

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, the March 14, 2005/Phalguna 23, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Coal; Culture; Development of North Eastern Region; Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises; Human Resource Development; Information and Broadcasting; Law and Justice; Mines; Parliamentary Affairs; Social Justice and Empowerment; Tribal Affairs; Urban Development; Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation)

Total number of questions — 155

Price based royalty on coal

†1231. SHRIMATI KAMLAMANHAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Chhattisgarh or any other State for sanctioning royalty on coal on the basis of its price;

(b) if so, the proposal in brief; and

(c) by when Government would take a decision thereon?

Coal washeries in Chhattisgarh

†1232. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 4 coal washeries located in Chhattisgarh only two have been allotted plots by the SECL on lease and are being provided one stroke loading (over loading);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the above two washeries by using the National Highways for transportations with overloading facility do not contravene the rules framed under the Motor Vehicle Act?

Gap between demand and supply of coal

†1233. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap between demand and supply of coal has been estimated to be 32.5 million tonnes at present;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have sanctioned new projects with annual production capacity of 66.87 million tonnes;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and when this sanction was accorded; and

(e) the time taken between the receipt of the application and according sanction?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Coal production

†1234. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 99 projects are under Government's consideration for increasing coal production;

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

(c) since when these projects are under consideration;

(d) the reasons for delay in taking a final decision on these projects; and

(e) the time taken by Government in granting sanction to new coal projects as compared to previous projects?

Production target of Neyveli Lignite Corporation

1235. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Neyveli Lignite Corporation has not achieved its production target during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to achieve the target?

Exploration of coal in Rann of Kutch

1236. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that just near the northern side of the Rann of Kutch large

amount of coal of good quality has been found in Islamkot Tehsil of Thar District of Pakistan and which is being now commercially used there;

(b) whether on the side of Rann of Kutch coal is traced in Patan and Mehsana District of Gujarat; and

(c) whether in view of the coal fields found in Pakistan near the Rann (Desert) of Kutch whether Government would consider to explore the possibility of coal in this area?

Allocation of coal

†1237. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has recently allocated 20 lakhs tonnes of coal every year to the National Co-operative Consumers Federation of India Limited;

(b) whether such allocation has also been made to any other institution or federation;

(c) whether any proposal for allocation of coal to any other federation or co-operative is also pending with his Ministry;

(d) the number of industries whose applications are under consideration with the Coal India Limited for 'Coal linkage';

(e) the number of applications out of the above received from Jharkhand; and

(f) Government's policy regarding 'Coal linkage'?

Requirement of workers in collieries

†1238. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether around 50,000 workers are working in collieries;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether there is a requirement of five lakh workers for optimum exploitation of collieries; and

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

Life insurance proposal for coal mine labourers

†1239. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mines in the country;

(b) whether Government have any proposal for life insurance of the labourers working therein;

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the amount Government propose for insurance of every worker?

Protected monuments

1240. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of protected monuments, presently on the list maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) the criteria to be fulfilled by any monument to come under this category;

(c) whether there is a constant review of such needs by Governments;

(d) to what extent the ASI has been able to extend protection to the valuable monuments; and

(e) what steps the ASI proposes to take to enhance the number of such monuments?

Discoveries in Orissa

1241. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain discoveries in Orissa have revealed that birth place of Lord Buddha might have been in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have examined the controversies arising out of such discoveries; and

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

National monuments

†1242. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have included 'Oon' (District Khargon, Madhya Pradesh), the city of 99 temples and as famous as Khajuraho of Nimar - Malwa, in the list of national monuments;

(b) if not, by when these temples of archaeological importance would be declared as 'National monument; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for propagation of this place?

Tomb of Amir Khusro in Delhi

1243. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ASI is responsible for maintenance of the Tomb of Amir Khusro in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the officials of ASI rarely visit the Tomb;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the extent of damage to the Tomb as on the 8th February, 2005; and

(d) the steps Government propose to protect such ancient monuments?

Industrialisation in NER

1244. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes formulated and being implemented for rapid industrialisation in the North Eastern Region particularly in Assam; and

(b) the funds granted from the funds sanctioned under the Central Non-Lapsable Pool for implementation of the above schemes during the last three years, State-wise?

Plight of employees of HMT, Srinagar

1245. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that employees of HMT Unit in Srinagar, Kashmir have not been paid salary for over a year; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to remove their hardships?

National Automobile Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project

1246. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Planning Commission has cleared the

National Automobile Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 850 crores;

(b) if so, the details of the testing centres that are going to be established with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government are thinking of upgrading the Automotive Research Association of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Heavy industries in public sector

1247. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the heavy industries in public sector that have made profit during any of the last three years;

(b) the capital investment by Government in each of these industries; and

(c) the number of employees in each of these industries?

Mid-day meals in primary schools

1248. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to provide cooked mid-day meal to primary schools in all the States and Union Territories since every child is eligible for the same;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is court's direction in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government would take care about the cooking cost on demand from States & Union Territories?

