

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the July 15, 2004/Asadha 24, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Communications and Information Technology; External Affairs; Labour and Employment; Non-Resident Indians Affairs; Ocean Development; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Science and Technology; Shipping; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—93

Export of coir products

400. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing demand for natural fibres in global market;

(b) if so, the action taken for increasing the export of coir and coir products; and

(c) the details of the coir and coir products exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned during the last three years, year-wise/State-wise and category-wise?

Conference regarding ARIs and SSIs

†401. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether suggestions have been made to improve the monetary limit along with complete definitions of Rural Industries, Small Industries and Tiny Industries in the Conference of Rural Industries Ministers

and Ministers of States for Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the recommendations made in this Conference;

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the present law to implement these recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps to be taken by Government to implement the recommendations made in the Conference?

Illegal telephone exchanges

402. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of illegal telephone exchanges operating in Delhi and its roundabout;

(b) whether these telephone exchanges provide international telephony by-passing the licensed service providers;

(c) if so, the estimated loss of revenue being suffered by Government per month due to this reason;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the number of such illegal telephone exchanges busted, so far, during the last three years; and

(e) the number of persons running these illegal telephone exchanges, who have been arrested and prosecuted so far?

Communication facilities in rural areas

403. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government's schemes for providing communication facilities in rural areas of the country;

(b) the number of villages in North-Eastern Region where wireless and local loop services have been provided and the number of villages in which the above said facilities have not been provided; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

Modernisation of telegraph services in NER

404. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiative for modernisation of telegraph services in Assam and other NER States;

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

(c) whether any budgetary allocations have been made for this purpose during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Complaints against the functioning of BSNL in NER

405. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by Government against the functioning of BSNL in NER during the last three years; and

(b) the action being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Upgradation of telephone exchanges in Uttaranchal

†406. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the telephone exchanges which are to be upgraded in the State of Uttaranchal during the year 2004-05, district-wise;

(b) the availability of telephones expected in the State by the year 2005; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to bring the availability of telephones in this State upto the National level?

BSNL mobile phone connections in Karnataka

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

(a) the number of BSNL mobile connections that have, so far, been provided in the State of Karnataka;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that a large number of people are waiting for BSNL mobile phone connections in the State;

(c) if so, how many of them are yet to be given this facility;

(d) the reasons for not providing this facility, so far; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to provide more BSNL mobile phone connections in the State?

Software production

†408. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of institutions engaged in software production has been closed during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of units closed during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, year-wise;

(c) the States where these units were located along with the number of units in each State; and

(d) the amount of capital investment made by Government Financial Institutions in these units?

Merger of MTNL and BSNL

409. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how the proposal would benefit the consumers and meet the challenge from private players?

TRAI'S broadband policy proposal

410. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has recommended a broadband policy proposal which would result in a spurt in broadband connections across the country;

(b) if so, whether the authority has finalized the recommendations and submitted to Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether according to this new policy, favours have been shown to the existing connections; and

(e) if so, to what extent, new policy proposal has been accepted and the steps taken to implement it?

Market value of VSNL

†411. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the market value of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited which was sold to private sector along with the selling price thereof;

(b) whether Government have incurred revenue loss in this deal; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Opening of new post offices

412. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for opening of new post offices pending with Government, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have fixed any target to open new post offices in North-Eastern Region during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Broadband and internet growth in the country

413. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has submitted its final recommendations to encourage broadband and internet growth in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that internet and broadband base in the country is languishing at 0.4% and 0.02%; and

(c) if so, what Government are doing or propose to do to increase its base?

Unification of services in telecom sector

414. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of the TRAI's

proposal for full unification of services in telecom sector, the cellular operators have suggested for adoption of a two-tier structure which entails circular-wise licensing and an all India unified telecom license; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Attacks on Indians in Gulf countries

415. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing attacks towards the life and property of Indians working in Gulf and other middle east countries;

(b) if so, the details of such attack during the last three years including loss of property and life, year-wise, country-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether any action has been taken for an early access of the Indian citizens to the Indian Embassies after the mishap;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial compensation, if any, provided to Indians and the reasons for increasing number of such incidents towards Indians?

Indian in Kot Lakhpat Jail

416. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 Indians are languishing in Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore, Pakistan, even after completing their period of imprisonment;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action to bring them back;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this issue has come up before the Secretary-level talks that took place on 27th and 28th June, 2004; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the discussion on this issue?

