

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Monday, the August 16, 2004/Sravana 25, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Commerce and Industry; Culture; Development of North-Eastern Region; Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises; Human Resource Development; Information and Broadcasting; Law and Justice; Parliamentary Affairs; Social Justice and Empowerment; Tribal Affairs; Urban Development; Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation)

Total number of questions—155

Agri-Export Zone at Vijayawada

1159. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agri Export Zone at Vijayawada had been approved by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when Exports would commence from Vijayawada Agri Export Zone;

(c) if the answer to part (a) is negative, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Memorandum of Understanding between Union Government and Government of Andhra Pradesh had been signed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Change in external trade policy

1160. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a significant change in the country's external trade policy;

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

(c) the measures proposed to protect interests of the domestic industries and agricultural services against the American policy of unrestricted support to the domestic sector which is virtually eliminating competition from the third world countries?

Rise in gold imports

1161. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a spurt in gold imports in view of relaxation of import norms;

(b) if so, the approximate quantity of gold imports in first quarter of 2004-05; and

(c) the countries wherefrom gold is imported?

Gold imports

1162. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the sources from where gold is imported;
- (b) whether imports this year has surpassed all previous import highs; and
- (c) the reasons for rise in prices of gold inspite of recent relaxation in import norms?

Tea cultivation in Tripura

1163. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the proposal for expansion of area under Tea cultivation in Tripura during the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (b) whether the required funds were sanctioned during 2003-04; and
- (c) by when the project would be completed?

Export of spices and cashew

1164. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a slump in exports of spices and cashew;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to increase the exports?

Indo-Thailand trade pact

1165. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

- (a) whether India and Thailand have signed a trade pact;
- (b) if so, the features thereof;
- (c) whether Agro-industries, automotive parts and components, electronics, software would have a significant investment potential in Thailand;
- (d) if so, to what extent, India would be able to invest in the above mentioned fields in Thailand; and
- (e) whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries?

Patent Amendment Bill

1166. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have drafted the Patents Amendment Bill;
- (b) whether it is designed to meet Trade related intellectual property obligation of extending product patents to pharma and agro-chemical sectors;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) what steps Government are taking, through amending Bill, to simplify processing of the applications?

Fall in industrial growth

1167. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY :
SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:

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

(a) whether the industrial growth
slipped to 6.2 per cent in May, 2004
which is slower as compared to 6.4 per
cent growth in the same month last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for slow growth
in the industrial sector; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve
the industrial growth in future?

Indo-China trade

1168. SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether India-China bilateral trade
has touched \$ 10 billion during the current
year;

(b) if so, what was the trade during
the year 2003-04;

(c) whether Government are
considering to improve the trade with
China further during 2004-05; and

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

Flower export zones

1169. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

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

(a) whether a New Deal for rural
India would be extended to set up flower
export zones at various parts of the
country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concessions proposed to be
given for export of cut, loose and dried
flowers to global market?

Tea auctions

1170. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI :
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government have received
any proposal from some tea committees
to bring 100 per cent of tea sales through
the auctions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken
thereon?

Export Promotion Councils

1171. SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be
pleased to state:

(a) what are the administrative and
financial powers vested with the Panel
Chairman's/Sub/Committee of various
Export Promotion Councils for carrying
out activities leading to growth of exports;
and

(b) if no such powers have been given
how Government justify democratic

functioning of the Export Promotion Councils?

Affairs of SEEPZ

1172. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited Santacruz Electronics Export Promotion Zone (SEEPZ) in Mumbai recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he was approached by some Members of Christian community regarding a 400 years old church situated in the SEEPZ vicinity; and

(d) if so, his response thereto?

WTO meet in Paris

1173. SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some important Member States of the WTO had a meeting in Paris in July, 2004 to resolve the deadlock in the WTO talks on agriculture;

(b) if so, the proposal made by India at the meet and response of USA and the European Union thereto; and

(c) the progress made in the talks for preparation of the framework agreement?

Exports growth target

1174. SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have the target for growth in exports at sixteen per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the exports growth rate during the last three years; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to raise the exports growth rate?