Problems in the field of education

†1249. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the problem related to admission, fixation of tuition fee, allowing the foreign universities to function in the country and regularisation of self-financed professional educational institutes etc. in the field of education have taken serious proportion;

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

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to take immediate action to solve these problems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Inclusion of Yoga and Pranayama in school curriculum

1250. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY :
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include Yoga and Pranayama in school curriculum to revive this ancient science;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that Yoga teachers were appointed in the past but there are no Yoga related activities in schools;

(e) whether it has been proved beyond doubt that Yoga and Pranayama are not mere exercises but are complete science in themselves; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by Government to promote Yoga and Pranayama in schools

to promote a healthy lifestyle among the students?

Syllabus on Gandhism and right and duties of citizens and secularism

1251. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce syllabus with text books on Gandhism relating to Gram Swaraj from elementary level of education as well as history of National freedom; and

(b) whether Government would also introduce from elementary level of education, the text books based on right and duties of citizens and secularism as provided in the Indian Constitution?

Deemed University status to National School of Drama

1252. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

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

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has decided to grant 'Deemed University' status to the National School of Drama under Section 3 of the UGC Act;

(b) whether a cross-section of the artistes has demanded development of theatres in various languages as 'National Theatre' freeing the Indian theatre movement from the present Delhi-centric image;

(c) whether the aggrieved artistes have cited the abysmal record of UGC in sprucing up theatre training in a handful of departments across the country; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, Government's comments thereon?

Common entrance test for Engineering students

1253. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the AICTE has received representations against a common entrance test for students of Engineering;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of Engineering Colleges are operating only upto 25 per cent of their capacity;

(d) if so, what steps AICTE is taking to assist such Engineering colleges in finding students and also arranging financial assistance for such students; and

(e) the details of the steps proposed by AICTE to assist new engineering colleges?

Book on Vedic Civilisation

1254. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a book of 'Vedic Civilisation' has been released by the ICHR; and

(b) if so, what are the contents of the book and the name of the Committee members, constituted for this purpose?

Bill for women empowerment

†1255. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether economic empowerment is

the better way to free women from exploitation;

(b) whether crores of women are not earning their livelihood through jobs or business;

(c) whether all such married women known as better-half should have the right of 50 per cent legal share in the movable and immovable property and income of their husband; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to introduce any Bill for women empowerment and if not, the reasons therefor?

Fee structures for professional courses

1256. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC has recommended any fixed fee structures for various professional courses in the private unaided deemed universities last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any private unaided universities of Maharashtra have not followed the U.G.C. fee structure; and

(d) if so, the name of such institutions and the action taken against them?

Drug abuse among school children

1257. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are working on a plan to control drug abuse among school children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the extent of this problem among the school-going children in the country?

Global shortfall of teachers

1258. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether UNESCO has warned that there would be a massive shortfall of 25 million teachers globally in the next few years if urgent steps were not taken by all the countries to accelerate teachers training programmes;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered this report;

(c) if so, to what extent this report would also affect India; and

(d) what are the remedial measures Government propose to take to meet the situation?

College running under universities in public and private sectors

†1259. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that colleges are being run under universities in public as well as the private sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the number of colleges running in these sectors, separately;

(c) the admission capacity of students in these colleges; and

(d) the number of students admitted in these colleges by the end of December, 2004?

Paucity of technical experts

†1260. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is paucity of technical experts against the requirement of technical industry in the country;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the number of institutions imparting technical education in the country; and

(c) the average number of students to whom technical education is imparted annually?

Mushrooming of Management Institutes

1261. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of management institutes have mushroomed in the country; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government to protect interests of the Students?

Schools covered under Mid Day Meal Scheme

1262. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools presently

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

covered under the mid-day meal plan State-wise;

(b) the nature of deficiencies that have been brought to Government's notice in the scheme; and

(c) whether these have been fully addressed; and if not, the reasons therefor?

Basic facilities in government schools

1263. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the metro cities in the country are not better than remote villages like Koraput (Orissa) or Jehanabad (Bihar), when it comes to providing basic facilities like pucca buildings, blackboards, toilets and drinking water at government schools;

(b) whether it is a fact that in Mumbai, only 46 per cent of primary schools have drinking water facility, 18 per cent of primary schools in Bangalore are running from a single classroom, 12.8 per cent schools have just one teacher and 44 per cent still do not have separate toilets for girls; and

(c) if so, the remedial action proposed to be taken in this regard?

Policy on foreign universities

1264. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed any national policy to start foreign universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to bring any legislation relating to private universities;

(d) whether Government have taken a decision for not sanctioning any grants to the educational sector in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Private schools charging donations in the name of social and educational activities

1265. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the schools in Delhi run on commercial terms with the parents;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the private schools force the parents to deposit donations in the name of social and educational activities; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to enact any laws relating to commercialisation of education and if not, the reasons therefor?

Vocational institutes in U.P. and Bihar

†1266. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the institutions providing vocational education in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and

(b) the number of students provided with the training during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05, respectively?

Private schools and educational institutes

†1267. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of private schools and educational institutes are increasing enormously;

(b) if so, the details of the new technology and education being imparted for which a substantial monthly fee or annual fee is being charged from the students;

(c) if no new technological or other types of new education is being imparted, the reason for not formulating a strict education policy against such institutes;

(d) whether any new legislation is being considered;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Deemed university status

1268. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have turned down the plea of 454 educational institutions for conferring the deemed university status; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number thereof, State-wise?

