

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, the December 15, 2003/Agrahayana 24, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Commerce and Industry; Health and Family Welfare;
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises; Information and
Broadcasting; Law and Justice; Parliamentary Affairs;
Shipping; Social Justice and Empowerment;
Tribal Affairs; Urban Development
and Poverty Alleviation)

Total number of questions—155

New grain export policy

1233. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI EKANATH K.
THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new grain export policy
requires the exporter to buy grains directly
from market;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the
device of transportation and storage of the
grains before export;

(c) whether any studies have been
conducted on the impact of this policy on
the storage and distribution of grains for
domestic purpose and Public Distribution
System;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether detailed studies
would be conducted before implementing
the new grain export policy?

Export and Import

†1234. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export from
the country and import in to the country
have continuously increased during the last
years;

(b) if so, the import and export in terms
of value during the years 2000-01,
2001-02 and 2002-03; and

(c) the value of import and export of
petroleum products during the above period?

Import of life saving medicines

1235. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have struck a

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

deal with WTO allowing India to import life saving medicines to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and other epidemics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the duty structure on these life saving drugs has been decided; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Export growth

1236. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export growth during the first half of the current financial year has not been satisfactory as it came down to 10 per cent from 20 per cent during the same period last year; and

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

Export of tea to Pakistan

1237. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pakistani tea delegation visited India in September, 2003 and had discussions with Government;

(b) whether Government have agreed to consider an incentive linked package for tea exports to Pakistan;

(c) whether all the concessions as recommended by the Pakistan Government have been fully met;

(d) if so, whether India has exported 10 million kg. of tea to Pakistan during the current fiscal year;

(e) if so, the other steps being taken to export more tea to Pakistan; and

(f) to what extent it has been welcomed by the Pakistan Government?

Trade relations with China

1238. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade agreement with China signed during the Prime Minister's visit have improved the trade relations with China;

(b) if so, whether India and China have decided to establish joint study group on economic cooperation;

(c) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has entered into a fresh Memorandum of Understanding with the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce in October, 2003;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry has sought Cabinet approval for offer list forwarded by China and exchange of tariff concessions with that country under Bangkok Agreement; and

(e) if so, to what extent Government have approved and conveyed to Chinese Government?

Export of wheat to Iraq

1239. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
DR. A. R. KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian business delegation that went to Iraq was successful in reviving contracts worth Rs. 300 crores for export of three lakh tonnes of wheat to Iraq under the United Nation's oil-for-food programme;

(b) if so, whether Government in Iraq has approved to revive export of wheat contracts for which agreements were already signed but shipments could not go through due to war;

(c) whether before war, there was an agreement of supplying wheat to Iraq;

(d) if so, the quantity of wheat Iraq has agreed to import from India; and

(e) the arrangements made to supply the same?

Trade between India and UK

1240. SHRI MOOLCHAND

MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade between India and UK, which now stands at around 5 billion pounds, is expected to increase substantially over next few years and the target set by some quarters for 2007 is 10 billion pounds;

(b) if so, whether Indo-British trade volumes have recorded significant growth in recent years and the trend is expected to continue in the days ahead;

(c) whether UK Government has decided to have better trade ties with India;

(d) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) to what extent the trade between the two countries has improved further?

Enforcement of TRIPs

1241. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) which Government organization has

been entrusted the responsibility of enforcement of the TRIPs; and

(b) whether Government have any plans for stricter enforcement of the TRIPs?

International Leather Complex

1242. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of international leather complex in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal received in his Ministry; and

(c) the action his Ministry has contemplated thereon?

Standard tariff for international trade

1243. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(b) whether there is any standard tariff set for international trade for Non-Aligned and other developing countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Dumping by ASEAN countries

1244. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ASEAN countries are dumping their goods in India under the cover of WTO Treaty;

(b) if so, the anti-dumping measures taken by Government to protect the interest of domestic industries;

(c) whether any special steps have been taken by Government to encourage export of goods produced by the Indian industries to the South Asian countries to counter the balance in trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

RBI directives on DEPB

1245. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that DGFT is blatantly ignoring the RBI directives in terms of treating bank guarantees at par with letter of credit for extending benefits under the DEPB in case of certain steel exports;

(b) whether DGFT had sought the opinion of RBI in the matter;

(c) if so, the details of the advice given by RBI; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that RBI advice is honoured by DGFT?

VRS in MMTC and STC

1246. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether STC and MMTC have introduced VRS for their employees and if so, the amount paid, separately;

(b) the formula adopted for making payment and how it contravened the scheme given by the Department of Public Enterprises; and

(c) the reasons for variance and the

excess amount made if the payment had been made on the basis of the scheme given by the Department of Public Enterprises?

Construction of warehouse by STC at Kakinada port

1247. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether STC started construction of a warehouse at Kakinada Port in 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether the warehouse was fully utilised for the purpose for which it was built;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and what was the percentage of utilisation;

(e) whether STC handled any export of wheat and rice from this port in 1998 and if so, the details thereof;

(f) when STC stopped its oil extraction business constituting 20 per cent of the cargo handled and when the office was closed; and

(g) the justification for constructing unviable warehouse and why no responsibility was fixed?

Restriction on outsourcing of call centres and IT services

1248. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue of putting restrictions on outsourcing of call centres and IT services has come up during the meeting between him and the US Trade Representative, Mr. Robert Zoellick recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions took place between the two leaders on these issues;

(c) whether it does not amount contrary to the spirit of market access and cannot it be called technically, as restrictions on the movement of natural persons by USA; and

(d) if so, the reaction of USA in this regard?

