RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on Friday, the March 15, 2002/Phalguna 24, 1923 (Saka)

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and Forests; Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development; Ocean Development; Railways; Science and Technology; Steel; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions—155

Integrating production and marketing of farm produce

- 1319. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that in a recent report, it was stated that there was an urgent need to integrate production and marketing of farm produce through a process of reforms, to enhance price and quality competitiveness of agricultural products;
- (b) whether some of the points mentioned are qualitative improvement by the use of better seeds and irrigation, infrastructure and prevention of wastage; and
- (c) if so, what are Government plans in this regard?

Wheat to Afghanistan

- 1320. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the quantity of wheat sent to Afghanistan;
- (b) what is the quantity of wheat yet to be sent; and

(c) whether Indian council of Agricultural Research has declared that Indian wheat sent to Afghanistan was not infected, as alleged by Pakistan?

Livestock population vis-a-vis fodder availability

- 1321. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the population of livestock in the country, State-wise, and per capita availability of fodder; and
- (b) the growth rate of livestock and folder?

Funds to ICAR for agricultural research

- 1322. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has sought more funds from Government for agricultural research and teaching;
- (b) if so, the details of funds required and the reasons therefor;

- (c) how for the shortage of funds has adversely affected agricultural production, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to release the necessary funds, State-wise?

Agricultural production in U.P.

- 1323. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of centrally sponsored programmes formulated and being implemented by Government for Uttar Pradesh to increase agricultural production during the year 2001-2002;
- (b) whether Government have fixed any target for increasing the agricultural production;
- (c) if so, the details of achievements made in this respect; and
- (d) the details of financial assistance provided to Uttar Pradesh for the purpose, during the same period?

Cultivable land in Chhattisgarh and MP

- †1324. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the total area of cultivable land in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the details of increase and decrease in cultivable land during last three years;
- (c) the reasons for increase or decrease in the agricultural land; and
- (d) the details of action being taken to overcome the decrease in cultivable land, in view of the fast growing population?

Availability of Sunflower seeds

- 1325. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand for Sunflower oil in the market:
- (b) whether it is also a fact that farmers are facing huge problems for non-availability of Sunflower seeds due to which they are not in a position to grow Sunflower seeds, to supply in the market; and
- (c) if so, what are the proposals with Government to increase the production of Sunflower seeds, to meet the demand of the agriculturists, who are producing Sunflower seeds?

Falling prices of agricultural products in Karnataka

- 1326. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that due to globalization and WTO conditionalities, the prices of many agricultural products were collapsing in Karnataka; and
- (b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect the interests of farmers of that State, to minimise the negative effects of WTO conditionalities on farmers?

Growth of agriculture sector

- 1327. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that as per the recommendation of the Working Group of the Planning Commission, an investment

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- of Rs. 736,570 crore in the farm sector would be needed during the Tenth Five Year Plan, to achieve planned growth of 4 per cent:
- (b) whether bank policy would be amended to provide adequate credit to farmers, to achieve this target; and
- (c) if so, what action Government are taking in this regard?

UNDRC assistance for natural disasters

- 1328. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article captioned "blame it on the forces of nature," by Sunder K. Datta Ray, which appeared in the Business Standard, New Delhi dated 28th July, 2001;
- (b) if so, whether India heads the list of countries, alongwith China, Hongkong and Phillipines, which are vulnerable to natural disasters:
- (c) whether India has ever made a request to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordination (UNDRC) for assistance; and
- (d) if not, whether Government are thinking to make such a request now, looking to the present flood disaster in Orissa, a calamity prone State in the country?

Drought relief to H.P.

- 1329. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the total amount provided to Himachal Pradesh as drought relief during the last three financial years;

- (b) the total amount utilised by the State against the allocated amount, yearwise; and
- (c) the total amount lying unutilised against the released amount during each of those years?

Dry cropping pattern for Kutch in Gujarat

- 1330. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that a large area of agricultural land in Kutch district of Gujarat remains uncultivated, because of recurring droughts;
- (b) whether Government have prepared any action plan to develop dry cropping pattern and herbal and medicinal plants *viz*. Allovira, Gokhru, Sonamukhi, etc. in Kutch district:
 - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, in what manner Government propose to protect the interests of farmers in that district?

Procurement of Copra in AP

- 1331. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether NAFED procures Copra from farmers in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the quantity of Copra procured in the State during the last three years year-wise; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Copra procurement

- 1332. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of funds NAFED released to various State Governments for Copra procurement during 2001, State-wise;
- (b) the details of procurement undertaken till 31st January, 2001, Statewise:
- (c) whether any time-frame has been set for procuring Copra to avail the MSP;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Schemes for animal husbandry poultry and fisheries

- †1333. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of schemes being implemented by Government for animal husbandry, poultry and fisheries for the last three years;
- (b) the details of amount allocated for their implementation during the same period, State-wise; and
- (c) whether Government provide subsidy also for these schemes; if so, the details thereof?

Assistance to rural people for beehiving, fisheries and poultry

- †1334. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether financial assistance is being provided by Government to the rural folks for beehiving, fisheries and poultry farming;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the details of persons provided with such assistance during last three years, State-wise:
- (d) whether Government provide subsidies also for these activities; and
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

Remunerative price for groundnut

- 1335. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that groundnut growers in Gujarat and some other States are not getting remunerative price for their produce;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, togetherwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial action proposed by Government in this regard?

Crop insurance

- 1336. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a plan has been formulated to provide crop insurance for two crore farmers during the next five years, to cover the farmers suffering losses due to natural calamities:
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the phased annual programmes to cover the number of farmers, the sum for which they would be insured and the premium to be paid by them and/or subsidy to be extended by the Central Government/ States, to reduce their burden; and
- (c) the norms/formulae laid down, if any, to determine the losses and to compensate farmers in the event of natural calamities?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Suicide by farmers in A.P.

- 1337. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that 638 farmers had committed suicide during the last three years in 20 districts of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that out of an estimated 490 farmers who committed suicide in the country during 2001-2002, 385 belonged to Andhra Pradesh;
- (c) if so, what have been the causes of their suicide; and
- (d) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to tackle their problems on immediate basis and big scale too?