Inclusion of areas in UGC programmes

1269. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms have been prescribed for the inclusion of areas in the UGC programme;

(b) whether Government consider to include backward district of Kerala in the above programme; and

(c) whether Government propose to change the existing norms so as to get benefit of the scheme for the tribals and other backward areas of the State?

More funds for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1270. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the amount sanctioned, released and spent on implementation of the above scheme to the various States during the last three years; State-wise;

(c) whether various States including Nagaland have requested for more funds under the said scheme and the amounts requested for; and

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

Aided and non-aided teachers training institutes

1271. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aided and non-aided teachers training institutes and B.Ed. colleges/Mahavidyalayas functioning at present in the different parts of the country, State-wise; and

(b) the number of teacher training institutes recognised by the National Council for Teachers' Education in the North Eastern States during the last three years till date?

Introduction of Biotechnology at senior secondary level

1272. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Biotechnology has bright future in the coming years next to IT industry;

(b) if so, whether this subject has been made compulsory in senior secondary (XI and XII) classes in the schools in Delhi;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of schools where the subject has been introduced; and

(e) Government's, action plan to popularize the course and make it compulsory for all the schools in the NCT of Delhi?

Mobilization of funds for elementary education

1273. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making progress in achieving the desired level of mobilization of the funds requirement of Rs. 1,37,000 crore by 2009 estimated by an Expert Group on financial requirement for making elementary education a Fundamental Right in 1999, for universalization of elementary education; and

(b) if so, the current status of the proposal?

Charter and action plan for children

1274. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating a charter and an action plan for children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed charter and action plan are likely to be placed for a public debate at various forum so that an informed public opinion could be formulated with regard thereto?

National Education Commission

1275. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking to establish a National Education Commission;

(b) if so, its terms of reference, tenure, personnel and composition; and

(c) by when its constitution is likely to be finalised and announced?

New Kendriya Vidyalayas in backward areas

†1276. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the role of Kendriya Vidyalayas in the promotion of education, the existing norms for setting up of new Kendriya Vidyalayas in the backward, hilly and tribal areas are proposed to be relaxed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas being run in the backward, hilly and tribal areas?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

More seats and courses in IIMs

1277. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IIMs have decided to double their seats and are also thinking of introducing new courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any directive has gone from his Ministry to broad base their activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Participation of NGOs in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1278. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NGO's are participating in progressing Government's "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan";

(b) if so, the criteria and method for appointing such NGO's;

(c) whether there has been inadequate publicity given to "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" such that NGO's are not aware of the programme;

(d) whether there have been complaints of inordinate delays in allotment of Government funds to NGO's for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Closure of fourth section in Kendriya Vidyalayas

1279. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kendriya Vidyalayas plan to close down the fourth section ("D" section) of each class, though these were recently opened to cater for increased demands for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what plans are being formulated to meet the increased demands for admission?

Three language formula

†1280. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the three language formula adopted by the S.S.C. and H.S.C. for its examinations has become insignificant;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to drop it;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government to get this formula adopted by the boards of all the States?

Medium of instructions for social studies

1281. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 383 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, INA, New Delhi has obtained options from the children to decide the medium of instructions for social studies;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of students who have opted for English medium, class-wise;

(c) whether Government would instruct the above principal to obtain options from the parents instead of children from the next academic year; and

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

Setting up of Navodaya Vidyalayas

1282. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States/UTs in which Navodaya Vidyalayas have not been set up so far;

(b) whether Government would set up Navodaya Vidyalayas in such States/UTs without making Hindi compulsory; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Foreign universities and colleges under the ambit of UGC

1283. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are bringing foreign universities and colleges under the ambit of UGC to standardize the curriculum etc.;

(b) what is the outcome of the two-days State Education Ministers Conference held recently in Bangalore; and

(c) the details of the foreign universities and colleges through affiliations, State-wise?

Authentication of certificates

1284. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian citizens intending to go abroad for employment have to get their certificates of educational qualifications authenticated by his Ministry;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to facilitate the authentication to help Indian citizens who are seeking employment opportunity abroad?

Reservation quota for NRIs

1285. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set apart 15 per cent reservation quota at premier educational institutions to NRIs and persons of Indian origin;

(b) if so, whether any body has been empowered to regulate such admissions under the new scheme; and

(c) what are the eligibility criteria for aspirants from abroad and any special incentives/relaxations to the entrants from the SAARC nations?

Status of the condensed course

†1286. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the condensed course introduced by the Central Social Welfare Board in 1958 for poor, widow and destitute women folks;

(b) the number of women over the age of 15 years who have got the employment after completing the said course;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the amount spent by Government on the said course till date; and

(d) whether the said scheme has been successful?