Growth Centres in Uttaranchal

1249. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the growth centres selected in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether Government are providing economic assistance for development of these growth centres;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some new growth centres are proposed to be set up in the State; and

(e) if so, the locations thereof and by when these centres would be set up?

SEA region as a giant free trade zone

1250. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Association of South East Asian Nations proposes to transform SEA region into a giant free trade zone by 2020;

(b) if so, the details of the project agreed to at the ASEAN meet at Bali, Indonesia; and

(c) how far this would help to boost the economy?

Export of imported tea

1251. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether is it a fact that the tea imports in 2001-02 have been regarded as cheap and re-exported, which has affected India's quality image and are showing a downward trend;

(b) whether the Tea Board has taken this matter with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade to effect necessary procedural amendments towards incorporating multi-country origin declaration for products going out as blends of Indian and imported tea; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Indian fishery export

1252. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies have been conducted on the impact of new import policy of USA (anti dumping act) on Indian fishery export;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken to project the export sector;

(c) the fishery export during the last three years, State-wise, category-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether any steps would be taken to protect the prawn export industry of Kerala from the adverse impact of the import policy of USA; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Coastal SEZs in Karnataka

1253. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought 'in-principle approval' of the Centre for establishing Coastal Special Economic Zones at Mangalore, Padubidri and Agsur through private sector initiative with the initial support from the State Government; and

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

SEZ in Hassan

1254. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has completed the required formalities on its part in pursuance of the Centre's 'in-principle approval' for establishing a Special Economic Zone in Hassan and has sought formal permission for establishment of the SEZ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the formal permission would be issued?

Tea and coffee Production

1255. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's tea and coffee production have been stagnant for the last one decade or so;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to boost production so as to augment

country's foreign and domestic demand;

(d) whether Government are aware of the pathetic state of affairs of the plantation labour; and

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

Setback to coffee export

1256. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of coffee from the country particularly to the developed countries and also the domestic consumption has suffered a setback in the recent past;

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

(c) whether exports are suffering due to stiff competition from Vietnam; and

(d) if so, what corrective measures Government are taking in this regard?

Export of trade and services to Sri Lanka

1257. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of export of trade and services with Sri Lanka during the last two years;

(b) the percentage of increase India visualises after Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement comes into effect; and

(c) the salient points of 'additional flexibility' envisaged in the recommendations on the Rules of Origin Group co-chaired by the Deputy Governor of RBI?

**Foreign technical collaborations
and franchise pacts**

1258. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases of foreign technical collaborations and franchise pacts as recommended by Project Approval Board (PAB) during the last one year;

(b) the number of Technical Collaboration Agreements (TCA) which were approved during the above period;

(c) whether some trade mark agreements between Indian subsidiaries and foreign companies were also approved for fuel injection systems for petrol engines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Dispute between tea growers and
factories**

1259. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the long standing dispute between the green leaf growers and bought leaf factories of the tea industry has been resolved;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any initiative to thrash out a price sharing formula on the lines of Srilankan industry practices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Import of areca

1260. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of areca imported during 2001, 2002 and 2003 so far and the quantum of areca produced in the country during these years;

(b) whether import of areca has resulted in steep fall in the prices of areca in the country;

(c) whether any support price of areca has been fixed to reduce losses of areca growers of the country; and

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

Engineering exports

1261. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a vast scope to promote engineering exports from the country;

(b) if so, the possibilities explored in this regard during the last three years;

(c) the achievements in this regard; and

(d) the proposals mooted in this regard for the remaining years of the Tenth Plan?

Anti-dumping cases against China

1262. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a bilateral agreement with China for review of anti-dumping policies on annual basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have imposed high number of anti-dumping cases against Chinese products in the past few years; and

(d) if so, to what extent the fresh agreement with China is going to resolve anti-dumping cases between both the countries?

Outbreak of pestilence in Karnataka

1263. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coffee planters are uprooting the coffee bushes in Chikmagalur district of Karnataka due to outbreak of pestilence in the form of white stem borer;

(b) whether Government have any plan to help the coffee growers to improve their coffee production;

(c) the state of affairs of tea, rubber and spices in the country; and

(d) whether there are any contingent plans/projects in place to help tide over the financial crisis faced by these growers?

Exclusive Marketing Rights

1264. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the statistics of the EMR (Exclusive Marketing Rights) granted since 1995;

(b) the state of functioning of the 'mail-box' provisions established in the Indian IPR Bill; and

(c) Government's preparedness on the grant of Product Patenting to be started from 2005?

Failure to check Dengue outbreak

1265. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Dengue cases reported after September, 2003 and whether there were any deaths reported following the outbreak of Dengue;

(b) whether it is Government's failure to undertake a co-ordinated exercise in its preventive measures to curb the spread of Dengue;

(c) the reasons for Government having not launched any exercise to take preventive measures before the outbreak of Dengue; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

Rise in AIDS patients

1266. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent USAID report has stated that quite a large section of the Indian population is infected with HIV + Virus;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures initiated by Government to prevent and contain the spread of AIDS in the country during the last five years; and

(d) the funds allocated by Government and received from the donor agencies and spent on AIDS programmes during the above period, with details of HIV + people in the country, year-wise and State-wise?

Strike by CGHS staff

1267. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS staff in Delhi was on 'pen down' strike on the 20th and 21st November, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of their demands and since when they have been agitating; and

(c) the action taken by Government for redressal of their grievances and at what level?

