

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, the July 14, 2004/Asadha 23, 1926 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Coal and Mines; Defence; Home Affairs; Non-Conventional
Energy Sources; Power; Rural Development; Textiles;
Youth Affairs and Sports)**

Total number of questions—98

Effect of rise in coal prices

302. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steep
rise in coal prices has its cascading effect in
prices of steel and power sector in the
country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the
beneficiary common man is severely
affected by the rise in prices of prime grade
coal; and

(c) whether Government have received
representation from the steel and power
industry to reconsider the decision?

Recommendations of World Bank regarding extraction of coal, oil and gas

303. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Extractive Industry
Review of the World Bank has made some
recommendations with regard to extraction
of coal, oil and gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the position of Government thereto?

Copper reserves in Uttarakhand

†304. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the
Minister of COAL AND MINES be
pleased to state:

(a) the locations of copper reserves in
Uttarakhand and the quantum thereof;

(b) whether any scheme for commercial
exploitation of the said copper reserves has
been formulated by Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of non-coking coal washeries by C.I.L.

305. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the
Minister of COAL AND MINES be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. has taken
any steps to set up non-coking coal
washeries within the jurisdiction of each
subsidiary coal company of Coal India Ltd.,
in view of increasing likely demand of non-
coking coal because of Government's plan
to increase power generating capacity in
the next decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private investors are also
likely to be attracted to set up washeries;
and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the terms and conditions laid down for the agreement to be signed in this regard?

Coal mine workers

†306. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers working in coal mines at present;

(b) whether Government propose to totally exploit mining of coal mines; and

(c) if so, the number of extra workers required in this regard?

Revival plan of ECL

307. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of revival plan of Eastern Coal Fields Ltd. (ECL); and

(b) the outlines of the revival plan including financial involvement, funding pattern, time schedule to implement the revival scheme?

Pollution survey by WCL in Chandrapur, Maharashtra

†308. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Western Coalfields Ltd. had conducted any survey with regard to pollution in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the number of members in the concerned survey team;

(c) whether the said team has submitted a report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Coal mines in the country

309. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details regarding the number of mines in the country;

(b) the State-wise details regarding the number of mines closed/abandoned during the last three years;

(c) the total number of workers who lost their jobs due to the closure/abandonment of mines during the above period;

(d) whether Government have any revival package to modernise the mines in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Import of Coal

†310. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of coal in different industries in the country is being met through imports;

(b) if so, the names of industries and the average quantum of coal imported annually; and

(c) the reasons for which these industries are forced to depend on imports?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

SU-30 MKI aircraft

†311. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have procured Sukhoi-30 MKI planes from Russia recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of fighter aircrafts in operation in the country at present?

Purchase of AK 47 Assault Rifles

312. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently purchased A.K. 47 Assault rifles from a Bulgarian firm by overlooking the tender offer which was 25 per cent cheaper;

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

(c) what are the specific reasons for ignoring the cheapest offer?

Joint patrolling in the high seas with foreign countries

313. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed joint patrolling of high seas with Singapore, Australia, Thailand and Philippines to check piracy, narco trafficking, smuggling etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how India stands to gain by this move?

Procurement of light weight sturdy helmets for Indian Army

314. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army propose to procure light weight and sturdier helmets for its Jawans to reduce the casualties in counter-insurgency operations in Kashmir and North-East; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Decrease in the number of persons joining defence forces

315. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that less and lesser number of people are applying to join the defence forces;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of decrease in applications in the last five years; and

(c) whether Government have made special drives to recruit people from areas and from amongst groups and communities where people have not traditionally been joining the Army for various reasons?

Defence Cooperation agreement between India and Tajikistan

316. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Tajikistan have signed an agreement for Defence Co-operation in the field of Defence training, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development of 'Lahat' by Defence scientists

317. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian defence scientists have achieved a breakthrough by developing a Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile 'Lahat' for our main battle tank 'Arjun';

(b) if so, the special features of 'Lahat'; and

(c) how it would enhance the fighting capability of the MBT Arjun?

Acquiring nuclear powered submarines for Indian Navy

318. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy has requested the Government to acquire nuclear powered submarines capable of employing nuclear weapons; and

(b) if so, the details and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Conduct of exercises by Singapore Air Force over Indian air space

319. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Singapore Air Force has been allowed to conduct exercises over the Indian air space and their army has also been given permission to carry out training exercises on Indian soil; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement concluded with Singapore and the reasons for allowing a foreign country to use Indian air space and land for their military exercises?