Construction of buildings in foreign countries

417. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed up contracts for constructing buildings in foreign countries on the plots it had leased more than a decade ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the construction of these buildings is likely to be completed and by when they are likely to be occupied;

(d) whether Government have fixed responsibility for delay in taking decision for construction of buildings and leaving the plots vacant for such a long period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them?

Secretary level talks with Pakistan

418. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary level talks with Pakistan have been held in June this year; and

(b) if so, the proposals and issues discussed therein?

Nepal visit of Foreign Minister

419. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has visited Nepal in June this year;

(b) if so, what bilateral and other issues, including terrorist activities by different militant groups, peace and security in the region were discussed during the visit; and

(c) the details of the agreements or understandings thrashed out as a result thereof?

New Passport Office in Mangalore

420. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any request from the Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry for an independent passport office for Mangalore in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that sixty per cent of passport applications received by Bangalore Passport Office are from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi Districts; and

(c) whether Government would take steps to open a passport office in Mangalore?

Creation of new posts in Ministry

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

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to create new posts such as Foreign Services Inspector, Additional Secretary (International Organisations), Additional Secretary (International Security) in the Ministry of External Affairs;

(b) whether Government are also thinking of creating a new Division for Euro-Asia, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Talk on proliferation between India and US

422. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether next round of talk on proliferation between India and US has started in the month of April, 2004;

(b) whether US Secretary during his visit had invited India to join PSI which has currently 14 members;

(c) whether all the doubts of the Indian side in this regard have been cleared by US; and

(d) if so, to what extent both countries have agreed to have proliferation talk?

Inhuman treatment to Indians in Iraq

423. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many Indians who have been ill-treated and subjected to inhuman treatment in Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up by Government with the US authorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Recognition of new Government in Iraq

424. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Government's opinion any qualitative change has taken place in

Iraq with the assumption of Power by an Iraqi Government; and

(b) whether Government are planning to recognize the new regime in Iraq?

Terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia

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

(a) whether the terrorists belonging to Al-Qaida and other terrorists outfits stormed a hotel in Saudi Arabia in the last week of May and took hostage several people and killed dozens of them with their fire-arms;

(b) the details of terrorist outfit which took responsibility of this attack and the number of persons of Indian origin killed in the attack; and

(c) the initiative being taken by Government to protect the persons of Indian origin working in Gulf countries particularly in Saudi Arabia?

H-1B visa cap imposed by US

426. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of H-1B visa cap imposed by US for IT companies;

(b) whether after the end of the period of H-1B visa, pending applications for Green Card, H-1B visa holder would be allowed to stay in US and work;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of software professional who has entered USA on H-1B visas during the last three years; year-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Talks with Pakistan on massacre in Kashmir

427. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have raised the question of massacre of innocent persons near line of control in Kashmir in recent talks with External Affairs Minister of Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any assurance has been given by External Affairs Minister of Pakistan?

Militants training camps

428. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ULFA and other North Eastern militants training camps uprooted in Bhutan have approached China/Bangladesh for shelter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to dissuade China/Bangladesh for providing shelters to these militant groups; and

(d) China's response in this regard?

Talks on Baghlihar Dam

429. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during Secretary level talks with Pakistan in June, 2004, Government have decided to hold meeting of respective Secretaries of Water Resources Ministries on the contentions Baghlihar Dam on the Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether the number of Secretary level talks on Kashmir peace and security in which this and other issues have been discussed;

(c) the progress made so far;

(d) whether any concrete proposals were made in these meetings; and

(e) the outcome of these talks?

Common N-doctrine between India, China and Pakistan

430. SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have suggested that there should be common N-doctrine between India, China and Pakistan to bring peace and stability in the region and the world;

(b) if so, whether this proposal is aimed on projecting India as a responsible nuclear power, checking arms race in the region and promoting nuclear risk-reduction and addressing the international community's Pakistan inspired concern over Kashmir being a nuclear flashpoint;

(c) if so, whether Pakistan and China have favoured this proposal; and

(d) if so, by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Facilities for confidence building measures

431. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated many facilities for confidence building measures with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the response of Pakistan to these measures?

Illegal migration to foreign countries

432. SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of cases are being reported by various embassies for defrauding people by promising to help them illegally entering the USA, UK, Canada and other countries;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received from various embassies during the last two years;

(c) whether some top musicians/singers/fake sports clubs are involved in this illegal trade; and

(d) if so, the details of cases reported so far and the action taken by Government to prevent such illegal migration to foreign countries?