Awareness for TB control

1268. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four out of every ten Indians are infected by mycobacterium tuberculosis and five to ten per cent of them finally get the disease;

(b) if so, the steps taken to arrest the spread of tuberculosis especially when it is highly infectious and being airborne the bacteria cut across all age groups and socio-economic barriers; and

(c) whether Government propose to launch any special drive with a view to educating masses about the preventive and curative aspects of tuberculosis specially in tribal, adivasi and backward areas like Yavatmal in Maharashtra?

Review of centrally sponsored health schemes

1269. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed implementation of the centrally sponsored schemes for control of major diseases like malaria, TB, leprosy, blindness and AIDS in Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States;

(b) if so, the outcome of the review; State-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard?

Dengue cases in Karnataka

1270. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Dengue fever cases reported from Karnataka from January, 2002 to the end of October, 2003;

(b) whether Government have assisted the State to take up awareness measures in schools in the State;

(c) whether the State Government has requested to provide fogging machines, diagnostic kits and information booklets;

(d) whether these material supports have been provided to the State; and

(e) whether Government would draw up a national plan of action for combating Dengue?

Spurious drugs

1271. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that market in the country is being flooded with spurious medicines and drugs;

(b) if so, the details of the spurious medicine and drug manufacturers identified so far in the country, State-wise;

(c) the details of the action taken so far in punishing and prosecuting such manufacturers, State-wise;

(d) the details of the remedial measures taken so far in preventing the entry of spurious medicines and drugs at distributors and retail medical shops level; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Side effects of drugs

1272. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pharmaceutical companies in the country fail to update doctors on new side effects of widely used drugs by not updating the information on package inserts;

(b) whether it was found that though product inserts serve as a guide to the prescribe and the patient, there is no mention of last update and also no warnings issued by the drug regulators like the USFDA; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to emphasize on updates by pharmaceutical companies to ensure the safety of patients?

Safety standards for packaged food/bottled water

1273. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to ensure that safety standards are met by packaged food/ bottled water industries, in view of frequent revelations by media of safety hazards of the same, as in the case of a prominent chocolate manufacturer;

(b) the norms being followed in the country *vis-a-vis* those followed internationally, and the details thereof; and

(c) the reason for Government feeling shy of punishing the culprits?

Reduction in prices of anti-retrovirus drugs

1274. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised

modalities for price reduction of anti-retrovirus drugs to make HIV/AIDS drugs more affordable to patients in the country;

(b) whether Government have any plans to expand the quantum of supply of drugs;

(c) whether Government have set up any group to finalise the expanded programme as well as the strategy for reducing the prices of drugs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Recognition to medical colleges

1275. DR. KARAN SINGH: SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had in its judgement passed on 23rd September, 2003 directed Government not to meddle with nor by pass the Medical Council of India in the matter of recognition of Medical Colleges or increasing the number of seats in them;

(b) if so, the details of the case, the colleges involved and the circumstances leading to such orders by the apex court; and

(c) whether Government are adopting a transparent and rational policy to accord recognition to the medical colleges?

Task force on health tourism

1276. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any task force for providing a number of incentives to promote India as a major health tourism destination to target patients from Europe and Middle East Countries for

treatment at super-speciality hospitals and Ayurvedic treatment facilities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of medicines in Unani dispensaries

1277. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that purchase of Unani medicines by CGHS Stores has not been done (tender procurement) for the past two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of budget lapsed during last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Unani medicines are not available in CGHS dispensaries; and

(d) if so, the measures taken for providing the medicines in CGHS Unani dispensaries?

Legislation to control population

1278. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce legislation to control the population growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed against those who violate the norms?

TB and AIDS scare

1279. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tuberculosis and AIDS-HIV are serious health problems amongst many Indians; and

(b) if so, the action taken to improve the situation with easy access to the health care services?

Recurrence of TB and Malaria

† 1280. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several diseases like TB and malaria which had been once eliminated are spreading again throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that these diseases have turned into epidemic in some parts of the country;

(c) if so, the details of the people died due to these diseases during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to get rid of these diseases?

Organ Banks

† 1281. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up Human Organ Banks for the purpose of transplantation of human organs;

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

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any provision has been made to provide some concession to the poor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Spurious drugs trade

† 1282. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dependence on drugs is increasing among the people in Delhi due to increasing pollution and adulterated food items;

(b) whether the flourishing business of spurious drugs is gaining momentum due to this;

(c) if so, the details of the stringent action taken by Government against the companies manufacturing such drugs and the number of shopkeepers whose licenses have been cancelled for selling spurious drugs so far; and

(d) the number of people arrested in this regard and the effective measures proposed to be taken against such drug manufacturing companies and the shopkeepers in future so that this flourishing business of spurious drugs is stopped?

Family welfare programme in West Bengal

1283. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to promote family welfare programme in West Bengal;

(b) the budgetary provision made by Government for this programme; and

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

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Duration of MBBS course

1284. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medical Council of India has recommended enhancing the duration of the MBBS course by six months;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that some new components are likely to be introduced in the syllabus;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations and the decisions taken in the matter; and

(d) by when, the recommendations are likely to take effect?

Check on drug abuse

1285. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the reports in media about police action to curb drug abuse;

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

(c) the names of the drugs which are being used commonly by doctors in connivance with druggists and chemists;

(d) the number of persons arrested so far; and

(e) whether any Drug Abuse Management has been formed by Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

Irregularities in Government hospitals

1286. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of irregularities have been reported in various Government hospitals in the matter of purchase of machines and consumables, drugs and other imported equipments causing loss of huge revenue to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the details of the cases reported during the last one year; and

(c) the action Government have taken against the officials involved in the irregularities and the estimated loss suffered by these hospitals as a result thereof?