Vegetable production

- 1338. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the total production of vegetables in 1999, 2001 and 2002; State-wise;
- (b) the per capita availability of vegetables in India and other developed and developing countries;
- (c) the growth rate of vegetables in the country; and
- (d) what steps have been taken for increasing the number and capacity of cold-storages in the country, since vegetables are perishable items?

Scheme for SC/ST farmers

- 1339. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are implementing any special schemes for

- Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers in the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what is the status of those schemes in Gujarat?

Assistance to women cooperatives in Gujarat

- 1340. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether grants are being released to Gujarat for assistance to women cooperatives in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) the number of cooperatives benefited during the said period in the State, districtwise; and
- (d) the details as to how many of them were milk cooperatives and how many were other cooperatives?

New techniques for animal husbandry and dairying

- 1341. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the efforts made to develop new techniques in respect of development and expansion in the field of animal husbandry and dairy industry;
- (b) the steps taken to provide information about these techniques to the concerned persons and institutions and to encourage them to apply the same; and
- (c) the efforts being made to prevent the constant decline in the number of various animals relating to dairy industry?

"Chalo Khet Ki Aur" Radio Programme

- 1342. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government had, of late, decided to launch a sponsored radio programme 'Chalo Khet Ki Aur', with a view to making the farmers' community aware about various Government schemes beneficial to them:
- (b) whether the proposed programme was to be broadcast from various stations of AIR in Hindi and other regional languages, simultaneously;
- (c) if so, whether broadcast of the above programme has since commenced; if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) by which date this programme is likely to come on the air?

Distribution of land among landless labourers

1343. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether lakes of acres of cultivable land are in disuse throughout the country;
- (b) whether Government propose to distribute such cultivable land to landless farm labourers in the greater interest;
- (c) if so, the action Plan in this regard; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Cattle and buffalo breeding in A.P.

1344. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Government has been requesting for release of a grant of Rs. 42.47 crore for implementation of National Project of Cattle and Buffaloes breeding;
- (b) if so, when such request was received in the Ministry;
- (c) whether the State Government has also been requesting to release Rs. 11 crore as per the recommendations made by the Ministry of Agriculture;
- (d) if so, the details of such recommendations; and
- (e) the reasons for delay in releasing the amount?

Fish famine in coastal Karnataka

- 1345. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that coastal districts of Karnataka are facing fish famine and fish production has reduced to half during the last two years;
 - (b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of fish production during the last two years in the State, both the coastal production and the inland production; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to tackle the fish famine and to improve fish production?

Fishing in Indian seas by foreign vessels

1346. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the menance of foreign fishing trawlers and licenceless fishing in the Indian seas by foreign vessels has caused fish famine in the country; if so, the details thereof;

- (b) what steps Government propose to take against foreign trawlers and the vessels; and
- (c) the details of fish production in the country during the last three years?

Budget provisions for Rajendra Agricultural University Bihar

- †1347. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Central Government have made any provision in the Budget for a specific amount of grants-in-aid for the 2002-2003 financial year with a view to improve the quality of education, repair of the old buildings and purchase of latest research equipments in the Rajendra Agricultural University, Dholi Muzaffarpur in Bihar:
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the same would be taken care of in this financial year?

Launching of Sankath Haran Bima Yojana

1348. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has launched Sankath Haran Bima Yojana in the country;
- (b) if so, in how many States the scheme has been launched;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Scheme has not been launched in Andhra Pradesh; and
 - (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Recommendations of NPPA on drug price control

- 1349. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) what are the recommendations of the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority and the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, on the drug price control system; and
- (b) whether these recommendations were thoroughly discussed, before taking a final decision thereon; if so, the details thereof?

Banned alopathic medicines

- †1350. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) the names of alopathic medicines whose production and distribution has been banned during the last three years;
- (b) the steps taken to ensure that these medicines are not sold at all; and
- (c) the details of cases of sale of these medicines detected despite the ban?

High Production cost of Urea

- 1351. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a major part of fertilizer subsidies goes, not to the farmers but to inefficient producers; and
- (b) if so, how much of its goes to the urea producers, and how the cost of production of urea in indigenous factories

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

compares with the International prices of Urea, and the reasons for high cost of production of Urea in India?

Import of Fertilizers

†1352.SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that fertilizers have been imported during the past few years, to meet their requirement in the country;
- (b) if so, which fertilizers were imported during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and their quantity imported; and
- (c) the total amount of subsidy paid by Government on these fertilizer imports during each of the above years?

Grouping of Naphtha-based fertilizer plants

- 1353. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that 27 to 51 per cent of the total energy in Naphtha based fertilizer plants comes from sources other than Naphtha;
- (b) if so, whether Naphtha-based plants are proposed to be grouped in two groups *viz*, plants based on vintage technology of pre-RPS era and plants based on post-RPS era in group pricing scheme;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the proposed grouping of Naphthabased units and the expected benefits to the fertilizer industry and the consumers?

Committee to review drug price control

1354. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Committee had been set up to review drug price control;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the suggestions made by it;
- (c) whether Government have accepted its suggestions; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Development of Chilka lake

- 1355. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Orissa Government has submitted a Master Plan for development of Chilka Lake in that State;
- (b) whether Government are considering the plan and whether any action has been taken in that regard; and
- (c) if not, what steps are being taken to restore ecology of the largest blue lagoon of Asia?

Wildlife Advisory Board, Orissa

- 1356. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) how many times has the State Wildlife Advisory Board, Orissa met during the years 1999 to 2002, year-wise; and
- (b) what are the details of the major decisions of such meetings with regard to setting up of wildlife sanctuaries in the State?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Clean Ganga

- 1357. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "How clean is Ganga, anyway", published in the Hindustan Times dated 17th February, 2002;
 - (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) on which date the Ganga Cleaning Authority was set up;
- (d) the points in UP, Bihar and Bengal in which work on the physical cleaning of the Ganga river has been carried out;
- (e) the stretch on which the work is still pending and by when the same is likely to be completed; and
- (f) the total amount spent on cleaning of Ganga, till date?