National Institute of Design Research Centre, Bangalore

1175. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Institute of Design Research Centre in Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether land has been identified;

(c) the amount proposed to be provided during the year 2004-05 for the above Centre; and

(d) the activities of the proposed Centre?

Exports of Ayurvedic drugs to EU

1176. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Indian Ayurvedic formulation exporters to the European Union (EU) are facing tough times following the guidelines for traditional and herbal medicines;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per these guidelines, a newly launched ayurvedic product would have to undergo all efficacy studies like a normal drug and this will make the launch of new ayurvedic products impossible;

(c) if so, whether this would adversely affect the exports of ayurvedic products; and

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

Imports of food items

1177. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have relaxed rules for imports of various food items and exempted them from 100 per cent mandatory sampling with immediate effect;

(b) whether Government have categorized certain food items as 'high risk' and only those would be subjected to 100 per cent sampling test;

(c) if so, the list of high risk food items; and

(d) whether this decision has been taken for cost-cutting and would in no way create health hazards?

Draft Agreement on Agriculture

1178. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the concerns of India have not been adequately addressed by the latest draft on a framework agreement on agriculture;

(b) if so, Government's reaction at the meeting of the WTO General Council held on July, 27, 2004; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that 650 million Indian farmers would be affected if India is forced to give concessions on allowing such imports of agricultural products?

Proposal by Pakistani traders on copyrights

1179. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistani traders have impressed upon Government to jointly fight with Pakistan for their rights relating to the copy right issues during WTO meetings;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to attain their common objective?

Export Promotion Council for Pharmaceuticals

1180. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a new organisation called Export Promotion Council for Pharmaceuticals or PHAR-MEXCIL to promote the Pharmaceutical Industry;

(b) whether Director General of Foreign Trade has issued a Public Notice dated May 12th, 2004, for creation of PHAR-MEXCIL;

(c) if so, whether organisation would be based in Hyderabad with a regional office in Mumbai;

(d) if so, whether Government assure of setting up the new organisation at Hyderabad in short period and if so, within how many months; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Tea exports

1181. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to increase production and exports of tea;

(b) if so, the target set therefor during last three years and the achievement made in this regard; and

(c) the details of the proposal of the Tea Board to increase area under tea plantation during Tenth Plan?

Pressure for outsourcing of services

1182. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that US companies are under pressure from consulting companies such as Boston Consulting Group to outsource to low cost countries or Perish; and

(b) if so, the measures Government have taken to get the due share in the business that can be handled?

Tax on cement production

†1183. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is heavy tax on cement production;

(b) if so, the stages of production on which Government realize tax and cess alongwith the rates thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government's attention has been drawn

to reduce the rate of tax; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Trade with New Zealand

1184. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that New Zealand has identified forestry, IT and biotechnology as key areas of trade with the country;

(b) what is the present trade position with New Zealand; and

(c) the future expansion plan to boost trade?

WTO draft agreement

1185. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of 148 countries was held in Geneva last month to discuss WTO-draft agreement to set the broad colours of new World Trade Order;

(b) if so, whether India's grave concern regarding safeguarding the interests of the farming sector was effectively represented at the Conference; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the developed countries thereto?

WTO talks on agriculture

1186. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prospects of agreement on agriculture at

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the WTO appear bleak looking at the wide gap in the views of the developing countries and the developed countries;

(b) the reasons for not sending Indian representative to the mini-ministerial conference held at London recently; and

(c) the measures Government are taking to muster more and more support for India so as to reach on agreement which helps India and its farming community?

Trade between India and Mercosur

1187. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently India and Mercosur entered into an agreement to increase the trade between the two;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the items that can be exported to Mercosur; and

(d) the present trade between the two in terms of dollars?

Agenda for WTO talks

1188. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have come out with an eight-point agenda asking the developing countries of the world to move away from the traditional pattern of WTO talks and bring about a level playing field in the global trade system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government expect that an agreement would be possible this year in WTO on Agriculture issues?

Export credit agencies

1189. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to bring export credit agencies under one roof to fund exporters from the emerging markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Import of high value cars

1190. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow only individuals to import high-value cars without having to seek road worthiness or homologation certificates;

(b) whether it is also a fact that stock-and-sale dealers and car manufacturers are banned to import and sell cars in India without going through the approved process of Automotive Research Association of India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Rubber Production

1191. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge gap between production and consumption of natural rubber;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to increase the yield per hectare and production of natural rubber?