Lack of infrastructure and facilities in professional colleges

1287. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in certain Centrally administered professional colleges, proper infrastructure and facilities, including power supply are lacking, forcing the students to resort to agitation as such shortcomings is hampering completion of their projects and research;

(b) whether it is also a fact that academic degrees to the passed out students of such colleges have not been issued for the last two years, thereby disabling such qualified students from pursuing their further academic pursuits and career options within and outside the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Lack of resources in Adult Education Centres

1288. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports that most of the Adult Education Centres are still coping with lack of resources like books etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the State-wise details of the Adult

Education Centres operating in various States; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated and utilized for the purpose during the last three years?

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme

1289. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" programme is introduced in all the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the grant sanctioned and utilized during last one year by various States, State-wise, category-wise as on date;

(c) whether there is any programme in "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" for the children to attend the recognised school regularly;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the number of children enrolled in class I and the number of children who have completed class V and class VIII during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise?

Results of the Government run schools

1290. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government run schools in different parts of the country are year after year producing very bad results in the board examinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to improve their performance?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Budget allocation for vocational education

1291. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount distributed in 2003-04 to the registered educational institutes who impart the special vocational education and skills to the physically handicapped persons; and

(b) whether his Ministry proposes to increase budget allocation under this head in the Central budget 2005-06?

Shortage of teachers

†1292. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is shortage of the teachers for mathematics, science and other subjects in the different schools;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to fill up these vacancies;

(c) by when these vacancies are likely to be filled up; and

(d) the guidelines given to the State Governments in this regard?

De-recognition of private universities

1293. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States where UGC is trying to solve the problem of de-recognition of private universities on an emergency basis;

(b) whether UGC has invited all the affected universities to come for a discussion;

(c) the pro-active steps being taken by UGC in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for not stepping in to save the student community?

Venue of International Film Festival

1294. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to hold 2005 International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other contenders for 2005 IFFI; and

(d) the reasons for preferring Goa in relation to others?

Appellate tribunal of Censor Board

1295. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-constituted the appellate tribunal of the Censor Board;

(b) if so, the details of the changes made therein; and

(c) the reasons that necessitated the changes?

Down-linking facilities for TV channels

1296. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

propose to frame "down-linking" facilities for TV channels;

(b) if so, the broad features of this policy and its present status;

(c) whether Government propose to expand the FM radio service through a significant participation of the private sector; and

(d) if so, the details of the action plan?

Regulator for broadcasting sector

1297. SHRIC. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRIMATI JAYA
BACHCHAN:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA
SWARAJ:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring forward a legislation for appointment of a regulator for the broadcasting sector;

(b) whether Government have taken into account the experience gained over the appointment of regulators in other sectors such as communications, power etc.;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the appointment of a regulator is not likely to serve any purpose except to add unavoidable expenditure to the national exchequer?

Crime based programmes on TV channels

†1298. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH
LODHA:

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to take any specific steps to exercise control on the news related to crimes, violence, obscenity on television channels;

(b) Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the number of accused involved in criminal incidents who have admitted to be influenced by such programmes in the last six months?

Programmes production centres in North-East

1299. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan had made it mandatory to make programmes intended for its programme production Centre (NE) to be made in Hindi and not in the local languages and dialects of the North-East;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that North East Film and Television Producers Directors' Association had opposed to the imposition of Hindi as the sole medium of expression for fiction based television programmes for North-East; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Broadcasting and telecasting facilities in J&K

1300. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many areas in the country are still without access to broadcast and telecast facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof in respect of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide broadcast and telecast facilities in Jammu and Kashmir and other States/UTs during the next two years?

Portrayal of Gods in advertisements

†1301. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that advertisements are being exhibited where Hindu Gods are being portrayed in ridiculous manner;

(b) if so, whether Government have given liberty for this;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by Government against the persons responsible for it?

TRAI recommendations for FM Channels

1302. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 82 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received recommendations of TRAI; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Adult contents, on TV channels

1303. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry was considering to provide "adult contents" on TV after Prime Time; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Installation of transmitters in Uttaranchal

1304. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of low-power, very low-power transmitters installed in Uttaranchal, district-wise;

(b) whether there is a proposal to install such transmitters at some more places in the State during the current Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Uplinking policy

1305. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is preparing a down linking policy so as to make the channels uplinking from overseas being subjected to the same rules that are applicable to uplinking;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any meeting was held in the 3rd week of February, 2005, between Government and the stakeholders; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Relay centres in Chhattisgarh

†1306. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Chhattisgarh which have relay centres of All India Radio as well as those which have F.M. Relay System also;

(b) the details of such districts which do not have the All India Radio relay centres;

(c) whether there is any plan to set up such relay centres in these districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Earnings of DD

1307. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made to increase earning of DD during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Impact of TV Serials

1308. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Television Serials are spreading wrong moral values like extra-marital relations in the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken by Government to stop this unhealthy trend?

Rare movies with Films Division

†1309. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Films Division is having some rare movies;

(b) if so, the number thereof; and

(c) the measures Government are going to take to preserve them alongwith the expenditure involved in this regard?

Impact of excess viewing of television

1310. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that excess viewing of television by children is leading them to diseases such as obesity, behavioural dysfunction, epilepsy and general fatigue as per the recent reports in the Media;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the quality of language used in the TV programme is low; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or to be taken by Government to improve the quality of language used in TV programmes?