Complaints against IFS officers

- 1358. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that public complaint was made against some very senior I.F.S. Officers of the Sikkim Forest Department, for having amassed huge assets, disproportionate to their known sources of income;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that PMO had also forwarded the same for investigation/inquiry to the Director of vigilance of the Ministry; if so, the details thereof; and
 - (c) what are the findings of the inquiry?

Population of Tigers and Leopard

- 1359. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the population of tigers and leopards in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that their population is decreasing day by day;
 - (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) what steps are being taken to protect and maintain their population in the country?

Fine on the Ministry of Environment and Forests

- 1360. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has been fined twice by the Supreme Court, recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, together with the reasons for imposition of fines by the Supreme Court; and
- (c) the reasons for not taking timely and proper action by the Ministry?

Forest development agencies in Kerala

- 1361. SHRI N. K. PREMACHAND-RAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Kerala Government has initiated action to constitute Forest Development Agencies at Division Level, in view of the stipulations under 'Joint Forest Management'; and

(b) the progress achieved by the State in setting up of the Agencies at the grass root level?

Sanctuaries as National Parks in Andhra Pradesh

- 1362. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there is a demand to declare sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh as National Parks;
- (b) if so, the sanctuaries selected in the State for such upgradation;
- (c) the time schedule for completing the formalities;
- (d) whether the State Government has made any other suggestions in this regard;
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

Diseases due to pollution

- †1363. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that air in metro cities/cities/towns has not only become polluted but poisonous also;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that not only common men, but neo-natal children have been found to be suffering from heart ailments; and
- (d) if so, what effective steps Government are taking to protect against the future impending calamity?

Supreme Court target for cleaning Yamuna river

- 1364. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court had set a target for cleaning up of the Yamuna river;
- (b) if so, what are the details thereof; and
- (c) what progress has been made in implementation of the plan, formulated by Government for the purpose?

Water pollution

- 1365. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the C & AG, in its recent report, has revealed shortcomings in implementation of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether water pollution in the country is increasing and various agencies have totally failed to check such trend; and
- (d) if so, the concrete steps Government propose to take to enforce the Act, effectively?

Poaching of Wildlife

- 1366. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Prime Minister while addressing the 21st metting of the Indian

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Board for Wildlife at New Delhi in January, 2002, expressed concern over the poaching of tigers and leopards during the last few years:

- (b) if so, the total number of tigers and leopards poached and killed due to unnatural circumstances, during the last five years;
- (c) whether poaching of such animals is posing threat to the wildlife in the country;and
- (d) if so, the concrete plans formulated to check poaching of such animals?

Disposal of hazardous waste oil

- 1367. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Supreme Court has fined Government for negligent approach in disposal of hazardous waste oil from major ports imported in the guise of lubricants;
 - (b) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (c) the action taken to recover the dues from the officials, negligent in complying, with court orders?

Environment projects in Assam

1368. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of amount sanctioned and released by Government to Assam, for development and promotion of environment projects during the last three years;
- (b) whether Government have provided any fund to the State during the current financial year, for the said purpose; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

Protection of Pachyderm

1369. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a seminar on protection of Pachyderm, organized in Guwahati on January 19, 2002 by the coordinating organization of Non-Government Organizations, involved in conservation of Forests, Wildlife and Environment (CONGOFORM);
- (b) if so, what factors were identified as responsible for mutual intolerance between the Pachyderm and Homo-sapiens;
- (c) what recommendations and suggestions were made to protect and promote this sapiens; and
- (d) the latest figure of elephant population in the country and how much of it is in Assam and in other North-Eastern States?

Dumping of plastic waste

- 1370. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that India has been a favoured ground for dumping of plastic waste;
- (b) whether Denmark and other countries had been sending illegally plastic waste to India for recycling; if so, whether any action has been taken against those countries; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor:
- (c) whether there is any law banning such dumping of plastic waste; and
- (d) if not, whether Government would take action to frame a law to ban dumping of plastic waste; if not, the reasons therefor?

Indian Board of Wildlife

- 1371. SHRI C. P. THIRUNA-VUKKARASU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4326, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st August, 2001 and state:
- (a) the decision taken at the recently held meeting of Indian Board of Wildlife;and
- (b) the steps taken to implement those decisions?

Villages inside Simlipal Tiger Reserve Core Area

- 1372. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) how many villages are present inside the Simlipal Tiger Reserve Core Area in Orissa:
- (b) what proposals are being pursued for resettlement of these villages outside the Reserve, the unspent amount for such resettlement, lying in balance as on date unutilized and the reasons therefor;
- (c) what steps have been taken by Government to save the Great Indian Bustard from extinction; and
- (d) which are the major sanctuaries for the Bustard?

Settlement of villages outside Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary

- 1373. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the villages and settlements inside the Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary

- in Orissa, planned for resettlement outside the Sanctuary since 1984 and how many have been resettled, so far;
- (b) the reasons for delay in resettlement, which is causing harm to both the human beings and the wildlife;
- (c) what steps are being taken for expeditious resettlement of these villages; and
- (d) how much compensation has been paid and how much is yet to be paid?

Illegal cutting of forests

- †1374. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether illegal cutting in forest areas and criminal activities of the Mafia gangs connected with it have increased in States like Bihar:
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to toughen security of natural resources like forests:
- (c) whether the recent murder of a forest officer in Rohtas District of Bihar and the alleged assault by Police on 13 tribal women in Raipur District of Chhattisgarh are associated with corruption, crime and irregularities, prevailing in the forest areas; and
- (d) if so, whether Government would conduct an inquiry into these incidents?

Environment data

- 1375. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Government's environment data five years old", appearing in the Times of India dated 8th February, 2002;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to upgrade the environment data to prepare a road map to fight pollution; and
- (d) the steps proposed to address to problems mentioned in the news-item?

Ganga Jal at Har-ki-Paidi

- †1376. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Ganga Jal at Har-ki-Paidi in the pilgrim city of Hardwar, which is the symbol of crores of people's faith, is not even fit for Achman as per the latest data of Uttaranchal Regional Pollution Control Board;
- (b) whether as per the studies made by that Board, consumption of even a handful of such water may cause jaundice, cholera and other serious abdonminal diseases; and
- (c) if so, the effective steps taken by Government to make pure Ganga Jal available to crores of devotees visiting the place from within the country and abroad, and the measures taken to get rid of this problem?

Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority

- 1377. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority set up in 1998, has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, what are the main recommendations and the part played by the Authority in monitoring and implementing the action plan for controlling

pollution; and

(c) the number of recommendations accepted and implemented by Government?

Ban on sale of crackers

- 1378. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are considering to impose a ban on the sale of crackers, to check the ill effects of fireworks on human health and environment in the country every year:
 - (b) if so, by when; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Menace of leopards in Uttaranchal and H.P.

- 1379. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that leopards have created menace in Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh by killing many people and also getting themselves killed due to lack of jungles;
- (b) if so, the number of people killed by leopards and the leopards killed during the last two years; and
- (c) the steps being taken to protect the lives of people and the leopards?

Storage and marketing for nonfoodgrain food products

- 1380. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
 - (a) whether it is a fact that most of the

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

non-foodgrain food products are perishable in nature;

- (b) if so, whether due to inadequate post-harvest technologies, storage and marketing infrastructure, a large quantity of such food products is wasted;
 - (c) if so, the magnitude thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to strengthen post-harvest technology, storage and marketing infrastructure?

Misappropriation of foodgrains for NP-NSPE

- 1381. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOP-MENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of foodgrains supplied under the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education Programme has been misappropriated by the transporters and distributing agencies;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases that came to the notice of Government in this regard; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken by Government against those responsible for such misappropriation?

Transfer of management of Government schools to private agencies

1382. SHRI AMAR SINGH: SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Administration has decided to handover Management of Government schools in NCT, whose results are poor, to private agencies/public schools;

- (b) if so, what are the details thereof;
- (c) what is the number of such schools proposed to be handed over to private agencies/public schools;
- (d) whether such a move would demoralise Government schools, their teachers and the student community;
- (e) whether Government would make efforts to raise the level of education in such schools, after identifying them; and
- (f) whether Government would also take steps in this direction, after holding discussions with the Government of NCT of Delhi?

Three Language Formula

1383. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

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

- (a) whether Tamil Nadu Government has approached the Supreme Court, defending its stand on the Three Language Formula;
- (b) if so, what is the verdict of the court; and
- (c) whether Government have contemplated any change in the structure of the Three Language Formula, in the light of the Supreme Court's verdict?

Continuing Education Plan

- 1384. SHRI P. N. SIVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of districts covered under Continuing Education Plan, State-wise;
- (b) the districts yet to be covered under the plan, State-wise, particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) by when the remaining districts are likely to be covered, State-wise?

Education to blind and handicapped students

- †1385. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the present system for imparting education to the blind and handicapped students in the country;
- (b) whether Government have made any arrangement for a nation-wide survey, to ascertain the total number of such students;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is an inadequate number of residential schools for blind students in States at present; and
- (e) if so, what effective steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

Posts of OBC teachers in KVS

- †1386. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of posts of teachers which were to be filled up by OBC candidates in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, during last three years, yearwise, school-wise and category-wise;
- (b) when and how these posts were filled up, school-wise and category-wise;
- (c) the number of posts lying vacant as on 1st January, 2002, school-wise and category-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the subject-wise, school-wise, post-wise number of vacancies in the Jaipur region of the organisation and the justification thereof?

World Bank assistance for women and child development schemes

- 1387. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of financial assistance given by the World Bank for implementation of development schemes and programmes for women and children in the country, during each of the last three years, State-wise/Scheme-wise;
- (b) whether the fund granted by the World Bank for the purpose has been fully utilised by Government; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Kerala

- 1388. SHRI N.K. PREMACHAND-RAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Kerala Government has submitted a district-wise long-term perspective Educational Plan and Budget requirement for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, proposed to be implemented in that State;
- (b) whether Government have accorded sanction and allotted funds to the State for the same; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the non-allotment; and
- (c) the amount proposed to be allotted to Kerala for undertaking the above project and whether the State has initiated any steps to implement the same during the coming academic year?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Educational schemes for minorities

1389. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of educational schemes and programmes prepared in furtherance of Fifteen Point Programme for the minorities;
- (b) whether these programmes are now being dumped;
 - (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) if not, the achievements made during the last two years and the current year?

Salary to staffs of Gandhian Institute of Studies, Varanasi

- 1390. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the staff of Gandhian Institute of Studies, Varanasi, has not been paid salary since November-December, 2000;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reasons for which the Gandhian institutions are being singled out for discrimination by Government?

Consultation with religious head for history text books

- 1391. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Ministry of Human Resource Development has taken a decision to ask religious heads to vet the history text books and remove what they term as the objectionable portions; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether the process is on the way?

Uniform education

- †1392. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are considering to abolish the existing dual education system and provide uniform education in the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government are also considering to provide technical and computer science, engineering and medical science education to lower class, middle class and poor children of rural areas, as being provided to urban children and children of rich families; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Computer literacy in Assam

- 1393. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of amount allocated and released for computer literacy in rural and urban areas of Assam during the last three years;
- (b) the reasons for non-utilising the allotted funds by the concerned department in the State; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Yoga Centres in high schools

1394. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

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

(a) whether the scheme to introduce

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Yoga Centres' in high schools and higher secondary schools is in force;

- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that grants are not sanctioned for construction of building, Providing furniture and Library for these Yoga Centres;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that any NGO cannot undertake training Programmes for teachers in Yoga for 3-6-12 months, without the basic infrastructure of building and furniture; and
- (d) whether Government would consider providing building grants and furniture grants to the approved NGO's for the scheme in force?

Teachers selected under NET in Chhattisgarh and MP

- †1395. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of teachers selected under NET and slate Examination Scheme in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, on the instructions of University Grants Commission:
- (b) the number of persons out of them, given appointments;
- (c) the number of posts of Assistant Professors vacant in these two States; and
- (d) the details of steps taken for appointment of selected persons only?