MIG aircrafts with IAF

‡320. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MIG aircrafts in the fleet of Indian Air Force; how old this fleet is;

(b) whether accidents in MIG aircrafts have become a common feature; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence is planning to procure aircrafts with better technology after removing MIG aircrafts from its fleet; if so, by when; and

(d) the number of pilots and common people killed in aircraft accidents together with the losses suffered by the Air Force due to these accidents?

Project to manufacture Arjun Tank

‡321. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project to manufacture Arjun Tank has not been able to achieve its proposed target;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Combat Vehicle Research and Development Institute, Avadi has manufactured only four Arjun Tanks instead of 125; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

New ensigns, flags and pendants for the Indian Navy

322. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy propose to adorn its ships, submarines and establishments with new ensigns, flags and pendants; and

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

Sugar Mills lying closed

†323. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar mills at Gauri Bazar, Padrauna and Kathkuiyan under Kanpur Sugar Works Ltd. and Ganesh Sugar Mill at Anand Nagar are lying closed for the last many years;

(b) if so, the initiatives being taken by the Ministry regarding payments of salaries to employees working in the said mills and payments of outstanding sugarcane prices to farmers;

(c) whether Government are considering any scheme of running these mills after their renovation; and

(d) if not, initiatives being taken by Government to sell out these mills to private parties?

Securing release of Indian PoWs

324. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of

army personnel taken Prisoners of War and lodged in Pakistani jails following the Kargil war, were declared deserters;

(b) if so, the details of such cases which have come to light, and what steps have since been taken to secure their custody from Pak authorities and to compensate and rehabilitate them and their families; and

(c) whether in some cases irreparable damage culminating in death of mother and desertion and remarriage by wife was caused to the PoWs?

Compassionate appointment

†325. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for appointment on compassionate ground in various departments of Ministry of Defence received by Government during last three years till date;

(b) the number of persons who have been given appointments each year out of the applications so received and the number of persons whose applications have been rejected along with the number of pending cases; and

(c) the reasons for rejected and pending cases?

Fabrication of aluminium caskets by DRDO

326. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had expressed its ability to indigenously design and fabricate Aluminium caskets which were imported from USA at a very high cost as reported by Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG);

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the Aluminium Association of India had approached Master General of Ordnance Branch, Equipment Management Directorate, offering assistance for indigenous production of caskets;

(c) whether feasibility for manufacturing such caskets indigenously has already been ascertained by selected Army Base Workshops (ABWs); and

(d) if so, approximate cost per casket estimated by the ABWs?

Adequate police personnel for safety of vulnerable sections of society

327. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the media recently wherein it has been stated that excessive centralization of police man-power to give security coverage to the VIPs and VVIPs is one important factor contributing to the inadequate posting of police personnel to look after the securities of elderly people, senior citizens and ladies etc.; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to make adequate police personnel available for these vulnerable sections of society?

Controversy over police encounter

328. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 19 year old Ishrat who was killed in a police encounter

in Gujarat, alleging terrorist links, created controversy in Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government of India are aware that Human Rights Commission ordered enquiry into the incident; and

(c) whether Government of India are ordering CBI enquiry about the shootout?

Attack on BSF convoy

329. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the terrorists attacked a BSF convoy on Jammu Srinagar highway on 23rd May, 2004 killing and injuring many persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether responsibility has been fixed for negligence of our own patrolling;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to take disciplinary action against the negligent personnel/parties, whose responsibility was to keep the road free from explosives being laid, and to nab the culprit and to ensure that such incidents do not recur?

Safety of Senior Citizens in Delhi

330. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that senior citizens living in Delhi face grave problem in respect of their security; and

(b) whether Government are also aware that the Delhi Police do not keep track of the vulnerable citizens?

Terrorists activities in J and K

†331. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the violent activities of terrorists have increased in the State of Jammu and Kashmir in the current year 2004 in comparison to the previous years;

(b) if not, the number of violent incidents that took place in the year 2002, 2003 and last months of the year 2004;

(c) the number of terrorists killed and injured along with the number of army personnels and civilians killed and injured in such incidents; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to prevent such terrorist activities?

Deportation of illegal Bangladeshi migrants

332. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Action Plan was prepared which visualized deportation of at least 100 illegal Bangladeshi migrants per day;

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto;

(c) the State-wise details of the likely number of illegal Bangladeshi migrants in the country;

(d) how many such illegal Bangladeshi migrants have been deported during last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the efforts made to identify and deport 100 illegal Bangladeshi migrants per day, as visualized in the Action Plan in this regard?