Revenue losses due to film piracy

1311. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revenue losses from film piracy in India have touched Rs. 1,700 crore yearly;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what steps have been initiated to plug the revenue losses both at Government level and by enlisting co-operation of the NGOs, etc.; and

(c) whether any study has been made to find out the connivance of Government or public sector officials which may be either due to contributory negligence or blatant misuse of official position?

Advertisement rates by DAVP

1312. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that DAVP advertisement rates are highly uneconomic in as much as less than one third of the commercial rates of the newspapers' advertisement space, and that these rates have not been revised since January, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to immediately increase the rates on *ad-hoc* basis atleast by 50 per cent;

(c) if so, by when;

(d) the usual time-frame for revision of these rates; and

(e) the next effective date of this upward revision?

FDI in print and electronic media

1313. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any modification in the 2003-Guidelines for foreign investment/participation in the print and electronic media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of investment proposals in media sector received so far in the category of News and Periodicals etc.;

(d) the details of investment proposal approved, under consideration and rejected, if any; and

(e) the reasons for their rejections?

Revision of pay scale of judicial officers

1314. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pay scales of the judicial officers have been revised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to give full financial grant to the States to meet the expenditure as a consequence of pay revision;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Filling of vacancies of Judges

1315. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in District Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court, State-wise;

(b) what steps are being taken to fill up these vacancies;

(c) by when this process of filling up of these vacancies is to be completed; and

(d) the impact of these vacancies on the performance as well as pendency of cases across the courts in the country?

Shortage of judges

1316. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of judges at different levels; and;

(b) if so, the details of actual vacancies in Supreme Court, High Court and Lower Courts, State-wise?

Electoral reforms

1317. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India and the Election Commission of India have, from time to time, stressed the need to carry out electoral reforms and have also made specific recommendations in this regard;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by them;

(c) whether Government have initiated any dialogue and/or consultation with the affected interests and parties;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) by when it is intended to initiate reforms process?

High Court Circuit Benches in North Karnataka

1318. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has identified the places to establish High Court Circuit Benches;

(b) if so, the locations thereof;

(c) whether any allocation of funds has been made by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Changes in electoral system

†1319. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to effect certain amendments in the electoral system and also to make exercise of franchise mandatory so that voting percentage could be increased to 100 per cent which was about 50 per cent in the last elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are also considering certain changes and amendment regarding selection of the candidates by the political parties?

Free and fair elections

1320. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government propose a scheme to regularly educate the society in the matter of fair, free and fearless elections in view of the illiteracy and ignorance among the communities which is considered to be a very important area in upholding the democracy; and

(b) whether any stronger measure would be adopted to prevent rigging, intimidation, both capturing etc. during the elections?

Increase in number of seats in Lok Sabha

1321. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament with a condition to increase the number of seats in the Lok Sabha from 543 to 724 to meet the 33 per cent criterion;

(b) whether according to the 84th Constitutional Amendment which received Presidential assent in 2002, the number of Parliamentary seats have been frozen till 2026; and

(c) whether Government have assessed the financial implications of increasing the number of seats in the Lok Sabha and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Deficiency in electronic voting system

1322. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been large scale complaints in the electronic voting system;

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

(c) whether it is proposed to revert to the old system of voting by ballot papers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Ban on contesting elections by convicts

†1323. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has delivered a historical judgement saying that any person found guilty by lower courts and filing appeal in the High Court cannot contest election on the basis of this appeal; and

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

Suggestions in judicial system

†1324. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bar Association of India has given suggestions to Government for giving financial freedom to the judiciary, reduction of summer vacations in the courts and exemption to the advocates from wearing black coats and gowns during the summer season; and

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

Seats in Sikkim Legislative Assembly

†1325. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Sikkim has made a demand to increase the number of seats in Legislative Assembly;

(b) whether any proposal has been received from the state Government in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, Government's opinion thereon?

Transfer and posting of High Court Judges

1326. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines concerning the posting and transfer of High Court Judges;

(b) whether any request has been received from certain High Court Judges for their transfer elsewhere from their present High Courts on the grounds of insecurity and lack of the necessary atmosphere for functioning honestly and fearlessly; and

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

Fast Track Courts

1327. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court of India has set a dead line for setting up of Fast Track Courts and whether Government have directed the State Governments to expedite the setting up of such Courts;

(b) if so, response of State Governments thereto and the details of the Fast Track Courts setup, State-wise;

(c) the details of the financial assistance released by Government to each State for setting up such Courts for the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(d) whether Government propose to set up more Fast Track Courts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and State-wise?

Problems due to exhausted mines

†1328. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA:

SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exhausted mines are giving rise to several kinds of problems in the surrounding areas;

(b) the areas rendered waste land due to mining, State-wise; and

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

Termination of lease agreement of IISCO mines

1329. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Jharkhand has arbitrarily terminated the lease agreement of three captive mines of IISCO; and

(b) if so, Government's reactions thereto?