Private tuitions by KV teachers

- †1396. SHRI R.N. ARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that taking of private tuitions by Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers is totally restricted;

- (b) whether Government are aware that teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Nasirabad, have been taking tuitions for the last two years, with the permission of the Principal and the Sangathan/Ministry have received such complaints;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government and the Sangathan have taken any corrective steps on the complaints;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps that Government are contemplating to control this malpractice?

Benefit of education policy for disabled children

- 1397. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the disabled children are being benefited by the National Policy on Education, 1986;
- (b) if so, the number of children benefited thereby, State-wise and yearwise; and
- (c) the total amount spent for this purpose, State-wise?

Enhancement of VVN fee in KVS

- 1398. SHRI ABDUL GAIYUR QURESHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government/ Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have decided/are considering to enhance Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi fee; and
 - (b) if so, the rationale thereof?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Computer centre in KV No. 1, Bhopal

- 1399. SHRI ABDUL GAIYUR QURESHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that KV No.-1, Bhopal, has been provided with a computer centre for training the staff;
- (b) if so, details of its need, programmes, area covered and annual expenditure incurred thereon:
- (c) the details of computers obtained for this centre and those of personnel trained, alongwith the levels of training; and
- (d) the details of coaches imparting this training?

Review of syllabus in Navodaya Vidyalayas

- 1400. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) when the syllabi of Navodaya Vidyalayas was reviewed last;
 - (b) whether it needs a fresh look; and
- (c) who are the members of the syllabi committee?

Permission to BIIM, Delhi for Session of second year

- 1401. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the circumstances under which AICTE permitted to conduct-exam for the second year of BIIM in the Informatics, Defence Colony, Delhi under Utkal University, Bhubaneshwar, without declaration of first year's result; and

(b) the details of action taken by AICTE against Informatics, Defence Colony, Delhi?

Funds for implementing agencies of education

- 1402. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the steps taken for universal elementary education during the last three years, so far;
- (b) whether any new formula is being considered to bring procedural changes, by allowing funds to be sent directly to the implementing agencies;
 - (c) if so, the details therefor; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in next three years?

University Courses on Water Management and Water Harvesting

- 1403. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2806 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th December, 2001 and state:
- (a) what are the Universities selected for introduction of courses on Water Management and Water Harvesting;
- (b) what are the main contents of studies: and
- (c) how many Southern Universities have been selected for introduction of these courses?

Indian Education Fund

- 1404. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to set up an India Education Fund, (Bharat Shiksha Kosh), which would regulate and co-ordinate efforts made by NRIs, to set up technical institutions in the country;
- (b) whether this fund would have a seed money of Rs. One crore and receive contributions from private associations and NRIs:
- (c) whether it would be run by an autonomous body to channelise the money, for improving the technical education in India:
- (d) if so, whether Government have approved this proposal; and
- (e) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken and the fund set up?

DPCs in KVS

- 1405. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has framed any rules/guidelines/norms to regulate holding of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) and clearing the candidates for promotion to different posts;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of procedure adopted for correcting violation thereof?

Bringing down drop-outs

- 1406. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of drop-outs in various elementary educational programmes for the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) whether any innovative efforts have been made by Government in this regard to bring down the drop-outs; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Earthquake devastated educational institutions in Kutch

- 1407. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of educational institutions, including Primary, Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools, Arts, Commerce, Science and Engineering Colleges, ITI's, polytechnics, etc. were destroyed in the devastating earthquake in Kutch district in January last year;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of cases where the repair/reconstruction work has been completed?

UGC norms for promotion of Senior Scale Lecturers

- 1408. MISS. FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the conditions for promotion of Senior Scale Lecturers to Selection Grade/ Reader, as per Carrier Advancement Scheme of UGC;

- (b) whether Government are aware that education Departments of certain States are issuing orders, violating and manipulating the norms of CAS, and minimum five years of service in Senior Scale has been made compulsory in Uttar Pradesh, for promotion to Selection Grade, without considering the years of total service rendered in the lower cadres; and
- (c) if so, whether Government would issue strict instructions to such States not to violate the norms and recommend disciplinary action against officers found guilty?

Harassment of SC students in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Bulandshahar

1409. DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that SC category students are being harassed and discriminated and compelled to leave Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Buklana, District Bulandshahar (UP);
- (b) whether it is a fact that four SC students of 11th class have been compelled to leave the school and few more are on the list:
- (c) whether it is also a fact that FIR has been lodged against the SC and weaker section students with the police, on false and fabricated incidents; and
- (d) whether authorities have received representations from parents of such students; if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

Assessment of NOS

1410. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assessment about the success of National Open School (NOS) has been made recently;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of children who seek admission/passout from NOS?

NGOs spreading literacy

- 1411. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of Non-Governmental Organisations functioning under the Ministry of Human Resource Development and its Departments throughout the country;
- (b) whether any State-wise list of these NGOs has been prepared, so far;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, indicating whether any NGOs are involved in spreading literacy;
- (d) whether any grants in aid have been given to such NGOs; and
- (e) if so, how much and whether accounts are maintained/audited and regularised?

Non-formal Education Centres

- 1412. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Students future bleak in schools that don't exist" appearing in the Hindustan Times of 22nd February, 2002;
- (b) whether the scheme of Non-formal Education Centres (NECs) was scrapped by the Centre two years ago;

- (c) whether about 3000 students of NECs in Bhopal only have not been allowed to appear in examinations this year;
 - (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) what steps are being taken by the Centre to decide the fate of these students;
- (f) what are the comparative figures of students studying in NECs, throughout the country?

National strategy for school going girls

- 1413. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have formulated a national strategy for school going girls of the country, particularly the girls from rural and tribal areas;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) by when Government would start implementing the same?

Mid-day meal scheme in tribal and backward areas

- 1414. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Mid-day meal programme is being implemented in all the primary schools in backward and tribal areas;
- (b) if so, the coverage of the programme in these areas;
- (c) the efforts being made to strengthen this programme in these areas; and
- (d) how far this programme has been successful in improving drop-out rates in these areas?

Central University/IIT in Madhya Pradesh

- †1415. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether any Central University or IIT is functioning in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if not, the reasons for not opening the same in that State, so far;
- (c) the reasons for step-motherly treatment in respect of higher education in SC/ST dominated State of Madhya Pradesh; and
- (d) whether the Ministry is considering to open a Central University and IIT in Madhya Pradesh?