Inclusion of India in US missile defence programme

433. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed any opinion on the US offer to include India in the missile defence programme;

(b) whether Washington gave a presentation on the issue at a meeting of the Defence policy group that concluded in Shimla on June 4;

(c) whether presentation and briefings on missile defence programme were made

during the three day meeting of the policy group which guides the Indo-US military relations;

(d) if so, the details of final decision arrived at; and

(e) whether Government have accepted plans of US on defence missile?

Undemarcated Indo-Bangla border

434. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that part of the Indo-Bangladesh border remains undemarcated;

(b) if so, whether this is an impediment in the proposed exchange of enclaves between both the countries; and

(c) the efforts being taken in this regard?

Visit of Indian delegation to Pakistan

435. PROF M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian delegation visited Pakistan this year;

(b) if so, what subjects of mutual interest were discussed with them;

(c) the details of agreement reached during the visit and other details in this respect; and

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

Assistance for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

†436. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance being

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

provided to the Government of Uttaranchal for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide subsidy for the same on the lines of "Haj pilgrimage" in order to make this Yatra more comfortable and convenient?

Nuclear Confidence Building Measures between India and Pakistan

†437. SHRIMATISAVITA

SHARDA:

SHRIV. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in continuation of improving Indo-Pak relations, India and Pakistan discussed specific Nuclear Confidence Building measures including upgrading the communication channels towards reducing risks in South Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are specific area of agreement arrived at in the meeting?

Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946

438. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Central Trade Unions had opposed the ratification dated the 10th December, 2003 amending the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946 which *inter-alia* introduces a new classification of "Fixed Term Employment Workmen";

(b) whether some MPs had urged the earlier Government to rescind the notification which by passes the Parliament; and

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw the same, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Number of workers and employees

439. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers and employees in Government and non-Government recognised establishment in the country in the years 2000-01 and 2003-04; and

(b) the number of unemployed youths as per the employment exchange registers in the year 2003-04 in the category of 'undergraduate', 'graduate', 'post-graduate and professional degree holders'?

Labour reforms

440. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to undertake labour reforms in the context of post-reforms scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the precautions proposed to be taken to protect the genuine interests of the working classes so that they do not fall a prey to the programme of market reforms?

Skilled labourers

†441. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have identified the number of those

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

labourers out of the total labour class in the country who could be placed in the category of skilled labourers;

(b) if so, the percentage of skilled labourers assessed in the country at the beginning of the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the likely percentage of skilled labourers by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

ILO report on domestic child labour

442. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has recently released a report on the World wide problem of children working as domestic labour;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to recognize and regulate the domestic workers in the country?

Special Economic Zones

443. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to exempt the Special Economic Zones to be outside the purview of the Employees' Provident Fund Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this decision amounts to infringement of the rights of the workers;

(d) whether Government have evolved any alternative mechanism to ensure the

social security measures for the employees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Employment growth rate

444. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employment growth rate in the organised manufacturing sector in the country showing a negative trend during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details of the employment generation in the organised manufacturing sector for the above said period, year-wise?

Minimum wages for labourers

445. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: SHRIMOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group on Minimum Wages (WGMW) has recommended a minimum wage of Rs. 66/- per day to the labourer;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the WGMW; and

(c) whether Government have prescribed rates from various quarters, and if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure the payment of wages at Government prescribed rates from various quarters; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to ensure the payment of minimum wages of Rs. 66/- per day to the labourers?

Number of unemployed persons

446. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest number of unemployed persons as per the record of enrolment in the employment exchange registers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the categorial status of the unemployed youths on the basis of qualifications, both academic and professional;

(c) the growth of unemployment from the year 2000-01 to the 31st March, 2004; and

(d) the job opportunities Government desire to explore?

Recruitment of ex-service personnel by private security agencies

447. SHRI AMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of ex-servicemen, including retired Defence Officials were recruited by Private Security agencies for deployment in Iraq and a few casualties among them have taken place;

(b) if so, the number of such ex-servicemen sent to Iraq and how many of them were actually killed there; and

(c) Government's reaction in regard thereto?