WTO negotiations

1192. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how far India's efforts at the World Trade Organisation negotiations have been successful, so far, in protecting interests of the Indian farmers in the international market against the subsidies provided by the developed nations to the detriment of farmers of the developing countries;

(b) whether any collective efforts have been made by the developing countries to protect interests of their farmers under the WTO regime and if so, with what results so far; and

(c) the steps being further taken in that direction?

Suicide by tobacco farmers

†1193. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of tobacco growing farmers committed suicide due to damage of crops and unfavourable weather;

(b) the steps being taken by Government for the livelihood of such farmers; and

(c) whether Government have any special plan to encourage export of tobacco and if so, the details thereof?

Restoration work of Humayun's tomb

1194. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medallion (marble inlay work) on the facade of the Humayun's tomb fell off recently, as ASI had not carried out restoration work in this complex for nearly two years;

(b) if so, the reasons for this state of neglect especially when it is a World Heritage Site; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted to fix responsibility for this lapse and by when the proposed restoration would be completed?

Preservation of Tribal Art and Culture

1195. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's policy to protect and preserve the rich Tribal Art and Culture of the country; and

(b) what is Government's view on establishment of a National Tribal Museum in the National Capital?

Restoration and upkeeping of heritage monuments

1196. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign aid if any, received during the last two years, year-wise for restoration and upkeeping of Heritage Monuments in the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the Monuments covered under this aid and the amount spent thereon so far; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect such monuments from its own resources?

Policy for cultural heritage

†1197. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate a broad cultural policy in order to save the cultural heritage of the country;

(b) if so, the priority fixed for this policy; and

(c) by when this policy is likely to be announced?

Availability of tourist postcards

1198. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourist postcards depicting pictures of monuments and service spots throughout the country are available in important tourist centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken in this direction so as to boost tourism and highlight tourist spots in the country?

Allocation from Bhagwan Mahavir Birth Centenary Fund

1199. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the projects sanctioned and amount allocated to the States and Union Territories from Bhagwan Mahavir's 2600th birth centenary fund of Rs. 100 crore, State-wise and project-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that many works have still not started under this programme;

(c) whether there is a balance amount unspent of many projects which have been completed; and

(d) how much amount remains unutilized in Gujarat out of the sanctioned amount for the projects approved and completed and for the ongoing projects?

Expenditure incurred on construction of Uday Shankar Natya Kala Academy at Almora

†1200. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure proposed to be incurred on the construction of the Uday Shankar Natya Kala Academy which is under construction at Almora;

(b) the total amount likely to be spent on the above work during the year 2004-05;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed for the completion of the construction of this Academy; and

(d) if so, by when its construction would be completed?

Development of infrastructure in NER

1201. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether there is any scheme to ensure speedy development of infrastructure in the North Eastern Region:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any specific budgetary allocation for those infrastructure projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Functioning of N.E.C.

1202. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the relation between DONER and N.E.C.;

(b) whether N.E.C. is an independent body or not; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the functioning of N.E.C. as well as DONER?

Diversion of funds by CCI

1203. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rupees one crore given by his Ministry to the Cement Corporation of India for voluntary retirement fund has been diverted for making payment to private firms and contractors; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken against those involved in this financial irregularity?

Profits of BHEL

1204. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BHEL has registered an impressive growth in its profits during 2003-04;

(b) if so, what is the increase over the last fiscal with action plan to further boost up its earnings; and

(c) whether the Unit also proposes to raise the post-retirement benefits to its employees due to higher profits, if so, the details thereof?

Payment of service commission by CCI

1205. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Complaints have been received including for Members of Parliament about payment of huge service commission to M/s Techno Steel, Lucknow, in violation of Rules by the Rajban Zonal Office of the Cement Corporation of India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the officials involved?