NLM in Rajasthan

- 1416. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of funds allocated, provided and utilized by National Literacy Mission for Rajasthan;
 - (b) the targets fixed for the same; and
- (c) the details of achievements made in the State?

Girl trafficking

- 1417. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news- item 'No Red Lights on this Road to Hell' published in the Hindustan Times dated the 27th January 2002; and
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to stop girl trafficking as well as to rescue estimated two lakh Nepali girls forced into immoral trafficking in India?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Increments to Lecturers with Ph.D.

- 1418. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have allowed benefit of two increments to Lecturers with Ph.D. when they are promoted to Selection Grade as Reader, *vide* para 1 (ii) (c) of letter No. F1-22/97-UI dated the 27th July, 1998;
- (b) whether the above benefit has not been allowed so far to some promotee Readers having Ph.D. in Central Hindi Sansthan, Agra, inspite of Delhi High Court's directions and UGC's clarification in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the justification therefor and by when such Readers would be given benefit of two increments?

Foreign visits by educational/literary/ cultural delegations

†1419.SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of educational, literary and cultural delegations made officials foreign visits from March, 1998 to December, 2001;
- (b) if so, the number of delegations who made foreign visits in connection with separate subjects; and
- (c) when and which countries were visited by the delegations and the number of Government employees and private citizens, who accompanied the delegations?

Deletion of passages from History books

1420. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

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

- (a) whether it is fact that NCERT has recently deleted certain passages from the history text books for schools;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the NCERT chief had publicy stated that from now onwards, the content of history text books would also be determined by the fact as to whether they had religious sensitivities of different communities; and
- (d) the names of experts who have been engaged by the NCERT to conduct this exercise?

Survey of continental shelf

- 1421. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether India would be first Asian country to conduct a survey of its continental shelf;
- (b) if so, whether the project is being funded by the Department of Ocean Development;
- (c) whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research and the National Institute for Geophysical Research, Hyderabad;
- (d) if so, what is the total cost to be involved in this project; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) by when this project is likely to be completed?

Upgradation of Jaiton Gangsar Railway Station

- 1422. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of representations received for upgradation of Jaiton Gangsar Railway Station of Northern Railway;
- (b) since when the matter has been pending with the Railways;
- (c) whether Government propose to upgrade this Railway Station, in view of the historical importance and tourism value of the city; if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether a demand to raise the platform has been pending for the last thirty years; if so, by when it is likely to be raised?

Installation of captive power plants

†1423. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 26, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 2002 and state:

- (a) the expenditure to be incurred on the joint venture power projects of the Ministry of Railways and NTPC;
- (b) the details regarding the approximate annual savings of the Railways by these projects; and
- (c) the cost of the electricity procured by the Railways from NTPC during the last three years, year-wise?

Condition of railway stations in NE Region

- 1424. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of effective measures being taken by Government to improve the condition of railway stations in the North-Eastern Region; and
- (b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized for the same during the last three years, year-wise/station-wise?

Harassment of female train passengers

1425. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Human Rights Commission has issued extensive direction to the Ministry of Railways to ensure protection of female passengers in trains, against sexual harassment;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said directives have been implemented;
- (d) whether the Commission has also asked for a report on the issue from the Railway Board; and
- (e) if so, whether the said report has since been sent to the Commission; if not,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Railway employees' unions

1426. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of employees' unions functioning on Indian Railways, alongwith the names and the status regarding recognition of each of them, as on 31st December, 2001;
- (b) whether Bhartiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh has been recognized by the Indian Railways;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether representation to recognize Bhartiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh has been received by the Indian Railways; and
- (e) if so, when and the decision taken thereon?

Weak rail bridges in Kerala

- 1427. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have conducted a study to ascertain and identify the weak rail bridges in Kerala;
- (b) if so, how many bridges have been identified in the State which require urgent reconstruction;
- (c) whether Government plan to reconstruct the same; if so, by when the reconstruction is likely to be undertaken;
- (d) whether the State Government has requested to extend assistance from the Railway Safety Fund for reconstruction of dilapidated rail bridges; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

Alternate rail connection to Andhra Pradesh

- 1428. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have sought an alternate route, to connect Andhra Pradesh with North India;
- (b) whether the existing route between Delhi and Andhra Pradesh *via* Nagpur involves delays and bad rail track;
- (c) if so, the details of the new route proposed to reduce travel time between Delhi and Andhra Pradesh:
- (d) the proposed cost of such a new route; and
 - (e) what distance it would entail?

Standard gauge in Andhra Pradesh

- 1429. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have cleared a proposal to introduce standard gauge in parts of Andhra Pradesh, instead of broad gauge;
- (b) if so, the extent of length which would be taken up in the current year for conversion to standard gauge;
- (c) whether any routes have been identified in the State;
- (d) if so, the details of such routes and the distance thereof; and
- (e) the possible date of commencing this conversion work?

Free rail travel for farmers

- †1430. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government would provide free to and fro rail travel facility to farmers, on the pattern of Railway and other Central and State Government employees;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government propose to formulate a scheme to provide free rail travel facilities to farmers from one State to others and the metropolitan cities every year, Zone-wise/State-wise?

Purified drinking water at railway stations

- 1431.SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the drinking water kept at railway stations in the country is not purified and is spreading some dangerous diseases; and
- (b) if so, details of action proposed by the Ministry of Railways to ensure provision of purified drinking water at all the railway stations, in future?

Regional balance in rail projects

- 1432. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Ministry of Railways is considering to evolve new formula, striking regional balance and equitable distribution of rail projects, in the coming years:
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reflect the same in the Railway Budget for 2002-2003 and the subsequent Budgets?

Smoking in trains and at railways stations

- 1433. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Railways have decided to ban smoking in trains, stations, railway offices, etc. in pursuance of the order of the Supreme Court; and
 - (b) if so, the details of such ban?

Spot inspection of Railway bookstalls

- 1434. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Ministry of Railways vide para No. 2 part (1) to part-2 (iii) of their letter No. 92/TGIII/464/26/Pt dated 13th September 1994, had directed the Zonal Railways to conduct spot inspections of each bookstall, for assessing the actual sales; and
- (b) if so, the date-wise details of the inspections conducted for the purpose by each Zonal Railway, Division-wise?