Recruitment of ex-servicemen for Iraq by private agencies

448. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hundreds of Indian ex-servicemen are being

recruited by private agencies for posting in Iraq;

(b) if so, the number of persons, so far, been sent to Iraq by private agencies;

(c) whether there is ban on sending ex-servicemen for jobs like guarding key installations in Iraq;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor in view of growing danger to foreigners in Iraq; and

(e) the measures taken to ensure that these private agencies stop immediately their activities of sending ex-servicemen to Iraq for jobs?

Educated unemployed youths

†449. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed youths in the country other than educated unemployed youths who have registered themselves with employment exchanges;

(b) the action Government propose to take to provide employment to educated unemployed youths; and

(c) Government's action plan in the matter?

Percentage of domestic working children

450. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of children below the age of 14 working as domestic workers in the country;

(b) the cases of violence, abuse and ill treatment of child labour reported during the last one year; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose to regulate the domestic labour to ensure their humanrights?

Exploitation of labourers

451. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESH-WARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that majority of labourers of exporting units in NOIDA, Okhla, New Delhi are contract workers, deprived of minimum wages, increment, bonus, ESI, PF and other benefits and many of them are forced to sign on two vouchers, one a blank and another showing an amount decided by the contractor; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take against such inhuman exploitation of labourers?

Toilet facilities for women workers at work places

452. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESH-WARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic working conditions of women in the informal sectors where no separate toilets exist for the women workers who have to work for longer hours without proper rest; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are going to take against such barbarity on women workers?

Special Economic Zones to attract foreign investment

453. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of NON-RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to setup Special Economic Zones in all State Capitals to attract foreign investment from NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any such Special Economic Zones in any State Capital already in operation;

(d) what would be the capital outlay on this investment by Government; and

(e) the schedule of taking up this work by Government?

Dual citizenship to NRIs

†454. SHRIMATI KUMKUMRAI: Will the Minister of NON-RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such countries whose Non-Resident Indians have been provided with dual citizenship;

(b) the criteria fixed for providing dual citizenship;

(c) the benefits Non-Resident Indians get from dual citizenship; and

(d) the benefits India get by providing dual citizenship?

Remittance sent by NRIs

455. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of NON-RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of remittances sent by NRIs from different parts of the world, country-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that Indian workers living in West Asia and South East Asia do not have citizenship rights in those countries and they have inevitably to come back;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the project for their rehabilitation in India; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide them special facilities?

Superannuation age

456. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons working in Central Government Offices in the country;

(b) the present age of superannuation of Central Government employees;

(c) when the retirement age of Central Government employees was raised from 58 to 60 years;

(d) whether Government are aware that the enhancement of retirement age has only helped the employees to avail their accumulated leave at credit and not improved the output; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to restore the retirement age of Central Government employees to 58 years?

Right to information Bill

†457. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Right to Information Bill has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament;

(b) if so, when this Bill was passed;

(c) whether it has come into force as a law of the land;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when, the above said law is likely to come into force?

Reduction of retirement age

458. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNIREDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking of reducing the retirement age of the Central Government employees from the present age of 60 years to 58 years;

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

(c) the reasons behind the move to reduce it to 58 years; and

(d) how Government propose to pay the post-retirement benefits to the retired employees in the event of reducing the age from 60 to 58 years?

Cases pending before CAT

†459. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cases are pending before Central Administrative Tribunal for adjudication;

(b) if so, the total number thereof at the end of March, 2004;

(c) the cases out of such pending cases which were registered with the Tribunal more than five years earlier; and

(d) the average annual cases decided by the Tribunal during previous years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Overhaul of recruitment pattern

460. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to thoroughly overhaul the recruitment pattern in the Government service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Kumarakam Package

461. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the media reports regarding LDF to seek loan waiver, railway zone;

(b) if so, action taken or proposed to be taken therein;

(c) whether any step is being taken to implement the former Government's promise to facilitate investment of Rs. 10,000 crores in Kerala and Rs. 2000 crores Kumarakam Package announced by the former Prime Minister;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

Pending schemes of Himachal Pradesh

†462. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes of Himachal Pradesh which are pending for clearance;

(b) since when they are pending and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) by when the decision is likely to be taken on the pending schemes and projects?