Alumina plant in Orissa

1330. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russian Aluminium (RUSAL) has planned to set up an alumina plant in Orissa at a cost of \$1 billion;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the country is likely to be benefited by this plant and its impact on domestic aluminium companies?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Distribution of iron-ore by NMDC

†1331. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is distributing the iron-ore of Chhattisgarh to the steel/iron industries which are basically situated outside;

(b) whether Government would take a decision for its rational distribution by providing special facilities to the local industries of the State relating to the sponge iron, on priority basis; and

(c) if so, by when?

Pulichintala Project, Guntur

1332. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is proposing to construct the Pulichintala Project in Guntur district which has been identified as potentially diamond yielding area;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the areas would be under water if the proposed project is constructed on this diamond reserves areas in the region and Government would lose huge amount of revenue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Insurance to physically/mentally challenged people

1333. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan/policy for providing insurance to

physically/mentally challenged people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Government guidelines exist for the Government/private insurance companies in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such guidelines are binding on the private insurance companies; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Grants to voluntary organisations

†1334. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to the voluntary organisations, State-wise and organisation-wise;

(b) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to sanction grants to the voluntary organisations in various States, State-wise; and

(c) the number of voluntary organisations of Chhattisgarh which were sanctioned grants during the last three years and when?

Reservation in private sector

1335. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted a panel of a Group of Ministers (GoM) on August 30, 2004, to examine the issue of reservation in employment opportunities for socially and economically backward classes in the private sector;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the panel;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when its report is expected; and

(d) whether it involves an amendment of the Constitution?

Old age homes and day care centres

1336. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old age homes and day care centres established under the "Integrated Programme for Older Persons" since its inception, State-wise;

(b) the finance provided to NGOs/voluntary organisations under the programme *vis-a-vis*, the amount spent by them as on the 31st December, 2004; and

(c) the number of old age homes/day care centres proposed to be set up, State-wise?

Age limit for benefits to Senior Citizens

1337. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that for the purpose of giving benefits to the Senior Citizens, age limits set by various organizations like Banks, Railways and Indian Airlines, etc. varies from 60 to 65 years, gender-wise and department-wise and no uniformity has been maintained; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to define age limit more clearly for guidance of all concerned departments both in respect of men and women who have crossed age-limit of 60 years so that benefits could be enjoyed/given to all the Senior Citizens equally?

Child trafficking

1338. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue instructions to the State Government of Gujarat and other State Governments for strict action against those involved in child trafficking; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Old age homes

1339. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that old age homes to take care of old and infirm people are functioning in Ranga Reddy district, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are providing grant-in-aid for continuation of old age homes;

(c) if so, the names of the organizations which have not been provided with grant-in-aid since 1996 alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any Member of Parliament has forwarded to her Ministry a proposal of the voluntary organization to this effect; and

(e) the details of the immediate steps Government would take to encourage the voluntary organizations to continue this work?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Condition of disabled persons

1340. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of the disabled in various parts of the country is pitiable inspite of the passing of The Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 about nine years ago; and

(b) the steps that have been taken by Government to improve the condition of this extremely neglected section of the society?

Concessions to physically handicapped persons

1341. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to give some special concessions for awarding licences for small shops on road side places for the physically handicapped persons who wish to start their own enterprise like, telephone booths, small shops etc. by providing them bank loans at concessional rates; and

(b) whether Government also propose to increase the number of scholarships and educational loans for the physically handicapped?

Discrimination against Dalits

1342. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

Dalits were being denied access to the public pond in Chakwada in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the action taken against the persons responsible; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement strictly the laws to protect the SCs and STs and ensure access to the means of livelihood by safeguarding their share in land, water, wealth and capital in future?

Misutilization of funds in Assam

1343. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is gross misutilisation and diversion of funds released as grants under the proviso to Article 275(1) for Assam during the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, details of the facts and scheme-wise allocation of funds; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government thereto?

Committee for development schemes in tribal areas

1344. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a High Level Committee to overhaul the existing development schemes in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received

*Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

any recommendations of the Committee;
and

(d) the steps taken to check the growing
Naxal influence among the tribals?

Rehabilitation of primitive tribes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

†1345. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the
Tsunami calamity, Government have no
news about the primitive tribes of the
Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details of these primitive
tribes; and

(c) the steps being taken by
Government for their rescue, relief and
rehabilitation?

Education of tribals

1346. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the
Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government have any
schemes for education of tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the
agencies who are monitoring the
implementation of such schemes;

(c) the amount earmarked for education
facilities to the tribals during the current
fiscal year; and

(d) whether Government are also
considering imparting technical education
to the tribal community and if so, the details
thereof?

Tribal development

1347. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the
Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
propose to revamp tribal development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that lack of
development of tribals has made them join
Naxalite groups; and

(d) if so, Government's action plan to
wean them away from this movement and
bring them back to the main stream?

Declaring more castes as tribals in Sikkim

†1348. SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of
TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Sikkim
has recently sent a proposal to Government
demanding to declare certain more castes
as tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Pahari Korava and Birhor tribals of Chhattisgarh

†1349. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:
Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families belonging to
Pahari Korava and Birhor tribals in
Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa,
State-wise;

(b) the amount spent by Government
and the State Government for their
economic and social upliftment during the
last three years, year-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the works which have mainly been done with this amount; and

(d) the population of the families living above poverty line out of these, State-wise?