Use of herbal medicines

† 1287. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a recent report by the World Health Organisation, 80 per cent of the world population depends on herbal medicinal system;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have started a Central Medicinal Plant Development and Agriculture Scheme;

(c) whether a Medicinal Plant Board has been constituted at national level;

(d) if so, the names of the members of this Board; and

(e) by when, it would start functioning?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Cataract control

1288. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cataract Blindness Control Programme was launched to eliminate Cataract cases in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of patients, operated and success ratio during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03, district-wise; and

(c) the period for which the scheme would continue to clear the backlog?

Deaths due to TB

1289. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite all efforts made in pursuance of the National Health Policy, at least one man succumbs every minute due to the ghastly disease, tuberculosis in the country;

(b) if so, the number of TB caused deaths and the number of new TB cases registered during 2001, 2002 and 2003, so far, State-wise; and

(c) the specific steps taken for eradication and control of TB during these years?

Promotion of Ayurvedic knowledge

1290. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new 'golden triangle' strategy in which Ayurvedic knowledge and studies would be revisited, following scientific codes

and using modern techniques to come out with new medicines, drugs and formulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Ayurvedic drugs subjected to such scientific codes, techniques and studies taken over and classified with modern medicines during the last five years; and

(d) the new thrust being given to this drive under the 'golden triangle' strategy?

Action against quacks

1291. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether doctors in Delhi organised a protest march on August, 12 this year to press for action against quacks;

(b) whether similar demands have also been made this year by medicos in other parts of the country; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent quacks practising medicine and promoting magic (Steriod based) drugs?

Admission in medical colleges

1292. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Supreme Court in its recent judgement ordered reservation of 50 per cent seats to the State quota for admission in the Medical Colleges in MBBS course;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court further ordered that the State should be given power in fixing fees, monitoring of admissions, and the connected matters; and

(c) if so, whether Government have implemented the order of the Supreme Court earnestly?

Population control

1293. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that every sixth mother in the country is an adolescent;

(b) whether it is a fact that more growth in population is in the rural areas; and

(c) the steps Government propose to educate people in the rural areas for one child norm to contain population explosion?

Funds for Pulse Polio Programme

1294. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to various States under the Pulse Polio Programme during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of the funds actually utilised by each State;

(c) the details of the achievements made by each State in this regard; and

(d) the States which have achieved 100 per cent Polio free status till now?

Blindness control

1295. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the dubious distinction of having the largest number of blind persons in the world; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to improve serious health problems of people affected by blindness?

Aid given by Gates Foundation

1296. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has increased its aid to combat HIV/AIDS from \$ 100 million to \$ 200 million;

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

(c) whether the aid given for fighting HIV/AIDS has any conditionalities attached to it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for accepting foreign aid with the conditionalities attached to it which may militate against our time-tested policy of pursuing on independent line on all international issues?

Base hospitals in Uttaranchal

1297. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Uttaranchal where base hospitals with advance medical facilities have not been set up so for;

(b) whether Government are providing financial assistance for offering basic medical facilities to the people living in large parts of the State; and

(c) if so, by when the base hospitals would be set up in the said districts?

Blindness among children

† 1298. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Delhi alone eyes of 58 per cent school going children have got damaged;

(b) whether Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard so that the defects in the eyes at childhood could be cured throughout the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have made proper arrangements for diagnosis and treatment of the cause of blindness; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

AIDS control policy

1299. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are adopting a lopsided policy for AIDS control by denying required care to HIV/AIDS infected people, particularly women and children;

(b) the distribution of HIV/AIDS infections State and gender, including children and adolescent population-wise; and

(c) whether Government are paying exorbitant sum to outside Non-Governmental agencies for monitoring and evaluating AIDS control programmes contrary to the requirement of the same to be conducted by the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, which has also its State units, if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Satellite based telemedicine facilities

1300. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the satellite based telemedicine facilities set up in certain interior and remote parts of the country are effectively reaching super speciality health care to the poor and needy people;

(b) whether Government have plans to expand such telemedicine networks in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Super Speciality Centre at AIIMS

1301. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AIIMS proposes to expand its Super Speciality centre to facilitate intake of more patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of AIIMS branches which have been set up or are proposed to be set up in different parts of the country; and

(d) the time-frame within which the branch set up at Bhubaneswar would be completed?

Inhaler for Asthama patients

1302. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asthalin Inhaler is treated to be under the Category of Asthalin reliever;

(b) if so, why Authorised Medical Attendants appointed by Government cannot prescribe it and a general physician of CGHS

can prescribe it; and

(c) the details of any plans to include Asthalin Inhaler in the list of inexpensive drugs as it is life saving and not so expensive?

AIDS vaccine

1303. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is on the verge of coming out with AIDS vaccine;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have fixed any time-frame to market such a vaccine at affordable price?

Report on toxins in food

1304. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report on toxins in food was buried for ten years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Traditional Knowledge Digital Library project

1305. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CD comprising Ayurvedic formulations was released in October, 2003 in project Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), funded by ISM&H, at National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR);

(b) if so, the number of Ayurvedic formulations contained in CD;

(c) whether TKDL project for documenting 35,000 ayurvedic formulations was likely to be completed by December, 2002 and website operational by September, 2002;

(d) if so, the number of ayurvedic formulations completed as on today;

(e) the status of website and the number of ayurvedic formulations available/transcribed in website;

(f) the reasons for delay for implementing TKDL; and

(g) the grant sanctioned and utilized therefor?

Recurrence of SARS

1306. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) Government's reaction on the report of the World Health Organization that there are strong chances of break out of SARS again in the country; and

(b) whether Government have taken any effective measures to prevent the outbreak of SARS again?