Road projects in Bihar

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

(a) whether his Ministry is thinking to review the planning of former Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that State Government of Bihar and land owners in Bihar are not co-operating with the Engineers staff and labour involved in the work of National Highway in Bihar;

(c) whether it is a fact that progress of new works in Bihar is not according to schedule;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Road Authority of India has asked for help; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Separate road maintenance fund

464. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has proposed a separate "Road maintenance fund" through fuel tax and user charges for development of Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) the amount World Bank has invested in India's transport sector during the last three-years, year-wise and

(e) the manner in which the said amount has been utilised and the extent of work done?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Roads in Uttar Pradesh

‡465. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Jaunpur-Azamgarh-Doharighat segment of the road between Allahabad and Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh is badly damaged;

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken for repairing and widening of the said road between Allahabad-Jaunpur-Azamgarh-Doharighat; and

(c) by when Government would complete the repair and widening work of the above said road?

Golden Quadrilateral Project

‡466. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Golden Quadrilateral Scheme was introduced to connect major cities of the country;

(b) the length of roads in kms. proposed to be constructed under this scheme across the country;

(c) the length of roads in kms. constructed in pursuance of the said proposal during the last three-years and by when the rest of the roads would be constructed;

(d) what is the source of mobilising funds for the said roads; and

(e) the funds utilised so far and the additional funds required for the same?

Assistance for improvement of roads in Himachal Pradesh

‡467. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Himachal Pradesh have requested for economic assistance by submitting estimate as per directions of the Ministry for improvement and upgradation of certain important and major roads under Central Road Fund (CRF) during the last two years;

(b) if so, when was the proposal made and the names of such roads; and

(c) the action taken by Government on these proposals of State Government?

Prohibiting tractors on NH-5

468. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHAI has put a ban on use of tractors in some sectors of the NH-5;

(b) if so, the areas where tractors are not allowed;

(c) whether it is a fact that NHAI has directed highway patrols to prohibit such vehicles;

(d) if so, the reasons behind this policy; and

(e) the steps proposed to review and revise this policy?

Underpasses in Andhra Pradesh

469. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of underpasses on National Highway No. 5 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of underpasses under construction on National Highway No. 5;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the criteria to determine the construction;

(d) the average cost of an underpass; and

(e) the pending demands for underpasses on National Highway No.5?

Complaints regarding expenditure on Golden Quadrilateral

†470. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that complaints regarding expenditure at inflated rates on each kilometer of Highways, specially Golden Quadrilateral, have been lodged from time to time;

(b) if so, whether complaints regarding irregularities and Mafia influence in the construction have also been received;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to reevaluate the assessment of the said construction work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Highways in Uttaranchal

†471. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given sanction for construction of some new highways in Uttaranchal in the final phase of financial year 2003-04; and

(b) if so, the names of such highways along with the length of road sanctioned in kilometer?

Safety norms for Sports Utility Vehicles

472. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking of adopting strict safety norms for Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs);

(b) whether Government propose to ban third row of seats which is a problem area;

(c) whether any meeting with the vehicle manufacturers has been convened in this connection;

(d) if so, what are the suggestions made by the vehicle manufacturers; and

(e) what action Government have taken on those suggestions?

Highways in Bihar

†473. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of highways, in kms., to be constructed in Bihar during this financial year;

(b) the number of four-lane highways out of these; and

(c) the amenities to be provided on the highways under construction?

Maintenance of Highways

†474. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maintenance work of Delhi-Jaipur (NH No. 8) and Delhi-

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Agra (NH No.1) is being neglected since last two years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that safety equipment like emergency telephones, CCTV, broad sign boards for the information to the passengers and the equipment for display of weather report were supposed to be installed on both said National Highways which have not yet been installed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Damage of roads by water logging

‡475. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government propose to take to obviate the annual damage caused by water-logging to the highways to be constructed in the flood prone States in the country; and

(b) the details of the technique by which the highways would be constructed in those areas which remain four to five feet submerged in water during floods as the roads constructed with bitumen get damaged very soon due to water-logging?

Deaths due to road accidents

‡476. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people killed in road accidents each year in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the efforts being made by Government to avoid the same; and

(c) the causes for such accidents?

CSIR projects

477. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists of national institutes of CSIR are associated with in-house projects, grant-in-aid projects and consultancy projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amounts accounted under the heads of External Cash Flow and Lab Reserve Fund category-wise, institute-wise for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) if so, the details of Lab Reserve Fund utilised along with the purpose of utilisation category-wise, laboratory-wise and year-wise for the last three years; and

(d) the amount of honorarium received from consultancy projects by the Scientists and staff during the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and institution-wise?