Meeting of National Women Organisations with Home Minister

333. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of National Women's Organisations met him recently;

(b) if so, their contentions; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

Assistance under NCCF for Andhra Pradesh

334. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for early release of cash assistance and rice from the National Calamity Contingency Fund for the December, 2003 cyclone; and

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

Failure to nab rapist of Swiss diplomat

335 SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that police and intelligence agencies have failed to arrest culprits responsible for abduction of 36 year old Swiss Diplomat from Siri Fort parking lot and raping her on 14/10/03;

(b) if so, the details of efforts made and the reasons for the failure to nab the culprits;

(c) the details of unsolved cases registered with Delhi Police during the last three years; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the cases declared closed and the reasons therefor?

Measures to tackle noise pollution offenders in Delhi

336. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: SHRIMOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have purchased equipment to measure noise pollution levels in the NCT of Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that hi-tech cops have been trained to crack down on noise pollution offenders who violate the prescribed limits or play music too loudly after fixed timings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and how many offenders have been challaned during the last three months?

Fencing at Indo-Bangladesh border

337. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether barbed wire fence along the Indo-Bangladesh border has been completed;

(b) the target for completion of the fence; and

(c) the reasons for not completing by 2003 as scheduled earlier?

Talks on J and K

†338. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

have taken a decision to hold talks on the present situation of Jammu and Kashmir State with Pakistan, separatist terrorist organisations as well as the elected representatives of the Jammu and Kashmir State;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified people belonging to different categories for talks and have invited them for the same;

(c) if so, the details of the persons so identified; and

(d) the names of the groups with whom talks are likely to be held along with the dates on which talks will be held?

Abrogation of POTA

339. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of reports about misuse of POTA by different State Governments, Government have examined the desirability of abrogating this Act;

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

(c) what line of action in this regard has been incorporated in the Common Minimum Programme?

Responsibility of internal security to CRPF

†340. SHRIP.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of handing over the responsibility of complete internal

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

security of the country to Central Reserve Police Force has been postponed in some of the States for now;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the phase-wise progress of this scheme so far, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the whole process and by when it is likely to be completed?

Initiative to solve Ayodhya dispute

†341. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiative has been taken by Government to solve the Ayodhya dispute in Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to organise a round table conference of Hindus, Muslims, State Government, jurists and religious leaders and if so, by when the said conference will be organised; and

(c) whether Government of India are taking any initiative for disposal of all the cases related to the Ayodhya dispute pending before the different courts specially before the Supreme Court of India, for long?

Border crimes

342. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of incidents termed as border crimes in the years 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) the number of casualties in such incidents; and

(c) the steps taken by Central Government to prevent such crimes?

Infiltration at Sabzian sector of Poonch

†343. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the barbed wire fencing at Sabzian sector of Poonch to stop infiltration at the line of control was recently cut off by terrorists who infiltrated into the Indian territory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action to stop such incidents has been taken by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Bearing cost for deployment of paramilitary forces

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

(a) whether Government had proposed to bear the cost for deployment of paramilitary forces to tackle naxals; and

(b) if so, the progress/follow up action taken in the matter?

Rise in incidents of rapes

†345. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steep rise in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

incidents of rapes and molestation in the country;

(b) the number of incidents of rapes and molestation registered during 2004 in comparison to the year 2003;

(c) whether any comprehensive plan has been formulated by the Government to check the rising incidents of rapes and molestation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Safety of senior citizens in Delhi

346. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken note of the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi, particularly frequent killing of senior citizens;

(b) if so, the number of senior citizens killed in various parts of the capital during last three years, each year;

(c) the number of cases solved so far and the particulars of persons apprehended; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to ensure safety of life and property of the people?

Conditions of Indian workers in Iraq

347. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA :
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKARREDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported conditions of Indians working for contractors in Iraq; and

(b) if so, the follow up action taken to

ensure that Indian workers are not ill treated?

Agreement with Israel to fight terrorism globally

348. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Israel have agreed to resolve to fight terror globally;

(b) if so, whether both countries have agreed to provide help and assistance in fighting terror in India;

(c) if so, what are the new training and military equipments provided by Israel to India to meet the terrorism;

(d) to what extent Israel has been able to provide India all assistance; and

(e) to what extent it has been successful in controlling terrorist activities in India?