Trauma centres along National Highways

1307. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up trauma centres along the National Highways to provide immediate assistance to the accident victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when all the National Highways will be covered?

Grant for ISM&H dispensaries

1308. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dispensaries of the Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy in Karnataka which have been sanctioned Rs. 25,000/- as lumpsum assistance for purchase of essential drugs during 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) whether there is any proposal from Karnataka to sanction the assistance to more number of dispensaries during 2003-04;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would sanction the above assistance to all the dispensaries located in the State to encourage ISM&H?

Deemed University status to medical and health institutes

1309. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the autonomous institutes of health and medical field declared as Deemed Universities;

(b) whether there is any such institute declared as a Deemed University in Karnataka; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a proposal for converting Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology and Kidwai Institute of Oncology as Deemed Universities, is pending with Government?

AIDS control

† 1310. SHRMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka have been more successful in curbing HIV infection in comparison to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have formulated any new scheme to effectively curb the HIV infection; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Emergency wards in hospitals

1311. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken against the doctors and hospital staff refusing admission to people brought in critical condition to the emergency wards of the hospitals; and

(b) whether there is a concrete plan to improve the condition of emergency wards of the hospitals as most of the accident victims are brought in a very critical condition?

Rise in brain fever cases

1312. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of Japanese Encephalitis or brain fever reported in various parts of the country during the current calendar year, State-wise and the number of deaths caused in each State;

(b) whether it is a fact that the cases of brain fever are consistently rising; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take to tackle this horrible disease?

Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute

1313. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute, Delhi, recognized and approved by CGHS for treating beneficiaries without charging them and submitting their medical reimbursement claims to CGHS, has stopped treating the beneficiaries without payment as its claims with CGHS have been pending for months;

(b) if so, the reasons for this delay;

(c) the other approved hospitals in Delhi whose similar claims are also pending, with amount involved in each case; and

(d) the steps proposed to resolve the crisis so that CGHS beneficiaries are not put to further hardship?

Medical claims of non-VIP pensioners

1314. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that clearance of the medical reimbursement cases from non-VIP pensioners is being inordinately delayed by the CGHS (HQ);

(b) whether any time limit has been laid down for clearance of such cases; if so, details thereof;

(c) the number of such cases cleared (i) after three months, (ii) after six months and (iii) after one year, during the last three years; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the steps taken to expedite the clearance of such cases to avoid harassment and inconvenience to the pensioners?

Decentralisation of issuing drug related approvals

1315. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a move to decentralise the issuance of form 10/test licences and other related approvals from the Drug Controller's Office;

(b) if so, the system in place to monitor the process and provide better centralised assistance to the firms; and

(c) whether Government have considered all angles before taking a decision on this decentralisation issue?

AIDS scare in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu

1316. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest report of WHO, four million to five million people are infected with HIV in India and UNAIDS-WHO report speaks of "serious epidemics" underway in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to overcome the crisis?

National Medicinal Plant Board

†1317. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) when the National Medicinal Plant Board was constituted;

(b) the details of its objectives;

(c) the amount allocated to the Board by Government so far;

(d) whether Government have so far reviewed the works done by the Board; if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Board has reported shortage of employees; and

(f) if so, the obstacles in the appointment of employees?

Ambulances in Central Government hospitals

†1318. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ambulances in each Central Government hospital in Delhi and the condition thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these ambulances are not even equipped to provide First Aid;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Raids on fake doctors

1319. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government with the help of police have busted a gang of fake doctors/quacks in Delhi practising as BAMS doctors;

(b) if so, the number of such doctors with their clinics that have been raided during the last one year; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose to bring out a legislation imposing hefty penalty on fake doctors and if not, the reasons therefor?

Recognition for alternative medical therapy

1320. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2785 given in Rajya Sabha on 18th August, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Acupressure, Acupuncture had been recognised as alternative medical therapy by WHO, Europe, China, Japan, UK, USA and Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons and scientific basis under which the Standing Committee of Experts constituted by Government did not recognise Acupressure, Acupuncture as alternative medical therapy, when they had recognised even Yoga and Naturopathy as alternative medical therapy;

(d) whether the practice of Acupressure, Acupuncture in treating patients has been banned in the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons for harassing practitioners of Acupressure and Acupuncture by police in several parts of the country specially in Andhra Pradesh?

Contaminated food items

1321. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the studies conducted by organisations like the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research), ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), and NGOs like the CERC (Consumer

Education Research Centre), the CSE (Centre for Science and Environment) have shown that artificial colours, pesticides and insecticides are increasing in our everyday foods;

(b) whether it is a fact that a recent ICMR report showed that 51 per cent of foods in the country were contaminated with pesticides of which 20 per cent had levels exceeding the Maximum Tolerance Limit (MTL); and

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

Food adulteration

1322. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that despite a series of regulatory rules, adulteration in food has assumed a high degree of sophistication; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to arrest this trend?

Nutritional standards for women

1323. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the World Bank report 60 per cent of women in the country are anaemic;

(b) if so, the measures Government are taking to improve the nutrition standards and well being of women;

(c) the details of various projects in hand for improving nutrition standards and well being of women in the country during the last five years, State-wise; and

(d) the budgetary allotment made for this sector during the above period,

State-wise?

Expansion of facilities at AIIMS

1324. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is expanding its capacity by adding new OPD and a 50 room private ward;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that in spite of expansion and increase in beds, still there would be hardly any possibility of getting admission in AIIMS; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to provide more beds for low and medium level income group patients and if not, the reasons therefor?