Land rights for tribals

1350. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many tribal communities and other forest dwelling communities are facing eviction by the authorities;

(b) if so, whether any steps would be taken to discontinue such evictions;

(c) whether Government propose to grant land rights to the landless tribals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the land rights given and land distributed to the tribal community during the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise?

Land rights and rehabilitation packages for tribals

1351. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals evicted from 1.52 lakh hectares of forest land upto the 31st March 2004, are entitled to any compensation, land rights and rehabilitation packages;

(b) if so, the status of their rehabilitation and the details of the compensation provided so far;

(c) if not, the reasons for which they are not entitled to be rehabilitated when they have been living in the forests for many years and are left destitute by the eviction process; and

(d) whether there has been any attempt to take legal measures to ensure that they are compensated and their rights are acquired?

District Planning Committees

1352. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory to set up District Planning Committees according to the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the States and districts where District Planning Committees are yet to be set up?

Allotment of plots/flats by DDA

1353. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDA has launched many schemes for allotment of plots and flats, fifteen years or more ago but has not been able to allot the same till now to all the applicants;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not making the allotments so far;

(c) the schemes under which plots and flats are ready for over one year but DDA could not issue allotment letters and the reasons for the delay;

(d) whether DDA has streamlined the procedures to make allotments at the earliest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Funds for projects in Mumbai

1354. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to contribute funds for Mumbai Urban Transport Project and Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details of the funds provided by Government towards the above projects?

Mono Rail Project in Bangalore

1355. SHRI LALIT SURI:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka is considering a fresh proposal, parallel to Bangalore Metro Rail Project, submitted by Metrail India Private Limited;

(b) whether Government are aware that the State Government had set up a high level committee to appraise the project;

(c) whether Government are aware that the Mono Rail Project involving an investment of Rs. 4045 crores allowed to cover important points/sectors not covered by the Metro Rail; and

(d) by when, the Metro Rail Project for Bangalore would be completed?

Housing problem in cities

1356. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR:
SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families in the urban areas, having no homes of their own and living in the rented houses under private ownership;

(b) the number of families in the urban areas without having the facilities of pure and treated drinking water; and

(c) the plan contemplated by Government to provide to these families the facilities of housing schemes alongwith the facilities of pure drinking water to make them free from the clutches of the private house owners?

Status of sky bus project

†1357. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of accepting the Sky Bus Project economically and technically appropriate three years ago, the project is still under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that it had been considered about including the Konkan Railway in this project three years ago, but many departments have opposed it;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that the project was again considered on the 25th January, 2005; and

(f) if so, its outcome?

Metro Rail services

†1358. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities where Metro Rail is proposed after the success of Delhi Metro;

(b) whether Metro Rail is proposed for Lucknow and Kanpur also;

(c) if so, whether any assessment of time-limit, outline and estimated expenditure has been made in this regard;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether Government would consider to run Metro rail in these cities very soon to tackle the traffic related problems?

Funds for development of cities

1359. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds released by Government to the States for development of cities during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether a number of proposals have been received by Government from the States for development of cities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government thereon?

Shifting of Government offices

1360. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision two years ago to shift the Central Government Offices from National Capital to the National Capital Region (NCR) and had also identified such offices to be shifted from Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has now introduced a new proposal for intensive utilisation of existing Government offices and land;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when, such a proposal is likely to be implemented?

Definition of mega city

1361. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has proposed to Government for introducing a new scheme to include the cities having a population of more than ten lakhs as mega cities;

(b) the names of the cities in the State to be included suggested in its revised proposal; and

(c) whether Government propose to revise its earlier policy of 40 lakhs or more as per 1991 census under the centrally sponsored scheme for mega city?

Metro Rail services in Mumbai

1362. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Metro Rail in Mumbai to ease crowding and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Railway Board has approved the proposal and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Mumbai Metropolitan Rail Development Authority is seeking commercial and technical viability of the project from Delhi Metro Authorities; and

(d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred on the project and by when the work is likely to be commenced?

Allotment of plots by DDA

1363. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the DDA schemes where applicants were to be allotted plots in HIG, MIG, LIG and EWS categories but some applicants are still awaiting allotments beyond the stipulated date of allotments;

(b) when the last batch of allotments was made in each scheme category-wise and the number of applicants covered and those yet to be offered allotments;

(c) the reasons for delay in development of plots and allotments thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite allotments of plots?

Conversion of lease-hold property to free-hold

1364. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications submitted to DDA for conversion of lease-hold to free-hold during the year 2003 and 2004 year-wise;

(b) the number of applications, complete in all respects, still pending with DDA after the stipulated period of 90 days during the years 2003 and 2004, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay;

(d) whether in many cases files are missing and the applicants have been asked to reconstruct the file;

(e) if so, the number thereof;

(f) whether responsibility of officials has been fixed;

(g) if so, the action taken against them; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Water project for cities

1365. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

launch Rs. 2500 crore water project to cover all towns and cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's action plan to revamp the system?