**CBI raids at Tandoor Cement
Factory**

1206. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether raids by CBI were conducted on the office of the Cement Corporation of India Limited at Tandoor Cement Factory, Hyderabad recently;

(b) if so, the number of staff arrested and raids made on houses of CCI employees of Tandoor Factory;

(c) whether involvement of Chairman-cum-Managing Director has been reported in the case; if so, the action proposed to be taken against him; and

(d) the action taken against the illegal payment of Service Commission in case of Cement Factory in Maneri Valley project from Raj Ban Factory, Dehradun?

Increase in losses of PSUs

1207. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of loss-making PSUs is increasing every year as compared to profit earning PSUs;

(b) if so, the details of loss-making/profit earning PSUs, location-wise, year-wise and production-wise as on 31-3-2004 for last three years;

(c) whether Government are aware that cumulative losses for three years from 2000-01 to 2002-03 is Rs. 30,437 crores; and

(d) if so, what "New Policy"

Government are going to adopt and the details thereof?

**Revival of Heavy Engineering
Corporation**

†1208. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to revive the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), Ranchi;

(b) whether any committee has been constituted for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details of its members and the instructions issued to them?

Revival of BPCL and BHPV

1209. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of revival of Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd. (BPCL) and Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessel Ltd. (BHPV);

(b) whether statutory dues of the employees have been cleared; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Education policy for disabled children

1210. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to formulate a comprehensive education policy for children with disability;

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when the said education policy is likely to be formulated and implemented?

Vocational education

†1211. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that setting up of a separate Ministry is needed for development and expansion of vocational education in the country;

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

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

Scholarships and bank loans for higher studies

1212. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arrangements have been made to provide scholarships and bank loans for getting higher education from the institutions affiliated with his Ministry during the current year;

(b) if so, the number of students provided with the scholarships and bank loans in Assam during the year 2003-04; and

(c) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes students of the State amongst the said beneficiaries?

Standard of education and discipline in Kendriya Vidyalayas

†1213. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the inspection of the Central School, I.N.A. by the Parliamentary Sub-Committee three years ago, there has been no improvement in the working style of Principal and teachers of the school;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the standard of education and discipline in the Central School, I.N.A. is much lower than that of the schools at Andrews Ganj, J.N.U. and Gole Market;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government/Organization are taking any steps to improve the standard of education and to ensure the accountability of the staff in the Central School, I.N.A.?

Creches in Madhya Pradesh

†1214. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of voluntary organisations have sought grant from Government for setting up of creches with recommendation of the Madhya Pradesh Government; and

(b) if so, the number of creches to be set up for which Government have decided to release grant, district-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Irregularities in recruitment of teachers

1215. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to the Starred Question 86 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th July, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the CVC's advise for fixation of responsibility for probed irregularities has since been acted upon and the action initiated thereafter;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken on the report of the CVC; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Central Schools in Uttar Pradesh

†1216. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Schools functioning in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) whether in view of increasing number of students and to make the literacy campaign effective, there is any scheme to open new Central Schools in the State and if so, the details in this regard?

Domestic violence

1217. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to bring in a legislation for prevention of domestic violence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a demand has been received for expansion of the Integrated Child Development Scheme and Day Care Centers for children of working women; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Fee structure of IIMs

1218. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the statement made by the former H.R.D. Minister that Government's decision to reverse his order to cut fees in IIMs was a clear violation of the Supreme Court verdict;

(b) whether he has further asserted that IIMs needed only Rs. 5 crore of non-Plan support, and that while withdrawing the fee cut order, these facts were ignored; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what legal remedy Government have in view if the above order is challenged in the Supreme Court?

Appointment of Urdu teachers

1219. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made tall promises about appointing 20 million Urdu teachers; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to implement this plan?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Funds for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Karnataka

1220. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allotted and released to Karnataka under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05, district-wise;

(b) whether request of the State Government for more funds is still pending with the Union Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to speed up the process of releasing more funds to Karnataka under the scheme?

International Education Fair

1221. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the International Education Fair was held in New Delhi; if so, the details of the discussion that took place in the event;

(b) how the Fair would help the country in spreading awareness by providing proper guidance and an accurate and up to date information on different professional courses and career options; and

(c) the details of the benefits derived with the participation in this Fair?

Impact of Operation Black Board

1222. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's Mission 'Operation Black Board' is a total failure in Assam;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that all the teachers under OBB have not received their monthly salaries since the year 2002, particularly in Assam; and

(c) if so, what is Government's initiative in this regard?