Introduction of telemedicine

1325. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a framework has been formulated, for introducing telemedicine, the delivery of healthcare services through the IT infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the facilities required to be created in various States and their respective plans of action drawn up, if any;

(c) the results of any pilot projects already undertaken for providing telemedicine in distant locations; and

(d) the details of similar framework created in some other countries and highlights of their experiences in the field?

Medical bills of pensioners

1326. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND

FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reimbursement of medical bills pertaining to many pensioners sent by North Avenue Dispensary under CGHS have not been made so far;

(b) the number and details of such bills pending and since when;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these bills are pending even after repeated reminders by North Avenue Dispensary;

(d) the reasons for not reimbursing these bills even after such a long period;

(e) by when Government intends to clear these pending bills; and

(f) whether such pendency exist in other dispensaries also; if so, the details thereof?

Checking of pesticide level in soft drinks

1327. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have devised any mechanism to check the pesticide level in Colas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any public health crisis is caused due to endorsement of unhealthy foods and snacks by celebrities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government have taken any action in respect of contaminated Colas which were endorsed by celebrities; if so, the details of the action taken against the companies as well as the celebrities?

Two child norm for contesting panchayat elections

1328. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has upheld a piece of legislation passed by the Haryana Legislative Assembly debarring persons having more than two living children from contesting panchayat elections in the State;

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

(c) whether a similar legislation for the candidates seeking election as MLA/MP is under Government's consideration; and

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

Loss making PSUs in Jharkhand

† 1329. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of public sector undertakings in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of public sector undertakings are situated in Jharkhand and are running in losses for the last several years;

(c) if so, the names of such undertakings which are running in losses for the last two years and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to make such undertakings profitable; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Functioning of BHEL

1330. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the working of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. especially in export front;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BHEL has decided to enter into power distribution in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the BHEL is well equipped to venture in this business; and

(f) if not, the measures to be taken before entering into this field?

HMT, Bangalore

1331. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land in possession of the Hindustan Machine Tools at Bangalore at its township and Jalahalli in the city;

(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that the HMT Management intends to sell 87 acres of land; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Production of diesel engines

1332. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of diesel engine production units in the country;

(b) the number of diesel engines produced in each of these units during the last three years;

(c) the performance of these units in exporting diesel engines during the above period;

(d) whether Government are assisting

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

these units to improve the technology for production of diesel engines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Bharat Wagon and Engineering Co. Limited

1333. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been sent by his Ministry to the Railways to take over Wagon Manufacturing Units of Bharat Wagons and Engineering Limited, a subsidiary of BBUNL;

(b) if so, whether similar proposals for taking over other two wagon making units viz., Burn Standard and Braithwaite of BBUNL, have also been sent; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Chinese film festival

1334. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has invited China to hold a Chinese film festival in the country in 2004; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government of China in this regard?

Publication of daily newspapers

1335. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the dailies published from the capital cities;

(b) the number of circulation of these dailies, newspaper-wise;

(c) whether there is any stipulation that the advertisements published in the newspapers should not exceed a certain portion of the total newspaper space; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Progress report on Centrally-aided schemes

1336. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had sought by November 15, 2003, the detailed progress report in respect of the Centrally-aided schemes in the various States, especially where the assembly polls had been announced;

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

(c) whether the requisite information was received in time and if so, the utilization status of the Central aid?

CAS for customers

†1337. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAS would be beneficial to the customers;

(b) whether CAS would be cheaper than the cable system;

(c) whether viewing of programmes of various channels would not be possible without Set Top Box; and

(d) whether the people who are unable to install Set Top Boxes would be deprived of viewing various channels?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Violation of the guidelines for cricket telecasting

1338. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has threatened to sue the private TV channels for the prolonged use of DD's cricket footage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private TV channels have violated the DD guidelines in telecasting cricket matches held recently; and

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

Employees in Prasar Bharati

1339. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees working in the Prasar Bharati;

(b) out of the above, how many employees are engineers and how many are technical, non-technical and programmers in editorial team; and

(c) the percentage of revenue spent on the staff of Prasar Bharati?

Rural channels

1340. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has decided to launch 1,000 rural channels in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Doordarshan and the All India Radio would cease to get special treatment as far as service tax is concerned;

(c) whether Government have decided that the Doordarshan would launch 24 hour channels;

(d) if so, whether DD has urged Government to provide funds for the purpose and also made a presentation to the Agriculture Ministry and has sent the proposal to Planning Commission; and

(e) if so, by when the DD is likely to launch these channels in rural areas?

Remix of old film songs

† 1341. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the business of remix of old film songs is in full swing these days;

(b) whether it is also a fact that very decency and art of the beautiful and melodious songs are lost in this process; and

(c) if so, whether any legislation would be enacted by Government to check this trend?

International entertainment industry

1342. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the country's share in the international entertainment industry and how much increase has been achieved during the last five years; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) what encouragement and support Government are providing to the Indian entertainment industry to make deep inroads into the international entertainment market keeping in view the large presence of the people of Indian origin in several countries?

Private players in news and current affairs sector

1343. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to allow private players in the news and the current affairs sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether revenue channel would be allowed for development-oriented radio stations proposed earlier for Government/institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Screening of movies without commercial breaks

1344. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the pay channels to screen movies on small screen i.e., TV without any commercial breaks and advertisements; and

(b) if so, response of the pay channels?

Set Top Boxes

1345. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israelis have a completely foolproof system which ensures that the Set Top Boxes could not be hacked; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Shareholding agreement of Star News

1346. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has cleared the new shareholding agreement of the Star News;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

Collaboration in production of serials

†1347. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of the Doordarshan for collaboration in the field of production of serials;

(b) if so, the manner of collaboration alongwith the proportion thereof; and

(c) whether any norms have been set up for the same and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Training by Film Institute of Pune

† 1348. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the fields in which training is being imparted by the Film Institute of Pune;

(b) the number of students who are getting training and the number of staff members in the Institute;

(c) the number of students to whom boarding facility is available in the Institute;

(d) the annual expenditure on this Institute during the last three years; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to restart the 'Training in acting' in the Institute, if so, the details thereof?

Specifications for Set Top Boxes

1349. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Set Top Boxes (STB) provided by the ASC Enterprises Limited to access its Ku Band DTH services is not inter-operable and does not comply with the specifications laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards; and

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

Quality of Akashwani and DD Programmes

† 1350. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any outline to improve the

quality of the Akashwani and Doordarshan Programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Ill effect of day and night telecast of programmes

1351. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the ill effects of the day and night (24 hours) telecast of programmes on the public especially growing children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

High Court bench in Sambalpur

1352. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have a proposal to set up a separate bench of Orissa High court at Sambalpur;

(b) whether the proposal is likely to be implemented during 2003-04;

(c) if not, by when; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

High Court benches at Rajkot and Surat

1353. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

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

(a) the progress made in the matter of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

establishment of High Court benches at Rajkot and Surat in Gujarat;

(b) whether Government are considering to amend section 51 (3) and other relevant provisions of the State Reorganisation Act to pave the way for establishment of benches of High Courts;

(c) if so, by when such amendments would be introduced in Parliament; and

(d) the proposals received for establishment of High Court benches in various States, State-wise?

Law Commission

†1354. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
SHRIMATI KAMLA
MANHAR:

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

(a) the purpose of Constitution of the Law Commission and the qualifications of its present Chairman and the Members;

(b) the number and details of recommendations made by the Commission for improvement in Indian Penal Code;

(c) the action taken thereon, especially the status of the recommendations made with regard to the crimes against women; and

(d) the reasons for delay in implementation of the recommendations made for improvement in Indian Penal Code and the remedial action being taken by Government?

Circuit bench of Kolkata High Court in Jalpaiguri

1355. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of creating a Circuit bench of the Kolkata High Court in Jalpaiguri; and

(b) the tentative time schedule for the actual setting up of the said bench and other details thereof?

Compulsory registration of marriages

1356. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently suggested to enact legislation for compulsory registration of marriages in the country to prevent menace of child marriage; and

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

Photo identity cards

1357. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether photo identity cards have been issued in all the States;

(b) if not, the States where these cards have not been issued, so far; and

(c) by when the cards would be issued to all the citizens in the country?

Modernisation of major ports

1358. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign core vessels prefer to use Colombo, Singapore or Dubai rather than Indian ports in view of clean ports and pollution free waters around the ports; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the measures proposed to develop and modernize the major ports to attract growth in traffic?

Guidelines for ship breaking

1359. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently given a significant ruling on dumping of hazardous wastes and formulation of guidelines for ship breaking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to persuade the ship owners and ship building countries to clean up toxic wastes on board ships before sending them to India?

Ship breaking yard in Gujarat

1360. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rainbow Warrior, the Green peace ship, after travelling world, has come to Alang, the ship breaking yard in Gujarat;

(b) whether it would be ripped apart for steel and would thus contaminate Indian soil, water and air; and

(c) if so, what are the compelling grounds to take such a decision when the accidents and deaths may also occur during this dangerous work?

Revival of CIWTC

1361. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of revival of the

Central Inland Water Transport Corporation including the Rajabagan Dock Yard;

(b) whether implementation of the revival scheme is as per the schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Shifting of NE regional office of NWAI, Guwahati

1362. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any proposal to restructure/shifting of the NE regional office of NWAI at Guwahati;

(b) if so, the details thereof showing present strength (cadre-wise) and reason behind such a move;

(c) the steps taken to strengthen the establishment to effectively manage NW-II including steps toward ensuring dredging of Brahmaputra; and

(d) the target set to place another dredger into operation as assured?

Hostel for blind students

1363. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 30 residents of a blind students hostel of Sewa Kutir in North Delhi, had fallen sick after eating hostel food on November 11, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government have taken against the management of the said hostel?

Reservation for economically backward higher classes

1364. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal for providing reservation to the economically backward higher classes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Quota for economically backward classes

1365. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Constitution is to be amended to provide quota for the economically backward classes;
- (b) if so, the criteria for selection in this regard; and
- (c) by when the matter is likely to be finalized?

Minorities Commissions

1366. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the States which have set up Minorities Commissions;
- (b) the date upto which the reports of the Central Minorities Commission have been received, inspected and accepted by Government; and
- (c) whether the Minorities Commission has made any recommendations on the composition of recruitment of the police

force and, if so, whether these are being implemented in all the States?

Welfare of senior citizens

1367. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the programmes formulated and enforced for promoting welfare of the senior citizens indicating the welfare schemes;
- (b) the problems, as identified by Government and the State Governments being faced by the senior citizens;
- (c) the agencies/organisations connected with the welfare of senior citizens; and
- (d) the concessions and benefits enjoyed by the senior citizens?

Conditions of children homes

1368. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that in the absence of a centralized system among the social welfare departments of the States and the Union Territories to trace families of children residing in children homes in Delhi and other States, these children homes are bursting at seams and also lack basic facilities, thus defeating the very purpose of having congenial atmosphere for development of such unfortunate children; and
- (b) if so, whether Government are thinking of issuing any guidelines to be followed by the States so that overall conditions of children homes could be gradually improved over a period of time?