Approval to non-conventional energy projects in Karnataka

349. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects relating to generation of non-conventional energy in Karnataka approved;

(b) how many of them have taken off so far;

(c) the details of energy being produced from these units; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to cancel the licence given to some of these units who had failed to take off so far?

Priority to Solar Energy

†350. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give priority to solar energy in comparison to hydel and thermal power;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total production of solar energy as on date;

(c) whether Government have carried out any study for tapping more power from other resources besides thermal, hydel and solar energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of Kuteer Jyoti Yojana

†351. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the States where 'Kuteer Jyoti Yojana' is going on; and

(b) the details of proportional expenditure of Centre and State in the said Yojana?

Villages covered with Non-Conventional Energy sources in Karnataka

352. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Karnataka covered with Non-Conventional Energy sources so far;

(b) how many villages are proposed to be provided with Non-Conventional Energy in Karnataka; and

(c) what are the incentives being given to promote Non-Conventional Energy sources in Karnataka?

Slow pace of rural electrification

353. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's electricity generation is one of the slowest growing infrastructure sector in the country and has had a huge negative fallout on rural India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only 43 per cent of the rural households have access to electricity;

(c) if so, the present status of rural electrification; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to improve the electricity generation in the country?

Losses due to handing over Power distribution to private sector in Delhi

†354. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a loss of Rs. 6000 crore has been estimated in Delhi due to the abolition of the erstwhile DVB and handing over the responsibility of Power distribution to the Private Sector companies during recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether at the time of handing over the power distribution work to the Private Sector any norm for profits had been fixed for these companies; and

(d) if so, what was that norm and the amount of annual profit as per that norm?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Power projects in the country

†355. SHRIP.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of power projects running in the country; and

(b) the State-wise details of gap between power generation by these power projects and consumption thereof?

Power supply to commercially important cities

356. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power disruptions across half a dozen business cities in the country are so frequent that annual losses suffered by India Inc. are projected to be Rs. 22,000 crore;

(b) whether according to the November MAIT-Emerson survey of 302 firms across eight critical industry segments, power disruptions are a daily affair in Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Mumbai except in Kolkata and has an adverse impact on employee productivity, work in progress, management time and customer delivery; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to provide uninterrupted power supply to commercially important cities?

Commercial deficit of SEBs

†357. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the economic reforms initiated by Government in Power sector;

(b) the details of the projected

commercial deficit of State Electricity Boards during 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the functioning of State Electricity Boards to eliminate their deficit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Share of HP in hydel projects

†358. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has made a request to the Government of India for its share in hydel projects constructed in its land by the Governments of Punjab and Haryana after the reorganisation of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, names of such hydel projects along with the percentage of share being sought therein by Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) the efforts made by the Central Government to ensure fair share of the Government of Himachal Pradesh in the projects for improving its economic status and the results thereof?

APDRP strategy

359. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP) strategy of Government;

(b) whether this strategy has not achieved the desired results at this stage;

(c) whether there is any proposal to review this strategy;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) what steps Government propose to improve the power situation in the country; and

(e) the details of steps proposed to review the APDRP Programme?

DhauliGanga Phase-II project

‡360. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of DhauliGanga Phase-II project by NHPC; and

(b) if so, by when the construction work of this project is likely to be undertaken?

Disinclination to extend financial support by International agencies

361. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many International Banks and funding agencies have shown disinclination to extend financial support to the power projects in the country drawn up by the NHPC;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the objections and problems raised by international funding agencies?

Status of Onkareshwar Power Project

362. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Onkareshwar Power Project;

(b) whether it is a fact that principal financier to the project Deutchue Bank is

in the process of withdrawing from the project; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Per capita consumption of power

‡363. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average per capita consumption of power in various States;

(b) whether there is any incentive scheme for decreasing consumption of power in the States with low per capita consumption; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Average cost of production of power

364. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per kilowatt/hour cost of production of power by various distributor companies in India;

(b) whether the power distribution companies in India are charging Rs. 5 per unit when the cost of producing power is not more than Rs. 3 per unit (Kilowatt/hour);

(c) whether Government is aware that most of the power distribution companies are charging fuel adjustment charge, surcharge, cess and other taxes due to which the consumers have to pay very heavy charges;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to reduce the power charges in various States including NCT, particularly in view of difference between cost of production and price charged for power; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Merger of PFC and PGC

365. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to merge the Power Finance Corporation and the Power Grid Corporation to reduce costs of administration;

(b) if so, the details of this merger proposal;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to reduce the high cost of management and administration at these two bodies;

(d) whether any study has been conducted to reduce the costs of administration in the Power Grid Corporation and the PFC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Deficit and surplus status in generation of power

366. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States falling under 'deficit' and 'surplus' status in respect of generation of power;

(b) the details of newly undertaken power-projects in the 'deficit' States;

(c) how many of them are in the North-East with the names of the projects; and

(d) by when these are likely to be commissioned?

