aid and concession sought for; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Under utilisation of PMGY funds by States

1291. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the
PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that only Rs. 480
crores or about 17 per cent of the additional
Central assistance earmarked for the
Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana
(PMGY) during 2001-2002 has been
released to the States in the first seven
months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons for poor utilisation
of the allocated funds; and

(c) the steps initiated towards better
and speedier utilisation of the earmarked
funds and also to finetune the monitoring
system for timely warnings?

Problems of Aluminium Industry and Bauxite mines

1292. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the
PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's approach in
the Tenth Five Year Plan with respect to the
related problems of Aluminium Industry
and Bauxite mines regarding reduction of
refractory grade bauxite from China;

(b) the steps for measuring the
Aluminium production and export so as
to (a) whether Government are aware that
due to bad roads operational cost of
vehicles raised by 25 per cent besides higher
fuel consumption;

(b) if so, whether Government propose
to make any long term strategy to improve
condition of the roads throughout the
country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Central road sector outlay

1294. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will
the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT
AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of central road sector
outlay/expenditure for the year 2001-02;

(b) the physical/actual target and
achievements, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated under the
different schemes during the year 2001-
2002 to different States, State-wise?

Introduction of Metro Bus Service in Bangalore

1295. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to bad roads operational cost of vehicles raised by 25 per cent besides higher fuel consumption;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make any long term strategy to improve condition of the roads throughout the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Central road sector outlay

1294. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of central road sector outlay/expenditure for the year 2001-02;

(b) the physical/actual target and achievements, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated under the different schemes during the year 2001-2002 to different States, State-wise?

Introduction of Metro Bus Service in Bangalore

1295. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has forwarded a proposal for approval of the Ministry to introduce Metro Bus Service in Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether Government would extend financial assistance to the project, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign technical assistance has been sought in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways in Tamil Nadu

1296. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals pending with Government pertaining to conversions of State Highways to National Highways in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether a decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when?

Allocation for NHs in Assam

1297. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated and released by Government for construction, maintenance and repairing of various National Highways in the State of Assam during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(b) the progress made so far in this regard?

Development of NH in Gujarat

1298. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for development of Rajkot-Somnath, Jatpur-Junagadh-Somnath and Somnath-Kodinar-Bhavnagar National Highways;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

Maintenance of roads using rubber

1299. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider to use natural rubber with tar combination for maintenance of roads in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State Government has expressed their willingness to co-operate with the Central Government for implementing the Rubberised Road Projects; and

(d) if so, by when Government would consider to take initiative for implementing such projects?

North-South and East-West corridor in NER

1300. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of the project of the North-South and East-West corridor announced by the Prime Minister in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) whether it is fact that portion of the ATPPF and PF extension counter along with boundary walls falls within the ROW in NH-37 at Guwahati bypass; and

(c) if so, the action plan formulated to clear the encroachment and rehabilitation of ATPPF and PF, without financial burden or ATPPF and PF?

Completion of National Highways connecting metro cities

1301. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

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

(a) whether the four laning of the National Highways connecting the four metros and building two corridors across the country which is being undertaken by the National Highways Authority of India, would be completed ahead of schedule;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether the work on this project has been improved further;

(d) if so, the amount utilised so far; and

(e) by when it is likely to be completed?

Improvement of NH in Assam

1302. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what amount has been sanctioned to improve the National Highway stretched from Rangia to Jonai in Assam in the current year of 2001 to 2002;

(b) whether the work would be done by Border Roads Organisation;

(c) if so, what is the time-frame; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

CNG buses in Delhi

1303. DR. KARAN SINGH: SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

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

(a) the number of transport buses required to cater to the needs of the commuters and the public in general in Delhi; and

(b) the number of CNG buses at present on Delhi roads and how far the needs are fulfilled with diesel buses indicating the plan to phase out the diesel buses?

Amount from CRF for repair of roads in Karnataka

1304. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released so far during 2001-2002 to Karnataka from Central Road Fund for taking up repair of roads;

(b) how many kms of roads taken up for repairs in Karnataka out of the above fund during 2001-2002, district-wise;

(c) whether the State has sought for additional amount to take up repairs of bad roads in North Karnataka areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Central share to OSRTC

1305. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been contributing its share in Orissa State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC) since the financial year 1988-89;

(b) whether Government are considering the State Government's requests favourably;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Upgradation of State Roads to National Highways in Gujarat

1306. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested to the Central Government to upgrade some of the segments of the State Road to National Highways in view of being an Industrial State; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to upgrade those roads?

Fastening seat belts in cars

† 1307. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made it mandatory to fasten the seat belts for the persons sitting at the front seats of a car;

(b) if so, whether this rule is also applicable to policemen deputed for the security of VVIPs, while sitting in the car; and

(c) if so, in what manner such policemen would be able to protect the VVIP in case of emergency in the running car?

Allocation from CRF to Gujarat

1308. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Gujarat from the Central Road Fund (CRF) during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the details of the works undertaken and accomplished in the State during the said period?

Rehabilitation of viable SSI units in Gujarat

1309. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of functioning SSI units and those stand closed in Gujarat at the end of December, 2001, district-wise;

(b) whether Government have identified viable SSI units of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) what action Government have taken for rehabilitation of such viable SSI units in the State?

SSI in Assam

1310. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the potentialities of Small Scale Industries in Assam;

(b) whether Government have studied about it;

(c) what new possibilities are there to expand 'Muga' and 'Gudia' small scale silk industries in the State; and

(d) whether Government are thinking of creating new avenues and infrastructures to develop these industries there?

Impact of removal of quantitative restrictions on SSI

1311. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the impact of dismantling of quantitative import controls on the small scale industry; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?

Dereservation of some items in the interest of SSI

1312. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to dereserve more items in some sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various associations of the Small Scale Industries in the country have been consulted on such dereservation; and

(d) if so, the details of their response?

Sick industries in Andhra Pradesh

1313. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of small scale industries declared as sick, industry-wise;

(c) the number of workers engaged in these industries, industry-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to review these industries and tackle the sickness problem?

Launching of INSAT-3C

1314. DR. KARAN SINGH: SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has launched its third generation Satellite Insat-3C in January this year; and

(b) if so, the details of success and salient features thereof?

Works on INSAT-4 series of satellite

† 1315. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the works relating to INSAT-3 series of satellite have been completed;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether INSAT-4 series of satellites are planned to be worked out;

(c) if so, the objectives of above series; and

(d) by when works relating to this series would be completed?

Completion of projects

†1316. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether Government have identified those projects which were to be completed during the period from March, 1998 to December, 2001 as per the earlier decision;

(b) if so, the number of the projects under construction and the Ministry or the Department to which these were related to, whether the work of these projects have been completed during the above said period; and

(c) if so, the details of the projects which have been completed?

Assistance to NGOs working for the welfare of animals

1317. SHRISWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving financial aid and assistance to NGOs working for welfare of animals; and

(b) if so, the names of the NGOs and the amount of assistance?

Utilisation of funds

1318. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

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

(a) the budget allocation of his Ministry during last four years for 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that the budgetary allocation could not be utilised in respective years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) which are the most popular Schemes for which the demand from different NGOs could not be met for want of funds; and

(e) whether it is a fact that Animal Welfare Board of India is given a very meagre allocation looking to the huge task of Animal Welfare required in the country?

NEW DELHI;
The 8th March, 2002
Phalgun 17, 1923 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

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