Multi-storeyed flats for slum dwellers

†1366. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide concrete dwelling units to the slum-dwellers of Delhi in multi-storeyed buildings;

(b) if so, whether Government would make any arrangements so that these slum-dwellers do not sell off such dwelling-units to others; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of flyover at ITO

1367. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not taken, so far, any step for construction of a flyover at ITO, which is one of the main traffic junctions in the capital where traffic from east and north Delhi go towards south, Central and west Delhi and *vice-versa*;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would apply the proposal of a private consultant for construction of a flyover at ITO in 36 hours;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development of Old Delhi area

‡1368. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any national policy under which Old Delhi having narrow lanes could be developed on the line of Bhuj (Gujarat); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Construction of Bus Terminals in Delhi

1369. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to construct Inter-State Bus Terminals in different parts of Delhi;

(b) whether the foundation stone has already been laid for a new ISBT at Sarai Kale Khan;

(c) whether new complex would have a link to both Rail network and metro Rails at several places in the city; and

(d) if so, by when the project is likely to be completed?

Functioning of municipalities

1370. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the presence of various Government and Non-Governmental bodies there is considerable encroachment upon the functional domain of the municipalities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the municipalities are under fiscal stress; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve their fiscal position?

Task Force for urban local bodies

1371. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Task Force consisting of the representatives of the States and his Ministry has been constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Task Force would monitor the responsibilities and functions of the urban local bodies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

National Policy for urban transport

*1372. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a "National Policy for Urban Transport";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when the policy would be formulated and approved?

Cities covered under National Urban renewal Mission

1373. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to set up a National Urban Renewal Mission;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the mandate, funds, schemes, etc.;

(c) whether some cities have been selected for being covered under the proposed mission;

(d) if so, the names of such cities in Rajasthan and their percentage out of the selected cities; and

(e) the criteria of selection of cities and the targeted areas of development of such cities?

Slum sanitation programme in Mumbai

1374. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal for obtaining loan from the World Bank through his Ministry and the Ministry of Finance to the World Bank for implementing slum sanitation programme—Stage II in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

Privatisation of water distribution in Delhi

*1375. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi gets 670 million gallons of water (mgd) per day against the requirement of 850 mgd;

(b) whether the President of CII in a recently held seminar in Delhi on "Public Private Participation in Water Sector" favoured privatising the service as private players in water distribution are ready to

share investment risks, greater efficiency and productivity etc. in a better way; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto keeping in view that water availability is a basic need both for poor and affluent sectors of the society in Delhi?

Water supply projects in Karnataka

1376. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide \$ 39.50 million for urban water supply improvement projects in Karnataka;

(b) whether this World Bank-sponsored project, which is to be implemented in five years, would cover water supply and sanitation requirements in the cities of Bangalore, Gulbarga, Belgaum and Hubli-Dharwar; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the proposed project?

FDI in housing Sector

1377. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only a small FDI flow in the housing sector after opening it to foreign investors;

(b) whether procuring the land is the main hurdle in inviting FDI; and

(c) if so what efforts have been made by Government to overcome the hurdle?

Illegal Land Acquisition Act, 1954

1378. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various

Government agencies like MCD, DDA etc.; have forcibly acquired land at Varinder Nagar, Village Tihar, Delhi without legal process of law under the Land Acquisition Act, 1954;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against the officers responsible for acquiring land without giving proper compensation to the owners; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the hon'ble High Court has given direction to Government for payment of compensation to the owners and if so, the action taken by Government so far?

Conversion of plot to free-hold

1379. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Lever Limited (HLL) have applied to the Delhi Development Authority for conversion of two acres of a prime plot of land in Lawrence Road, New Delhi into free-hold;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that this land of plot belongs to Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. and Union of this unit have objected to the conversion into free-hold of this plot; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Housing in Delhi

1380. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi's population would touch the 230 lakh mark by the year 2021; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/to be taken by Government to provide the housing units?

Steps to increase urban employment

1381. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concrete efforts have been made during the last five years to increase the urban employment particularly in major cities like Hyderabad etc.; and

(b) if so, the complete details thereof?

Housing for all schemes

1382. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether housing-for-all schemes targeted at the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and the Lower Income Group (LIG) are being run in the States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assistance being provided by Government to the States and UTs to run their lower-end housing schemes;

(d) whether a decision has now been taken to provide additional central assistance to the States and to monitor the housing-for-all schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Unemployed people in metro

†1383. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 10 crore of people are living below poverty line and are unemployed in metros;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the details of the action plan prepared by Government to remove this unemployment?

Slum population in Chennai

1384. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the population of Chennai which is living in slums and on Government land at present;

(b) the details of the population evicted and relocated to other areas during the last five years;

(c) the details of the proposals relating to urban planning of Chennai received from the Tamil Nadu Government and action

taken by Government during the last five years; and

(d) the funds released for development of Chennai during the last five years?

Rise in unemployment

†1385. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by Government to find out the reasons for increasing unemployment in the urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for indifferent attitude of Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of the urban unemployment on the basis of age-group and economic conditions?

NEW DELHI;
The 7th March, 2005
Phalguna 16, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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