Unbundling of Railways

- 1435. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that as per a recent report ASSOCHEM has recommended that there is a need for unbundling the Indian Railways by associating the private sector and retaining the railway transport system;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) whether the Railways need to shake off their traditional system of subsidies by tariff rationalisation and introduction of new equipment and technology; and
- (c) if so, what are Governments views in this regard?

Purchase of Loco simulators

- 1436. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to purchase 13 loco simulators, at a cost of Rs. 100 crores, for providing state-of-the-art training to the loco drivers has been held up in protracted negotiations for over four years, due to complicated procurement procedures, forcing the Railways to purchase obsolete technology and at a cost, much higher than the price prevailing today;
- (b) if so, the details of the original proposal/deal contracted and its present status; and
- (c) the steps taken to procure the latest technology at competitive rates and to simplify the procurement procedures?

Medical facilities at Railway Stations of Rajasthan

- 1437. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have any plan to provide medical facilities at all the major railway stations in Rajasthan; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

Extension of Shatabdi Express upto Gorakhpur

- †1438. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there is any plan to extend the New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi Express upto Gorakhpur Junction;
- (b) if so, by when the same would be implemented; if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reasons for not linking Gorakhpur with Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata by Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains despite this city being the Head Quarters of North Eastern Railway and a major hub of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar?

Uneconomic rail lines in Orissa

- 1439. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 271, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 2002 and state:
- (a) the number of branch lines which are running uneconomically at present and their total length, its percentage in kilometers of the total nation railway network, in; and
- (b) how many of them exist in Orissa and the names thereof?

Chandigarh-Ludhiana and Kalka-Parwanoo rail lines

- 1440. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether commencement of work on broad-gauge rail links between Chandigarh to Ludhiana and Kalka to Parwanoo has been ordered;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof with expenditure made so far on each project, including present position of each;
- (c) whether any target to complete the work on both the projects has been fixed;
- (d) if so, the project-wise details thereof with estimated amount to be spent on each; and
- (e) what would be the advantages to rail passengers, with operation of these rail links?

Cancellation of trains due to fog

- 1441. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of trains cancelled during January and February this year due to fog;
 and
- (b) the action taken by Government to avoid cancellation of trains due to fog?

Electrification and doubling of Shikohabad-Farukhabad rail line

- †1442. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there is any scheme for electrification and doubling of the rail tracks from Shikohabad to Farukhabad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when the same is likely to be implemented; and
 - (c) if not, the justification thereof?

General coaches to AP Express train

- 1443. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
 - (a) whether the Railways propose to

increase the general coaches to Andhra Express and other Andhra Pradesh bound trains; and

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

Rail transportation of WCL in Gujarat

- 1444. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Gujarat Government has requested for transportation of 50,000 Meters of WCL to UKAI TPS;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

Computerised rail reservation at Wankaner

1445. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a demand has been pending with the Ministry of Railways to computerize reservation facility at Wankaner Junction; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

Derailment of Sayajinagari Express

- 1446. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that eleven coaches of Sayajinagari Express from Mumbai to Gandhidham in Kutch went off the rails near Surat on 20th February,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the number of passengers killed and injured in the accident; and
- (c) the amount of compensation paid for each of the killed and injured passengers?

Losses by rail accidents

†1447. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railways suffered huge economic losses due to train accidents during the past few years;
- (b) if so, the details of such losses suffered from 1998-99 to the end of December, 2001;
- (c) whether the money has also been disbursed by the Railways as compensation to victims of such accidents; and
- (d) if so, the amount disbursed during the above period?

Rail freight subsidy on essential commodities

- †1448. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Railways have formulated any scheme to save the Department against the problems of debt and internal tattered situation it is confronted with; if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the freight subsidy being given on essential commodities is going to be reduced greatly by the Department; if so, the reasons therefor?

Purchase of spares from GE by the Railways

- †1449. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have decided to purchase spares for diesel engine from General Electronic (GE), company of USA;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Railways had rejected the material of said company in the past;
- (d) if so, the reasons for purchasing the spares from GE;
- (e) whether Government have recently purchased diesel engines from General Motors, another American Company and that company is transferring the technology also; and
- (f) if so, from which company the diesel engines were purchased in the past and the reasons for not purchasing the spares from the same company?

Nizamabad-Bollaram broad gauge work

- 1450. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the work on Nizamabad-Bollaram broad gauge work on S.C. Railway has been started;
- (b) if not, by when the same would be started; and
 - (c) the estimated cost of the project?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Doubling of Tirupathi-Gudur Railway section

- 1451. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) by when the doubling work on Tirupathi-Gudur railway section would be over:
- (b) whether Tirupathi Chamber of Commerce had submitted a memorandum with regard to rail facilities; and
- (c) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

MoU between railways and NTPC

1452. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of MoU for power purchase signed by the Railways with the NTPC; and
- (b) the proposed revenue saving by the Railways by this MoU?

Decline in number of passenger in Shatabdi Express

- †1453. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a substantial decline in the number of Shatabdi Express passengers;
- (b) if so, whether Government are taking any step to increase their number; and
- (c) the number of passengers who travelled in Shatabdi Express trains during the last year and how much this number is lesser than the passengers who travelled during the preceding two years?

Fatuha-Islampur B.G. Project

- 1454. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Fatuha-Islampur B.G. project was approved by the Railway Board at a cost of Rs. 49.50 crores despite the fact that the project was not recommended by Eastern Railway Administration on the basis of traffic appreciation and rate of return;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the status of this project and how much expenditure has been incurred thereon, till date; and
- (c) by when this project would be completed?