Rural Electrification

367. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the number of unelectrified villages to be electrified in the country;

(b) whether at present a village is considered to be electrified even if one

household in the village has access to power;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to redefine the term 'village electrification' to provide for wider coverage of village households;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have drawn any schedule for rural electrification; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

National Electricity Policy

368. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government propose to announce the National Electricity Policy and Rural Electricity Policy;

(b) what are the salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) whether Government is seriously thinking of giving free power to farmers as a norm in the policy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up power projects in collaboration with foreign companies

369. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of power projects set up or to be set up with collaboration of foreign companies during the last three years; and

(b) the State-wise names/details of foreign and Indian participants with the amount of total investment proposed, time schedule of completion of each such project in the different parts of the country?

Scheme to improve power sector in Delhi

‡370. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private and public sector companies were given the responsibility of implementing comprehensive scheme for improving power sector in the capital region of Delhi;

(b) if so, the amount allocated to these companies for the said scheme; and

(c) the actual amount spent out of the allocated amount?

Splitting of NTPC into four regional companies

371. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Task Force headed by Mr. N.K. Singh recommended splitting of N.T.P.C. into 4 regional companies to bring in competition;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has decided to circulate this recommendation to various concerned Ministries of their opinion;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has got any response from other Ministries in this regard; and

(d) what are the other major recommendations made by the Task Force?

Proper utilization of water for electricity production in Uttaranchal

‡372. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 40,000 MW electricity can

be produced by proper utilization of water in Uttaranchal State;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Central Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government would formulate any action plan in this regard?

Unelectrified villages in UP and Maharashtra

‡373. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the villages in UP and Maharashtra which have not been electrified so far;

(b) what is the plan of the Government regarding the rural-electrification; and

(c) till when the electrification of all the villages in UP and Maharashtra would be completed by the Government?

Loss of electricity in Delhi

‡374. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that T&D electricity loss is maximum in Delhi as compared to other metro-cities of the country;

(b) if so, the electricity loss in all metro-cities of the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that electricity loss as a result of theft of electricity is highest in Delhi;

(d) if not, the actual facts in this regard?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Plan to improve power distribution system in Delhi

†375. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan with regard to comprehensive plan for improvement in the distribution system had been made while extending the work of power distribution to private companies in Delhi;

(b) if so, the road map of the said plan;

(c) the year-wise amount fixed for spending for the same during recent years;

(d) whether it is a fact that expenditure could not be incurred as per the plan as a result thereof no improvement has been made in the distribution system;

(e) if so, whether reduction in loss during distribution was expected after the implementation of said plan; and

(f) if so, the assessment with regard to reduction in distribution losses?

Power projects in NER

376. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the power projects existing in different States of the North-Eastern region;

(b) the generating capacity of each power project;

(c) the names of the power projects where the construction works are running; and

(d) the position of the works of the thermal project to be located at Monar Chak of Sonamura in Tripura?

Mega status for four big power projects

377. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has examined Mega status for four power sector projects;

(b) if so, what are the States in which these four projects will be set up and by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(c) whether under Mega power projects policy, import of capital equipment will be free of customs duty for these projects; and

(d) what are other concessions that will be provided after providing Mega status to these big four power projects?

Implementation of PMGSY

378. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that habitations of population of 500 or more are proposed to be connected by roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana by the end of 2007;

(b) if so, the details of roads completed by 2003 and proposed to be undertaken during 2004 to 2007;

(c) the steps taken to ensure that PMGSY is implemented in time; and

(d) how the persons engaged in PMGSY are proposed to be engaged after 2007?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Raise up of cost of houses under
Indira Awas Yojana**

†379. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the cost-price of the houses which is at present twenty thousand rupees to be constructed for the persons living below the poverty-line under the Indira Awas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in IAY target for Bihar

†380. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the annual target of Indira Awas Yojana in Bihar keeping in view the increase in the number of persons living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of villages

†381. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in India which are yet to be developed; and

(b) the action plan of the Government to complete the development of the villages alongwith the time-limit for the same?

Electricity to villages in Assam

382. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the villages in the State of Assam which have not been supplied electricity till now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the electricity in these villages is likely to be provided?