Doubling of cotton crop area

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India doubled its Bt. cotton crop area to around 10,00,000 hectares in 2003;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to the International Services for Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications Study, India has a large potential to increase in acreage of biotech plants; and

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) in what manner Government propose to bring in more and more biotech crop area under cultivation?

Funding of research work

479. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Research and delivery are most important for development of the country in view of the global research competition;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of reasearch works in India are not funded properly by Government; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to give thrust to research and development?

Cargo handled by Visakhapatnam

480. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total tonnage of Cargo handled by Visakhapatnam port in 2003-04;

(b) what is the target set for Visakhapatnam port in 2004-05;

(c) whether it is a fact that turn around time is too much at Visakhapatnam port;

(d) if so, what are the causes of delay in loading and unloading of ships in Visakhapatnam; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of this port?

Implementation of Merchant Marine Act

481. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited any suggestions from the fishing industry on the need to evolve a practical system of implementing the Merchant Marine Act;

(b) if so, what steps would Government initiate to ensure frequent interaction and discussions with diverse fishery association;

(c) whether any interim steps have been taken by Government to assist fishing sector; and

(d) the details of steps proposed to create an excellent atmosphere to modernize the laws and regulations concerning shipping and fishing sector in India?

Sagar Mala Project

†482. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any schemes for construction during 2004-05 under the Sagar Mala Project;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes;

(c) the total amount likely to be spent on implementation of above schemes; and

(d) the details of the schemes related to the expansion of domestic waterways under the above schemes?

Kochi fishing harbour

483. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for the development of Kochi Fishing Harbour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the total amount required for the completion of development work;

(d) whether any fund has been released for the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereon along with the details of the present status of the project?

Kollam-Kollappuram project

484. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Inland Water-way Project "Kollam-Kollappuram" is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with expected cost of the project;

(c) whether funds have been earmarked for the project;

(d) the time by which this project would be operational; and

(e) the details thereof?

Sandheads in Bay of Bengal

485. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Sandheads in the Bay of Bengal have become the Waterloo of many a ship in the Indian waters;

(b) whether it is a fact that Merchant ships continue to sink at regular intervals here;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware of the fact that Sandheads are well within India's maritime limits and these sinking ships are unleashing environmental and pollution hazards affecting marine life and shipping routes; and

(d) the action Government proposes to take in this regard?

Foreign crew on Indian ships

486. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to allow employment of foreign crew on Indian ships; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Inadequacy of Indian fleet

487. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 2003-04, more than half the vessels chartered by his Ministry to carry cargo were of foreign origin indicating the utter inadequacy of the Indian fleet to support the country's trade;

(b) if so, whether this has adversely affected the freight earnings; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to deal with the inadequacy of Indian fleet in country's trade?

Dredging operation at Kolkata Port

488. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target of dredging operation at the Kolkata Port Trust since 1995; and

(b) the achievement thereof?

SSIs in Uttar Pradesh

489. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries

set up in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and till date;

(b) the number out of these that have been declared as sick;

(c) the number of workers that were employed in these units;

(d) the number of workers that have been rendered unemployed due to sickness of these units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Manned mission to Moon

490. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is ready to extend its help to US for a manned mission to Moon;

(b) what are the scientific experiments which are helpful for India;

(c) whether it is a part of the country's mission to Moon-Chandrayan-I by 2007 by using indigenous PSLV; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 9th July, 2004
Asadha 18, 1926 (*Saka*)

Setting up of village Resource Centres

491. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to set up 'Integrated' Village Resource Centres (VRCs) to give relevant information to villages and help through 'Computer and satellite-based connectivity';

(b) if so, the number of Centres proposed to be set up and the States where they are likely to be set up;

(c) in what manner the VRCs would be useful to villagers; and

(d) whether the villagers would be able to use them?

Building of space station in mid air

492. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first manned private space craft is scheduled to rocket from California; and

(b) whether Indian Space Research Organisation is collaborating with any country for building space station in the mid air?

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: 400, 401,
Atomic Energy	: —
Communications and Information Technology	: 402, 403, 404, 405, 406 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414,
External Affairs	: 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437,
Labour and Employment	: 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452,
Non-Resident Indians Affairs	: 453, 454, 455,
Ocean Development	: —
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	: 456, 457, 458, 459, 460,
Planning	: 461, 462,
Road Transport and Highways	: 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476,
Science and Technology	: 477, 478, 479,
Shipping	: 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488,
Small Scale Industries	: 489,
Space	: 490, 491, 492.
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —