

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the July 16, 2004/Asadha 25, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution; Environment and Forests;
Food Processing Industries; Health and Family Welfare;
Railways; Steel)

Total number of questions—116

MoU between IGKV and Swiss MNC

493. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Raipur based Indira Gandhi Krishi Viswavidyalaya, having a collection of rice germplasm of 22972 varieties, proposes to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with “Syngenta”, the Swiss multinational corporation, to take over all the paddy varieties in the custody of the universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers and agricultural workers have represented against the MoU and requested to assert their rights over the variety of paddy seeds; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

Reducing the agro-import for prosperity of rural economy

†494. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, addressing a peasants’ rally

in Maharashtra he said that the Central Government would make an effort to reduce agro-import for the prosperity of local rural economy and Government are considering to provide 40 per cent of subsidy for promoting horticulture and extending the repaying period of loan given to the sugarcane growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Legislation on cow slaughter

†495. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 585, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 2003 and state:

(a) by when the Central legislation which is being contemplated to be enacted by Government to ban the cow slaughter, keeping in view the deep respect and feelings of the people of this country towards cow, would be introduced; and

(b) the reason for delay in introducing the same?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Foodgrains production

496. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of growth in the production of foodgrains is progressing continuously during the last three years; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the status of production of foodgrains during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to take in order to give enough remunerative prices for the foodgrains during procurements; and

(d) whether the entry of the foodgrains and other essential commodities into the country from abroad will be controlled to safeguard the interest of the growers?

Production and export of mangoes

†497. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of mangoes in the country during this year, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken/being taken by Government to increase the production of mangoes in the country; and

(c) the State-wise quantity of mangoes exported along with names of the countries to which exported together with the value of mangoes exported and the target laid down for future?

Linking each district with KVKs

†498. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided

recently to link each district of the country with Krishi Vigyan Kendra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of districts particularly of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and North-Eastern Region till date where Krishi Vigyan Kendras are set up and the number of districts not having Krishi Vigyan Kendras; and

(d) by when every district in the country can have a Krishi Vigyan Kendra?

Manufacturing of life-saving drugs

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the pharmaceutical companies are requesting for inclusion of a provision to protect them in the third Patent Amendment Bill so that the companies manufacturing life-saving drugs need not withdraw hundreds of brands amounting to nearly Rs. 4000 crores after the Product Patent Act comes into effect from 2005;

(b) if so, the details of drugs which face threat of withdrawal; and

(c) the measures Government are taking or propose to take to protect the domestic life-saving drug manufacturers?

Availability of milk at affordable price

500. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate milk production along with its growth rate in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the measures taken to increase the production and to achieve the target of milk at affordable price for all the children?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Coherent policy for fisheries sector

501. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite having a 7000 km. coastline for the country, spread across nine coastal States and several lakh fishermen depending on the fisheries sector for their livelihood, there is no coherent policy for the fisheries sector with any one particular agency designated for its implementation; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to formulate the policy?

Setting up of SFAC in Maharashtra

502. SHRI BALAWANT LAL BALAPTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the Central Sector Scheme, namely, the setting up of Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Maharashtra has formed the State level SFAC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Projects under NHB

503. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects sanctioned and financial assistance provided during the years 2000-01 to March, 2004 by Government under National Horticulture Board (NHB) Scheme, State-wise; and

(b) the subsidy provided for Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for construction/expansion/modernisation of cold storages and storage for horticulture produce, State-wise?

Training to farmers for conservation of water

504. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the action taken to provide training to farmers to take up water conserving techniques such as drip irrigation to preserve water being used indiscriminately?

Closing down of Inland Fisheries Research Centre at Alapuzha, Kerala

505. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agriculture Research is associated with the inland fisheries studies of Kerala through the Inland Fisheries Research Centre located at Alapuzha in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of research projects, initiated and ongoing, in the centre for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise;

(c) whether authorities plan to close the office of the centre at Alapuzha;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether steps will be taken to continue the above centre in the context of the fragile eco-system of region?

Extinction of aromatic varieties of paddy

†506. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in absence of Government protection, a number of varieties of traditional Indian aromatic paddy became extinct sharply during the last few decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps Government are taking to save the varieties of aromatic traditional paddy from becoming extinct?

States growing Bt. Cotton

†507. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the approved variety and unapproved variety of Bt. Cotton are being produced in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the names of States where approved variety and unapproved variety of Bt. Cotton are likely to be produced in 2004-05?

Quality and production difference from trial stage

†508. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research work in the field of agriculture made by the research institutions of the country are used by themselves at their own farms;

(b) if so, whether farmers are getting the same quality and production in terms of quantity in their fields which is assessed at the time of trial farming of the same;

(c) if not, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) to what extent the average percentage of production is less?

Encouraging organic manure based farming in States

†509. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken to encourage the organic manure based farming in the States like Uttaranchal which are environmentally sensitive;

(b) whether Government provide assistance to Uttaranchal for the production of grains and vegetables based on organic manure and to set up an export zone to export the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Proposals of Uttaranchal under greenery programme

†510. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received from Uttaranchal Government under the Centrally financed greenery programme;

(b) whether there is any proposal to give assistance to the State under this programme in 2004-05; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Pharma Pricing Policy

511. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pharma Pricing Policy is before the Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, the status and by when Government are likely to announce the new policy?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

New Drug pricing norms

512. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMIREDDY:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS
AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to apply the new drug pricing norms soon;

(b) whether it is a fact that price escalation in the controlled drugs was phenomenal due to loopholes in retail pricing mechanism;

(c) whether any formula is being worked out whereby the weighted average of the sales-tax and octroi would be taken into account for arriving at the final retail price of a medicine;

(d) if so, the details of formula to be reached; and

(e) by when it is likely to be announced?

Centralisation of Durg Control Machinery

513. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to centralise the drugs control machinery in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when norms and practices in this regard be made uniform in all the States?

VSS compensation to HFC and FCI ex-employees

514. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHER-
JEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS
AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the training period followed by regular employment of ex-employees of HFC and FCI separated through VSS after closure of these units has been counted for the purpose of calculation of VSS compensation and statutory gratuity; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Ex-employees of HFC and FCI

515. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHER-
JEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS
AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the closure of HFC and FCI, employees separated through VSS after completion of 30 years of service, have been granted 60 months salary as admissible as per clause 5(ii) of DPE's OM No. 2(32)/97-DPE(WC) dt. 5.5.2000; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Revival of public sector fertilizer units

516. SHRIMATISARLA MAHESH-
WARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS
AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have contemplated to revive the closed public sector fertilizer units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Supply of fertilizers to States

517. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer units in the country;

(b) The number of fertilizer units which have either closed down or have become sick within the period from 1999-2000 to 2003-04;

(c) whether Government are aware that the supply of fertilizers is not made to the State of Tripura in time; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to increase the production of fertilizers and regularise the system of delivery to the States on demand?

Setting up of IFFCO phosphoric plant

†518. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up IFFCO phosphoric plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Subsidy to Fertilizer Sector

†519. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of subsidy being given by Government to the fertilizer sector has continuously increased in the past years;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given to the fertilizer sector in 1998-99

togetherwith the estimated amount of subsidy to be given in 2004-05;

(c) whether Government have investigated into the reasons for continuous increase in the amount of subsidy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Difference between consumer price and production cost of fertilizers

†520. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge gap between the production cost of various chemical fertilizers in the country and their respective consumer prices;

(b) if so, the average production cost of all the chemical fertilizers produced during 2003-2004;

(c) the respective consumer prices of these chemical fertilizers during that period; and

(d) to what extent the gap between both the prices has altered during that last three years?

Pricing of life saving drugs

521. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to revise the prices of life saving drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how this decision is going to help the common people?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Cleaning up of the contamination in and around Union Carbide Factory

522. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States Court held that the Union Carbide Company to clean up the contamination in and around the abandoned factory in Bhopal if the Central Government and Madhya Pradesh Government agree to cooperate;

(b) whether Government seek to intervene in their actions; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking in this regard?

Increase in prices of chemical fertilizers

†523. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been continuous increase in the prices of chemical fertilizers in the country during the last four years;

(b) if so, what were consumer prices of all the chemical fertilizers produced in the country in 1998-99; and

(c) the likely prices of these fertilizers in 2004-2005?

Controlling the prices of drugs

524. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of drugs, which according to the criteria should be under price control, are sky rocketing;

(b) if so, how Beclame Thasone, Tinidazole Vitamin B6, etc. are outside price control;

(c) what are the reasons for the same;

(d) what are the prices fixed by Government and the market prices of Salbutamol formulations and since when this position is continuing;

(e) whether there is any rationale of controlling the prices of Trimethoprim, Tetracycline, Sulpha Methoxazole, etc., when these are out-dated and replaced by other drugs which are outside price control; and

(f) the names of other replaced drugs and the view of his Ministry for controlling the prices?

Setting up of a Power Plant by IFFCO

†525. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fertilizer Company IFFCO propose to set up a Power Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether work will be started in this Financial Year?

Standards for regulating drinks and beverages

526. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a draft notification to revise standards to regulate the presence of metals and pesticides in soft drinks and beverages;

(b) if so, the details of soft drinks, mineral water and beverages included in the proposed draft notification;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) whether Government has invited suggestions from public before it is considered and notified under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act; and
- (d) if so, the complete details thereof?

Procurement of rice and wheat by FCI

527. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the target which were set by the Food Corporation of India for procurement of rice and wheat for 2003, State-wise;
- (b) the total procurement made by FCI in that year, State-wise;
- (c) the target set for procurement of rice and wheat in 2004, State-wise; and
- (d) how it is going to be procured or achieved?

FCI wheat in open market

528. SHRIEKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that over 1,00,000 tonnes of wheat dubbed as 'Cattle Feed' has found its way in the open market from the Food Corporation of India godowns depriving Government of precious revenue of around Rs. 23 crore;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the 1.2 lakh tonnes of wheat with tags as 'Not fit for Human consumption' and 'Cattle feed' was sold in the open market; and
- (c) if so, whether this process was carried out as per normal practice and if not, the reasons therefor?

Market Borrowings by FCI

529. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has set up a steering Committee to go into the aspects of market borrowings for debt serving;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that FCI was allowed to borrow Rs. 5000 crores from the market;
- (c) if so, the details for which it is going to borrow from the market;
- (d) whether FCI is seriously thinking of entering into commercial ventures such as export etc., and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of Consumers' Information Centres

†530. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up or propose to set up Consumers' Information Centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the powers and functions of these Consumers' Information Centres; and
- (d) the amount allocated by Government to set up such centres?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Distribution of BPL ration cards

531. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps will be taken to measure poverty by looking directly at the current data on consumption;

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

(c) whether the below poverty line ration cards were distributed based on the quantities required to give 2400 calories;

(d) if so, the total below poverty line ration cards distributed as on date, State-wise; and

(e) whether steps will be taken to introduce Universal Public Distribution System instead of targeted Public Distribution System?

Increase on prices of essential commodities

532. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increase in the prices of essential commodities in the market as a result of rise in prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to check the rise which has hit the common man hard?

Oilseeds crushing capacity

†533. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that establishment of industrial capacity of oilseed's crushing has increased during the last few years in the country;

(b) if so, the oilseeds crushing capacity established till the end of March, 2004;

(c) whether oilseeds are available for maximum utilization of the crushing capacity; and

(d) if not, the average percentage of production capacity of oilseed crushing industry being used?

Consumer awareness

534. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications filed by the aggrieved public under the Consumer Protection Act together with the number of cases finally disposed of by the Consumer Courts during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the level of consumer awareness among the public?

Reforms in sale management of agricultural products

†535. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great difference between the producer's cost

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and consumer price of the agricultural products in the country due to faulty management of sale of the same;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a gap to the extent of 100 per cent to 500 per cent in producer's cost and consumer price in a number of agricultural products has been found;

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(d) the measures Government are taking to make comprehensive reforms in the sale management of agricultural products?

Foodgrain allocation to States under Antyodaya Anna Yojna

†536. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allocated foodgrains to various States under 'Antyodaya Anna Yojna';

(b) if so, the quantity of foodgrains allocated to each State under the said scheme during the last three years;

(c) whether States have made proper utilization of foodgrains allocated by the Central Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

Ban on white asbestos

537. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many organisations have demanded ban on white asbestos in the country causing lung cancer; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to ban use of white asbestos to make the environment free from pollution?

Policy for bamboo-dependent people

538. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representations have been received to evolve a policy for bamboo-dependent people;

(b) if so, the details of this demand;

(c) the steps Government have taken to study and assess the need of some communities dependent on bamboo for their livelihood;

(d) whether any teams have visited such communities during the last year; and

(e) the steps proposed to interact with NGOs to further such plans for the bamboo-dependent people?

Erosion of river banks

539. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the River Conservation Directorate made any study on the damage to the rivers by rapid erosion of their river banks in some States;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been rapid erosion of river banks of the River Godavari in some areas;

(c) whether any aerial survey has been done by Government to establish the extent of such damage;

(d) whether other systems of survey has been used by the River Conservation Directorate to study this phenomena recently; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Report on climate change

540. SHRIEKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's initial report to the
UN on climate change has been made public;
and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Shrinking of Dal lake

541. SHRIEKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that
the world famous Dal lake, one of the
World's largest natural water bodies, is
dying;

(b) whether it is a fact that the lake is
abused by 100 hamlets, many floating
gardens and several hotels and lodges and
therefore, it takes in all the city's sewage;

(c) whether Government are aware that
the quality of water in the lake has
deteriorated and the lake's vast reserves
of aquatic life are rapidly shrinking; and

(d) if so, the action Government
propose to take to save the beautiful lake?

Simplification of procedure for granting environment clearance

542. SHRIEKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
have simplified the procedure for granting
environmental clearance by adopting 'good
practices' in regulatory procedures such

as environmental clearance, forestry
clearance, coastal zone regulation, Genetic
Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC)
and animal experimentation; and

(b) if so, the details of the new
procedure?

Population of Gir lions

543. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for depleting population
of Gir lions; and

(b) the remedial measures proposed
to check it and ensure more breeding of
lions?

Kastoori deer in Uttaranchal

†544. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the
Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated number of rare
Kastoori deer found in the border districts
of Uttaranchal State;

(b) what specific steps are being taken
to protect and increase the number of
such deers;

(c) whether it is a fact that number
of Kastoori deers are constantly decreasing
on account of the smuggling and
disease in these areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Protection to Marine Environment

545. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will
the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United
Nations chose the World Environment Day,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

2004 to focus attention on Marine Environment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India's Marine Environment has become vulnerable; and

(c) if so, what measures Government have taken or envisages to take to protect Marine Environment?

Ban on polythene

†546. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several voluntary organisations in various States particularly in Madhya Pradesh have decided to undertake mass movement to make people aware about the ill effects of the use of polythene on the environment and to ban it by the Central and State Governments;

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

(c) the action being taken by the Centre with co-operation of States to maintain the environment?

Pollution causing industries

†547. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the pollution causing industries in various States of the country including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) the details of the action taken against such industries during the last five years upto 30th June, 2004;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government against pollution causing industries in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Close circuit cameras in Delhi Zoo

548. SHRIDATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some close circuit cameras (CC cameras) were installed in the Delhi Zoo;

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

(c) whether these CC cameras have stopped functioning and have become show pieces;

(d) if so, the reasons for which they became non-functional in such a short period;

(e) the purpose for which these CC cameras were installed in Delhi Zoo and the extent to which the said purpose has been achieved; and

(f) the action, if any, taken by Government against the officials responsible for their lapse?

Guidelines to check on pollution from vehicles

†549. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had issued guidelines to the States to keep a check on the vehicles, emitting pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have implemented these guidelines and the names of cities found under effect of pollution and the details of action taken so far/proposed to be taken?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Export of illicitly felled sandalwood

550. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are allowing the export of illicitly felled sandalwood from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and other States;

(b) if not, whether Government will assess the impact of this policy of allowing sandalwood to be exported;

(c) whether there was a ban on export of sandalwood earlier; and

(d) if not, what steps will be taken to re-impose the ban on export of sandalwood?

FPIs in Nagaland

551. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Food Processing Industries functioning at present in Nagaland;

(b) the number of employees working in these industries; and

(c) the details of food processing industries proposed to be set up by Government in the State during the current year?

Export of food products

552. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking to capture US dollar 15 billion worth of legitimate share of Indian diasporic population in various countries of the world;

(b) the total amount worth of food products exported to other countries during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the target set for exporting food products in 2004?

FPI proposal of Maharashtra

553. SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals for food processing projects from Maharashtra during the last three years;

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

(c) the financial assistance released for these projects to the State under Governments plan schemes; and

(d) the present status of these projects?

Health problems due to use of Endosulfan in Kerala

554. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of villagers are suffering from serious health problems due to the use of Endosulfan in the plantation areas of Kasargod district in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details along with the nature of diseases and the number of people affected so far;

(c) whether any compensation has been provided to the victims, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to protect the people in this area?

**Difficulties faced by CGHS
beneficiaries**

555. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the C.G.H.S. beneficiaries especially the senior citizens face acute difficulties in the matter of issue of medicines, and getting direct appointment with specialists even when they are eligible for this under the rules; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in order to mitigate their difficulties and sufferings?

**Supply of quality medicines in CGHS
dispensaries**

556. SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the medicines supplied in the CGHS dispensaries are of poor quality;

(b) whether it is also a fact that procedures for medicines to be indented in the CGHS dispensaries is time taking; and

(c) if so, the action proposed by Government to make the medicines available immediately?

**Amendment in Drugs and Cosmetics
Act**

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

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

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act on the

basis of recommendations made by Mashelkar Committee;

(b) if so, the amendments proposed to be brought before Parliament by Government;

(c) in what manner Government propose to control the spurious drugs in the country through the proposed amendment; and

(d) how Government would ensure, good clinical, laboratory and manufacturing practices in the country through the proposed amendment?

**Non-indenting of medicines by CGHS
dispensaries**

558. SHRIMANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medicines prescribed by the specialists are now-a-days not indented by the C.G.H.S. dispensaries but are required to be purchased by the beneficiaries themselves and then claims for reimbursement preferred by them;

(b) if so, the reasons for the change;

(c) whether Government are aware that the new procedure takes several months for the beneficiaries to recoup the money and causes them great inconvenience especially to senior citizens; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to mitigate the hardships resulting out of the new procedure?

**Selection of private hospitals under
CGHS**

559. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

amend the rules for selection of private hospitals under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) after allegations of corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure that hospitals selected are scattered in different areas to help senior citizens who can hardly move and go to nearby hospitals only?

Legislation on HIV/AIDS

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the draft on the country's first comprehensive legislation on HIV/AIDS is ready;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce it in the current session of Parliament; and

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

Death and disability due to cardio-vascular diseases

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

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

(a) whether a recent study by the Earth Institute of Columbia University conducted with international collaboration in India, South Africa, Brazil and Russia warns of rising rates of death and disability due to cardio-vascular diseases which may

seriously affect productivity and impose economic burdens on these countries;

(b) whether according to the study India will be the worst hit due to early deaths and disability with productive life year loss due to deaths in 35 to 64 years; and

(c) if so, whether Government have studied this report and the steps being considered in this regard?

Report of JPC on pesticides in soft drinks

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

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

(a) whether the Joint Parliamentary Committee confirmed pesticides in soft drinks—Coca Cola;

(b) if so, whether the report confirms the findings of the Centre for Science and Environment, a Delhi based Non-Governmental Organization which had proved about the presence of pesticides residues in soft drinks samples and called for setting stringent quality standards for soft drinks;

(c) if so, whether Government have implemented the suggestions made by the JPC; and

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

Surprise inspection in hospitals

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

(a) whether he has made surprise inspections of the hospitals situated in Delhi recently;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to make the OPD service better and to provide quick and better services to the patients and better sanitation facilities in the various Central hospitals in the capital?

Non-functional of costly machines in Government hospitals

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of machines such as Audiometry machine, CT-scan, ECG machine, MRI machine, ventilators etc. in Government hospitals in the Capital are lying either non-functional or are not being used at all;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for which such important and costly machines remain non-functional for a long period;

(d) whether Government have made an independent enquiry in this regard with a view to fix responsibility;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Waiting for medical tests in AIIMS and other hospitals

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

(a) whether Government are aware that patients have to wait for long for various medical tests in AIIMS and other important hospitals in the country, particularly in the capital;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any effective steps to ensure medical check-ups/tests in short time; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Report on use of off-label drugs

566. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up an Expert Group comprising doctors and pharmacologists in connection with the use of off-label drugs;

(b) if so, whether the Group has submitted its Report;

(c) what are the recommendations made by the Group;

(d) whether the Group has identified any drugs which are off-label to be used by doctors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Health schemes and programmes in Himachal Pradesh

†567. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored health schemes and programmes in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds sanctioned for these schemes and the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether any assessment has been made about the success of these schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Targets achieving by States
under population control
programme**

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

(a) the names of those States which are achieving the targets of the population control programme sponsored by the Central Government;

(b) whether any aid or incentive is given to these States for achieving the targets set for population control;

(c) if so, the assistance provided to such States during the last three years; and

(d) the names of States which are not achieving the target and the details of action taken against them?

**Cases of mouth cancer by tobacco and
gutkha**

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing number of cases of mouth cancer and the use of tobacco and gutkha in particular which is one of the main reasons therefor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to put a ban on the increasing use of tobacco-made gutkha, to restrict its sale or to stop its production; and

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

**Spurious drugs in CGHS
dispensaries**

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the cases of supply of spurious drugs in CGHS run dispensaries have come to light;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for prevention thereof;

(c) whether Government have made a thorough enquiry into these complaints;

(d) if so, the number of such cases which have come to light; and

(e) whether any action has been taken against certain firms or persons in the spurious drugs supply case?

**Strike by CGHS authorised Medical
Stores**

571. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical stores authorised to supply medicines (both indented and other medicine) to C.G.H.S. dispensaries were on strike recently;

(b) if so, the reasons for their strike and whether the normal supply of CGHS medicines has been restored;

(c) whether it is also a fact that supply of medicine by these stores to certain area in North-West Delhi, particularly, Rohini, Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, etc., has not been restored so far; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

AIDS awareness

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

(a) whether it is a fact that despite sufficient inflow of funds and publicity, AIDS incidents in the country are on the increase;

(b) if so, the details with regard to the funds received from various sources for AIDS control in the country, the Information Education Communication undertaken for creating awareness among the public, during the last three years; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check the spread of the disease?

Increase in AIDS patients

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of AIDS patients are tremendously increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith district-wise details of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(c) is there any need to set-up special AIDS cell in hospitals to provide necessary health facilities to the AIDS patients; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in this direction?

Delivery deaths

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

(a) the number of deaths of women

during delivery in the rural areas during last year, State-wise along with district-wise details of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) whether Government would increase the number of obstetricians in the rural areas to reduce the number of delivery deaths in these areas?

National Polio Eradication Programme

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

(a) whether the National Polio Eradication Programme being run in the country on a large scale has not achieved desired success; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Polio cases

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

(a) the number of polio cases which have come to light during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any need to make amendments in the implementation of the existing Polio Eradication Programme; and

(c) the time-limit to make the country completely polio-free?

Legislation on various health sciences

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

(a) whether Government have received a request from the Government of Maharashtra for enacting a Central

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

legislation on the issues of various health science courses as this field is not covered by any legislation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Health problems in Kerala

578. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that serious health problems including deformity of children were reported from Padre village of Kasaragod district of Kerala;

(b) whether National Institute of Occupational Health Study found pesticide (Endosulfan) residues in human blood in this area as the reason for causing health problems to the people;

(c) whether in the study it was revealed that residues of Alpha and Beta endosulfan are found in the environment too; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken to stop the use of this hazardous pesticides in this area?

JPC recommendations on soft drinks

†579. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Joint Parliamentary Committee had last year examined some soft drinks being sold in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Committee has not recommended these soft drinks as pure;

(c) if so, the names of such soft drinks;

(d) whether it is a fact that these soft drinks are now being examined by other organizations also;

(e) if so, by when the report is likely to be received; and

(f) whether Government have taken a decision to ban the sale of these soft drinks; if not, the reasons therefor?

Incomplete projects of AIIMS

580. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many incomplete projects of AIIMS are preventing the country's premier Medical institution from functioning as top-of-the-line brand hospital;

(b) if so, the details of those projects;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to make a long standing achievement by making those projects complete; and

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

Female Foeticide Act

†581. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision in the Female Foeticide Act passed by Government that the supervisory board set up by Centre have instructions to review this Act regularly in case of its non-implementation in each State and submit its report to the Centre in scheduled time;

(b) if so, whether the instructions are being followed;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that in several States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh this law has not been implemented so far, and the board has not submitted its report in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken/ proposed to be taken?

Expenditure on health services

†582. SHRIMATIMAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meager percentage of National income is being spent on health services;

(b) if so, the percentage of amount spent by the Centre and State Governments during the last three years; and

(c) the details of steps under consideration to increase the percentage of expenditure in consultation with State Governments in the next three years?

Infant mortality rate

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

(a) the infant mortality rate in the country for the last five years, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to decrease infant mortality;

(c) whether there is a programme to provide nutritious food to pregnant women coming from poorer sections of the society; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of CGHS scheme

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

(a) the number of cities in the country where CGHS scheme is being implemented and the number of citizens benefited from this scheme;

(b) the details of other cities where this scheme is proposed to be implemented and the number of fresh people to be included in this;

(c) whether Government are aware of the possibilities of reviewing the parameters on which the metropolitan cities are included in this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details of the new parameters?

Quality health treatment

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

(a) the details of patients who came to India for treatment during the last four years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that India is offering quality health treatment at a very less/cheap rate as compared to other countries of the world;

(c) if so, the Plans Government have to capitalise on this in attracting more and more patients from other countries;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Middle-East is showing very keen interest to collaborate with Indian Companies and with others who are in the health care delivery system in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Miserable condition of patients in AIIMS

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of the patients in new emergency ward of AIIMS is miserable and there is only one X-Ray machine which remains available for one or two days only;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is shortage of blankets and bed sheets and the condition of stretchers is very bad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to solve these problems so that better services could be provided to the patients?

Convention on tobacco control

587. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adopted a framework convention on tobacco control of the World Health Assembly and that ratified by India;

(b) how adoption of this resolution helps Government to regulate advertisements from foreign tobacco firms; and

(c) the total number of countries which have ratified this resolution; so far?

Contracts for plastic glasses

†588. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to serve drinking items like tea and coffee, etc. to train passengers in

“Kulhars” instead of plastic cups being used till now;

(b) whether it is also a fact that contracts had been given for plastic glasses etc.; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the said contracts will be carried out for the stipulated period?

Rail accidents

589. SHRIMANJOJ BHATTACHARYA: SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of rail accidents/derailments, dacoity and loot of passengers in running trains occurred during the last six months in various parts of the country;

(b) the details of each such incident and the reasons for such high incidence of railway accidents and crime and the steps taken to address these problems;

(c) the loss of life and property as a result thereof;

(d) whether an enquiry has been ordered into each of these incidents; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the outcome thereof and the steps proposed to be taken as long term measures to ensure safety and security of the passengers on the Indian Railways?

Measures for railway safety

590. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken strong measures for railway safety;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what are the main safety measures recently announced;

(c) whether even after announcing safety measures the number of rail accidents have increased;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for these accidents and the total number of accidents after announcing the safety measures; and

(e) to what extent measures have helped in improving railway safety in the country?

Konkan rail accident

591. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRIJANARDHANA
POOJARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the June 16 accident this year on the Konkan Railway, was a replay of the last year's June accident, except that the casualties this year were less in numbers;

(b) if so, how far the safety precautions proposed after the last year's accident were found wanting; and

(c) what measures are proposed to prevent recurrence of such accidents in the Konkan Railway line?

Provision of bogies for the Telengana Express

592. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that separate bogies and compartments have not been made available for the Telengana Express in South Central Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that bogies

from other trains are taken for this new train;

(c) whether this bogie-sharing arrangement is leading to delays in the arrival and departure of a number of other express trains in the State; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to immediately obtain adequate number of bogies for the South Central Railways?

Proposal to run a bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad

593. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to run a bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the results of the preliminary feasibility studies carried out, if any, and the present status of the project;

(c) whether any foreign agencies are being associated with the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of overbridge near Devaria Sadar Station

†594. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had sanctioned a project for making an overbridge on Kasya Road Level crossing near Devaria Sadar Station in North-East Railway;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government so far, towards the construction of the said bridge; and

(c) by when the construction of said bridge would be completed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Linking Kandla and Mundra ports by rail

595. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have plan to link Kandla and Mundra ports by rail;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the commodities proposed to be handled by rail; and

(d) the foreign exchange savings likely to be achieved by rail links?