Neglect of Orissa in railway expenditure

- 1455. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the amount of total revenue earned from the South Eastern Railway during 2001-2002;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Orissa is contributing a good amount of revenue to the Railways;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that in comparison to other States, Orissa is neglected by Government as far as Railway expenditure is concerned; and
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

Coal transported by Railways

1456. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a bulk of coal

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

transported by the Railways accounts for a major percentage of total rail traffic in India;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what is the total quantum of coal transported from Orissa by the Railways during the last year;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that increase in railway freight rate is adversely affecting the coal price in competing with imported coal; and
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

Funds to Kerala from Special Railway Safety Fund

1457. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2075, given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th December, 2001 and state:

- (a) whether Kerala Government has asked for allotment of Rs. 500 crores from the Non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Crime against women in running trains

- 1458. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to
- (a) whether it is a fact that NHRC has directed the Railway Board to ensure availability of FIR forms on running trains to prevent crimes against women;
- (b) if so, whether the crime against women in running trains have increased during the last few years;

- (c) whether concrete measures have been taken by the Railways for the safety of women passengers;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether NHRC directives would check crime against women passengers in running trains?

Recruitment of Staff in CSIR

- 1459. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether as per the CSIR Service Rules, 1994 for recruitment of Scientific, Technical and Support Staff, cases of equivalence of qualification for recruitment have to be decided as per the list notified by CSIR;
- (b) whether cases not covered in aforesaid have to be referred to CSIR Headquarters for determination of equivalence; and
- (c) if so, the details of such cases referred for approval and the cases approved *viz*. name of institute and the reasons during the last three years, year-wise, item-wise?

Biotech research in India and China

1460. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in The Hindustan Times dated the 4th February, 2002 captioned, 'China surges ahead of India in biotech race':
- (b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, when both the countries reportedly began research in biotech in agriculture in mid-1980s;

- (c) whether India had genetically modified sixteen agricultural plants, but approved ten for field trials and four for commercialization, whereas the comparable figures for China are 141, 45 and 31, respectively;
- (d) if so, what are the reasons for so much down trend on biotech research in India; and
- (e) what remedial steps are being taken by Government to augment biotech in agriculture, on large-scale?

Identification of seismic zones by Indo-French Task Force

1461. SHRIP.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indo-French task force is likely to identify seismic zones;
- (b) if so, the manner in which this is likely to be different from the currently identified seismic zones; and
- (c) in what manner the new exercise is likely to help our disaster management?

Merger of NISCOM and INSDC

1462. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the report of the CSIR Review Committee, with Abid Hussain as Chairman, recommended to merge National Institute of Science Communication, formerly PID, and the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre, to enable consolidation of information service around a strong National Science Library;
- (b) if so, whether the recommendations have been accepted;

- (c) if so, the details of action taken thereon; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons for the rejection?

Establishment of Institute of Seismology in Gujarat

- 1463. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Gujarat Government to establish an Institute of Seismology Research:
 - (b) if so, the status of the proposal; and
- (c) by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

Technology for use of fly ash

- 1464. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Central Fuel Research Institute has developed know-how for bulk utilisation of Fly Ash for soil amendment, waste land management and reclamation of over-burdened dumps;
- (b) if so, whether the same know-how has been covered under patent;
- (c) whether the said know-how has been implemented in large scale, successfully; and
- (d) if so, how Government are intending to encourage the inventors of the said know-how?

Shifting the headquarters of NMDC

- †1465. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are contemplating to shift the headquarters of

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

National Mineral Development Corporation from Hyderabad to Bastar in Chhatisgarh; and

(b) if so, by when this process is likely to be completed and what are the details in this regard?

Bifurcation of SAIL

1466. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 39, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 2002 and to state the results of the bifurcation of Central Marketing Organisation of SAIL, in terms of monthly market share of SAIL products and the net sale realization, Product-wise?

Ban on steel imports by foreign countries

†1467.SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite being members of World Trade Organisation, many countries have adopted measures to impose ban on steel imports in their respective countries;
- (b) if so, which are those countries and the measures adopted by them to discourage import of steel in their respective countries:
- (c) whether these measures amount to flouting of rules of World Trade Organisation; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Tapping the sports talents

1468. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any schemes to tap the talent of budding sports persons in various disciplines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and their outcome in tapping talents during the last five years; and
- (c) if not, why Government do not start schemes in this regard, to improve our winnability in the international events?

Sponsorship of sports and sports pensons by industrial homes

1469. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose a long term plan for sponsorship of specific sports and Sport Persons, to be given to industrial Houses;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government propose to hand over complete management of certain sports to the Private sector;
 - (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) what has been the response of private sector in developing sports in the country, so far?

Nehru Yuvak Kendras in A.P.

1470. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Nehru Yuvak Kendras

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (NYK) functioning at present in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) what services and facilities are being provided by them to the youth of the State;
- (c) whether Government have reviewed the functioning of these Kendras; and
 - (d) if so, the conclusions thereof?

Employment opportunities under Youth Policy

1471. DR. KARAN SINGH: SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

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

- (a) what steps have been taken by Government, in pursuance of the youth Policy, especially pertaining to the problem of unemployment and generation of employment opportunities, particularly those for self-employment opportunities;
- (b) the targets fixed for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 and the estimated achievement thereof; and
- (c) the Central assistance sought and given for these schemes, during each year?

Assistance to Haryana for National Youth Festival

- 1472. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Central Government have sanctioned Rs. one crore for Haryana Government for holding a National Youth Festival;
- (b) if so, whether such amount was sanctioned for other States also; and
 - (c) the other details in this regard?

Financial assistance for playing areas in Andhra Pradesh

- 1473. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a request has been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government for sanctioning of financial assistance of Rs. 50 crores to build playing areas of International standards, in view of the National Games at Hyderabad in this year;
- (b) if so, when such request was received in the Ministry; and
- (c) the steps taken to release the amount?

New Delhi: The 9th March, 2002

Phalguna 18, 1923 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,

Secretary-General.

324

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	: 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324,
	1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330,
	1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336,
	1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342,
	1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1380,
	1010 1010 1050 1051 1050 1050

Chemicals and Fertilizers : 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353,

1354,

Environment and Forests : 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360,

1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378,

1379,

Food Processing Industries : —

Human Resource Development : 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386,

1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416,

1417, 1418, 1419, 1420,

Ocean Development : 1421,

Railways : 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427,

1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457,

1458,

Science and Technology : 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464,

Steel : 1465, 1466, 1467,

Youth Affairs and Sports : 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473.

324

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