**Villages linked to District HQs
through all weather roads**

†383. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a total of 6,34,321 villages in the country;

(b) if not, the total number of villages in the country;

(c) the number of these villages in each State of the country; and

(d) the number of villages in each State linked with the District Head Quarters through all weather roads?

**Habitations eligible under PMGSY in
Eastern States**

384. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of habitations estimated to be eligible for coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Eastern States; and

(b) the State-wise details of funds allocated?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Involvement of local MPs in
implementation of Rural
Development Schemes**

‡385. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the approval and advice of local MPs are not sought in implementation of various Centrally sponsored Rural Development Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the implementation of various Centrally sponsored Rural Development Schemes with approval and advice of local MPs?

**Impact of Forest (Conservation) Act,
1980 in the implementation of
PMGSY**

‡386. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are coming in the way of the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana especially in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to remove the said obstacle?

Increase in textile quota

387. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of textile quota is likely to be increased for the third world in the light of some more East European countries being inducted in the E.U.;

(b) if so, how much India is going to be benefited from the increase in the textile quota;

(c) whether the Ministry is thinking of increasing the quota for 2004; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Steps to make Indian textile industry
competitive**

‡388. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken for making Indian textiles industry competitive as per the requirement of international market;

(b) whether it is a fact that the export of Indian garments in terms of quantity has declined in the last few years; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such decline?

Export market for yarn

389. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spinning mills reel under stock piles in export markets in comparison to last year's performance; and

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking to improve the export market for yarn?

**Report of Committee on Investment
and Growth in textile industry**

390. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steering Committee/ Group on investment and growth in textile industry has presented its third report to Government;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the group recommended for recasting debt of the textile units in the country;

(c) whether the group also strongly recommended for constitution of a Debt Restructuring Fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Higher power consumption for weaving of textiles

†391. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 27 per cent cost of production for weaving textiles in the country is that of power consumption;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that in other countries of the world viz. Brazil, Indonesia and Korea, it is upto 14 per cent, 12 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively;

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

(e) the reason for comparatively higher expenditure on power consumption in production cost of textile-weaving in India?

Action on representation by Indian Cotton Mills Federation

392. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1686 given in the Rajys Sabha on 17th December, 2003 and state the action taken by the Ministry on the representation received from the Indian Cotton Mills Federation?

Steps for smooth running of textile industry

†393. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile industries closed in India; and

(b) how Government propose to ensure smooth running of textile industry?

Dismantled quota system for textiles

394. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how Government propose to bring reforms in textile sector to grab the dismantled quota system which will become operational from 2005;

(b) what measures Government have taken or propose to take to increase exports to the level of \$ 25-30 billion from the present \$ 12 billion by 2013;

(c) whether Government propose to dereserve knitted and hosiery sectors from the small scale sector as a part of this; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

National Youth Festival

395. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government organizes a National Youth Festival every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for young people who can participate in this National Youth Festival;

(d) whether State Governments are encouraged to hold State-level Youth Festivals; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details of the incentives given to State Governments to hold such State-level Youth Festivals?

Special reward to the winning Indian cricket team

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give special reward to the Indian cricket team on their grand feat of winning trophies in one day and test matches series in Pakistan;

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

(c) whether similar rewards will be given for other games such as hockey, football, tennis, table tennis, volley ball etc.?

Pension scheme for Asian Games athletes

397. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any pension scheme for athletes who have participated in Asian Games over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for such athletes to qualify for the pension; and

(d) the details of such pension and benefits presently in operation for athletes who had won medals at diverse Asian Games for the country?

Construction of Olympic size swimming pools by SAI

398. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS

AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sports Authority of India has agreed to build Olympic size and standard swimming pools in all States;

(b) if so, the details of this decision by the SAI;

(c) when will the SAI start working on this scheme in various States;

(d) what will be the funding required for such a project; and

(e) the details of the funding pattern available if State Governments want to build such swimming pools?

Steps to check doping menace among athletes

399. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some athletes who are preparing for the Athens Olympics, slated for August, 2004, have reportedly been taking performance-enhancing drugs, code-named "white tablets", that are banned by the International Olympics Committee, and are meticulously following a doping chart given to them;

(b) if so, the results of any enquiry made in this regard; and

(c) the details of steps initiated to check and protect the athletes from the doping menace and motivate them to upgrade their own genuine talents to keep up the national honour in the international arena?

NEW DELHI;
The 8th July, 2004
Asadha 17, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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