Bio-diesel fuel

596. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a detailed plan has been formulated to run locomotives on bio-diesel derived from certain plants like "jatropa and karanj" which can be grown even on wastelands along the railway tracks;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including arrangements made, if any, to ensure steady supply of viable quantities and large scale production of bio-diesel at affordable prices, as compared to the fossil fuel currently used by the Indian Railways; and

(c) what are the advantages of using the bio-diesel fuel for the railways?

On going railway projects in Maharashtra

597. SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS BALAPTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the on going railway projects and surveys in Maharashtra;

(b) the reasons for their slow progress and the expenditure incurred thereon, so far, along with the estimated cost thereof, project-wise;

(c) by when, these projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the funds allocated to each project during the last three years?

Accidents on North Frontier Railway

598. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of Railway accidents, including level crossing accidents, on North Frontier (NF) Railway during 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and April 2004 onwards;

(b) the number of persons killed in such accidents;

(c) the specific steps taken to avoid such accidents during the period; and

(d) the details of compensation paid and yet to be paid in connection therewith?

Abolition of reservation in trains

599. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to do away with the reservation in the trains during day time in order to provide more general compartments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a lot of resentment among the public on this proposal; and

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

Prakash Narain Committee Report on railway accidents

600. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prakash Narain Committee Report on accidents has been gathering dust with little implementation;

(b) if so, what were the main recommendations of the Prakash Narain Committee; and

(c) what action has, so far, been taken thereon, what remains to be implemented and what further action is proposed to be taken in the light thereof?

Trains linking Delhi and Mangalore

601. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the heavy traffic and demand from the public, the number of trains linking Delhi and Mangalore are few;

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

(c) whether Government propose to introduce a few more super fast trains on this section; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Use of plastic tumbler, cups and carry bags

†602. SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of plastic tumbler, cups and carry bags used by vendors has been banned in the trains;

(b) if so, whether despite this they are being used at every railway station and pantry-car openly;

(c) whether any provision exists to take action against such vendors; and

(d) if so, the number of vendors against whom action has been taken?

Gauge conversion and railway station upgradation in Assam

603. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the upto date progress of the gauge conversion of Fakiragram to Dhubri rail line under the NJP-Alipurduar-New Bongaigaon sector; and

(b) the progress of upgradation of Kokrajhar railway station into Model Station in Assam?

Import of coaches

†604. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coaches/ bogies are imported to meet the domestic demands in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of coaches manufactured in the country and imported from foreign countries during the last three years alongwith the details of foreign exchange spent on such imports; and

(d) the details of effective steps being taken by Government to manufacture coaches in the country itself in view of domestic demands of the same?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Mysterious fires in bogies

605. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many bogies of the Railways catch fire mysteriously;
- (b) if so, the names of the places where these incidents took place and on which date;
- (c) whether the Railways have made detailed enquiries about the causes of burning of these bogies; and
- (d) whether Godhra fire is in some way related to these mysterious fires in bogies?

ASSOCHAM's suggestions for a steel policy

606. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested to the Government to forge a steel policy which balances the need for making available adequate amounts of the steel as it is a basic raw-material for infrastructure development;
- (b) whether, in a note the Chamber has suggested that the policy direction on steel should be taken in a manner that would be compatible with the World Trade Organisation and other plurilateral policies;
- (c) if so, whether Government have considered its views; and
- (d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

NEW DELHI;
The 10th July, 10, 2004
Asadha 19, 1926 (Saka)

Acquiring coke mines abroad

607. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Steel industry is facing a serious problem due to steep hike in coke prices and non-availability of the raw materials;
- (b) if so, whether Government plan to acquire coke mines abroad to overcome the short supply of raw materials;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether discussions have been held with the Ministry of Coal in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the outcome of the discussions?

Supply of raw materials to VSP

608. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Visakhapatnam Steel Plant of RINL is going to hit massively on profitability due to rise in input costs and non-availability of raw materials;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the plant has been forced to tie-up for supply of coal and coke at triple the rates at which it was getting it earlier;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action being taken or proposed to be taken to supply the necessary raw materials to VSP?

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	: 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 499, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536,
Environment and Forests	: 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550,
Food Processing Industries	: 551, 552, 553,
Health and Family Welfare	: 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587,
Railways	: 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605,
Steel	: 606, 607, 608.