Rehabilitation of tribals

† 1369. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to frame any policy for rehabilitation of crores of tribals in the country;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether Government are aware that problems like unemployment, starvation and drinking water have acquired an alarming proportion in the tribal areas; and

(d) if so, whether Government would keep in mind mitigation of these problems while formulating a rehabilitating scheme for them?

Grant-in-aid for tribal welfare in Maharashtra

† 1370. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the grant-in-aid allocated for the welfare of tribals in tribal and remote areas of Maharashtra during the last three years, year-wise and area-wise;

(b) the amount utilized so far;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted regarding misuse of funds in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Scheme for STs

† 1371. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes initiated under the Special Component Scheme to improve the living standard of the people of Scheduled Tribes;

(b) the allotment made under these schemes during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government are aware of the progress of these schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Tribal development programmes

1372. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tribal discontentment is the basis for naxal political mobilization;

(b) if so, the welfare steps taken in the tribal pockets to counter the growing naxalism;

(c) the steps taken to ensure health, education and development of tribal people; and

(d) the mechanism available to evaluate the feedback of implementation of the tribal development programmes?

Starvation death in Sonebhadra, UP

1373. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 18 tribal children died recently due to starvation in Sonebhadra District of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the life of the tribal people in the State is in distress; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in collaboration with the State Government to avoid such a tragedy?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pro-poor schemes

1374. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Southern States are more committed in supporting the pro-poor schemes than the other States, particularly the Central Government's key project, the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Linkage from Metro stations

1375. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Metro Rail in Delhi is considered to be the safest and well managed and maintained transportation system;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that linkages from metro stations are not properly available and the private bus operators in Delhi are not plying enough buses there; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to request the Delhi Administration to improve the linkages from metro stations?

Encroachment in Durga Mandir Complex

1376. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to refer reply to Ustarred Question 3628 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th April, 2002 and state:

(a) whether MCD has taken permission to remove the encroachment in the complex

of Durga Mandir at 'F' Block, Raghubir Nagar;

(b) if not, the reason therefor and if so, by when the encroachment would be removed;

(c) whether Government are aware that recently Executive Committee of the said Durga Mandir has started constructions on the encroached land; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated in this regard?

Notification of Rent Control Act, 1995

1377. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the recent Supreme Court order on giving effect to the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1995, Government have taken any decision to notify the date of enforcement of the Act with a view to carrying out mandate of the Parliament;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Uniform pattern of stamp duty

1378. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no uniform pattern regarding the collection of stamp duty in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the stamp duty collected by various States;

(c) whether the Centre has advised the States not to collect the stamp duty more than 5 per cent;

(d) if so, their response thereto; and

(e) the steps being taken to see that the stamp duty does not exceed 5 per cent?

Progress of Barakhamba Road-Dwarka Metro Rail

1379. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress attained so far in construction of line No. 3, Barakhamba Road-Connaught Place-Dwarka sectors of the Delhi Metro Service;

(b) whether the work in this segment is conforming to the targets;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to expedite the construction work;

(d) by when service in this sector is expected to be operational; and

(e) whether the Barakhamba-Dwarka line is being extended by 6.5 kilometre and if so, the details thereof?

Funds for Slums Development in Metro cities

1380. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to the Metropolitan cities for development of slums under the various schemes during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether the metropolitan cities have utilized the amount fully; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by Government for its effective utilization?

Vacant DDA Land

1381. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a lot of land is lying vacant in many new localities that the DDA developed in the recent past which was to be made into some civic amenity including shopping centres, schools, libraries, health centres, etc. but was not constructed by DDA;

(b) the details of the DDA land lying vacant in such localities; and

(c) the amount of loss borne on land/property value, interest and lease value by Government on account of these amenities not being made by the DDA since the last three years till date?

Maintenance of park in Gole Market

†1382. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request in September, 2003 from the Secretary, Model Park Association with regard to Model Park, Sector-4, Gole Market;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government for its maintenance;

(c) whether Government propose to hand over the park to NDMC;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, whether Government propose to expand the park on the lines of Deen Dyal Upadhyaya Park?

Additional room in type II Quarters in Gole Market

† 1383. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission to construct an additional room in the type II quarters in Sector-4, Gole Market;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned and the number of quarters where additional room would be constructed; and

(c) by when Government would start the construction of the additional room and the time limit fixed for the work?

Footpath on roads in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

1384. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that school going children are at great risk due to heavy traffic of water tankers and other vehicles on thoroughfare to J.J. clusters of Kusumpur Pahari near Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Vasant Vihar and absence of footpath on the roads leading to the school; and

(b) if so, what immediate steps/necessary measures Government propose to take to restrict the said road for heavy vehicles and water tankers and also ensure construction of footpaths on all the roads leading to the school?

Foreign contracts by DMRC

1385. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Metro Rail Corporation proposes to undertake jobs abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in manufacturing the metro coaches indigenously?

Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana

1386. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana and the categories of urban poor who are entitled to become beneficiaries of this scheme and the details of the rules and conditions under which the beneficiaries are provided with the constructed houses;

(b) the number of the beneficiaries under VAMBAY as on date, State-wise; and

(c) the amount released so far under this scheme, and the locations for which the funds had been released so far, State-wise?

Construction on DDA plots in Vikas Puri

1387. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of plots sold by DDA through auction in Vikas Puri, New Delhi over twenty years ago have not been constructed/build up till date;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) why the DDA/MCD is not taking appropriate action in the matter; and is allowing such plots to be used as garbage sites creating unhygienic conditions for the residents of the area?
- (c) the reasons for which DDA/MCD

NEW DELHI;
The 9th December , 2003
Agrahayana 18, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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