Short-term marriages

1223. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the National Commission for Women (NCW) has asked the External Affairs Ministry to issue instructions to all embassies to ensure that 'Muttah' or short-term marriages are stopped and those indulging in such practices are dealt with strictly; and

(b) if so, the action taken to end such short-term marriages in the country immediately?

Revival of Central Advisory Board of Education

1224. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to revive the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE); and

(b) if so, what is its role and function?

Conference of Minority Educational Institutions

1225. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Level Conference on Minority Educational Institutions was recently held in Delhi;

(b) if so, the objective of the Conference and the details of the suggestions that emerged from the Conference on development and welfare of the minority institutions; and

(c) what measures are proposed to be taken to analyse and implement the suggestions?

Recognition to private universities by UGC

1226. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has given recognition to a number of private universities called 'Deemed Universities';

(b) the number of such Deemed Universities operating with the recognition of the UGC;

(c) whether it is a fact that the UGC has also withdrawn recognition to some Deemed Universities;

(d) if so, the names of such Deemed Universities which have lost recognition of the UGC during the last three years; and

(e) the steps proposed to improve the standard of university education through better functioning and supervision by the UGC?

Universalisation of elementary education

1227. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for

universalisation of elementary education during the last one year; and

(b) the target set up to put and retain every child of school going age in the classroom?

Review of school text books and curriculum

1228. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up an Expert Committee to review the school text books and curriculum;

(b) if so, whether Government would consult the States before deciding on the issues so as to have a broader view; and

(c) by when the Committee is likely to submit its report?

AICTE approved Engineering Colleges

1229. SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of AICTE approved engineering colleges functioning in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of seats in different disciplines; and

(c) the number of engineering colleges declared as 'A' grade colleges in the country and Maharashtra?

Schemes for educational campaign

†1230. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that 35.2 per cent population of the country is still uneducated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to intensify the educational campaign; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Expenditure on education

1231. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in its educational agenda stands committed to the promise of spending 6 per cent of the GDP on education;

(b) if so, whether steps have already been initiated in all seriousness to implement this commitment;

(c) whether Government for the present intend to replace "education" with "literacy" and pursue total literacy programmes only like "SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN";

(d) whether the "SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN" scheme has really reached out so as to beneficially cover all the poor and deprived section of society; and

(e) if so, the appraisal of its performance so far, State-wise?

Universal Elementary Education

1232. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nor much progress has been made in achieving universal elementary education since the amended statute became effective;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) will be setting soft credit support of US dollar 550 million from the World Bank to meet part of the scheme cost of US dollar 3.5 billion;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that an estimated investment of just 78 paise for every Rs. 100 of GDP is required to ensure all out of school children to be brought into the system over the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

Universities in North-Eastern States

1233. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Universities in some States in the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the locations thereof; and

(c) whether Government will adopt the same policy towards the remaining States of the region facing exactly the same problems and difficulties?

Issuance of Degree Certificate to students of GSBA, Greater Noida

1234. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to the Starred Question 67 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th December, 2003 and state:

(a) the efforts/measures taken by the University to direct the Institute "Graduate School of Business Administration, Greater Noida," to issue Marksheet to successful students who have already completed the Masters in Computer Application course in July, 2003;

(b) the names of all the successful students who have been issued final marks Statement; and

(c) by when the University is likely to issue "Degree Certificate" to the successful students who passed out in July, 2003?

Plans for Edusat

1235. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the context of the forthcoming launch of Edusat, the satellite meant exclusively for Education, what are Government's plans to establish ground infrastructure and generate contents to ensure proper utilization of the satellite; and

(b) the progress of ground infrastructure and content generation according to plans?

Affairs of Guwahati and Dibrugarh Universities

1236. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government would examine the various problems faced by both the Guwahati and Dibrugarh Universities affecting the academic career of the students and take remedial measures in the interest of the students?

Scholarship to I.I.M. students

†1237. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the I.I.M.

have enhanced the scholarship fund, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the norms prescribed for sanction of scholarship;

(c) the expenditure students are likely to incur to take the scholarship examinations;

(d) whether such expenditure would be possible for the students of common families; and

(e) if not, the arrangements Government propose to make for such students?

Three language formula

1238. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is obligatory on the part of Government to implement a uniform three language formula in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a uniform three language formula is being implemented in all the schools throughout the country;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether some States have approached the Union Government requesting for implementation of the three language formula;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) Government's reaction thereto?

Establishment of IIT at Basar

1239. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the decision Government have already taken or proposed to take in response to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh letter dated 10th July, 2003 addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister, seeking establishment of Indian Institute of Technology at Basar in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of Education in Madhya Pradesh

†1240. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government for development of education in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the Grants provided during the last financial year for promotion of sports, nutrition etc. in the colleges of the States; and

(c) the amount to be spent by the Centre in the Education "Head" of the State for the welfare of the educationally backward minorities?

Environment and life Science Education

1241. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce environment and life science education in schools and colleges;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the academic year from which it would be started; and

(c) whether it would be made mandatory for all the schools and

colleges to include these courses in their System?

Funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

†1242. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the State Governments have been allotted funds for "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" during last few years;

(b) if so, amounts allotted during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 to U.P., Bihar and Maharashtra; and

(c) the percentage of the funds utilised each year by these States?

Absence of Central Educational Institutions/Medical Colleges in Himachal Pradesh

1243. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Himachal Pradesh does not have any significant Central Educational Institutions/ University/Medical Colleges; and

(b) whether Government would initiate any action to put Himachal Pradesh at par with the other States in this respect?

Central Education Institutions in Himachal Pradesh

1244. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per capita number of Central Schools in Himachal Pradesh is less than the national average;

(b) if not, what is the number of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Central Schools, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Pratibha Vidyalaya Schools in the State; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative the proposals for opening of more Central Education Institutions in the State during the Tenth Plan?

Marriages on contractual basis

1245. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of young poor girls married on contractual basis for a short period to foreign nationals from the Gulf Countries have been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the agents and steps taken to rehabilitate such poor girls?

Inclusion of environment as a subject

1246. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court issued notice to the All India Council for Technical Education and the National Council for Teacher Education asking them to include environment as a subject in the syllabi of the institutions under their control; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

Scholarships and fee structure at IIM

1247. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IIM controversy was virtually laid to rest with the ordering of immediate withdrawal of the previous order slashing fee to Rs. 30,000/-;

(b) if so, whether poor students would not be denied education for want of resources and they would be given need based scholarships, which could extend to 100 per cent waiver of tuition fee;

(c) what would be the criteria of need based scholarships; and

(d) whether the industry too would also be asked to assist in this field?

Appointment of SC/ST Teachers

1248. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1953 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th December, 2003 and state:

(a) what is the justification for not allowing 5 per cent concession in marks to SC/ST candidates in minimum eligibility criteria for recruitment of teachers in the Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) what is the position in this regard in case of other educational Institutes;

(c) whether it will amount to violation of Governments instructions/ constitutional provisions for appointment of SC/ST candidates in Government job including educational institutes; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to rectify the position so that SC/ST candidates are given an opportunity for appointment in Kendriya Vidyalayas?

Implementation of Anti-dowry Act

1249. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that though the Anti-dowry Act has been legislated, its provisions are not being implemented in its letter and spirit;

(b) whether Government have devised some frame-work to ensure that the provisions of the Bill are implemented in its true spirit; and

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

Kendriya Vidyalayas/Navodaya Schools

1250. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Schools are running in every Parliamentary Constituency in the country; and

(b) if not, whether Government would take time bound implementation of the Scheme to have such school in every Constituency to cater the need of the target groups?

Promotion of Lecturers

1251. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC has issued guidelines for promoting Lecturer as Senior Lecturer/Reader under carrier advance scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Notification (No. F.1-22/97-U 1 dated 27-7-1998) implementing the UGC scheme 1996 under section 7.20 clause (ii) and under section 7.30 clause (iv), contains a provision of "other appropriate continuing education programmes of comparable quality as may be specified or approved by the Commission";

(d) if so, the details of such other education programmes;

(e) whether common wealth fellowship scheme and BOYS cast fellowship scheme is a part of above comparable qualification; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi

1252. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi raised for maintaining and up grading infrastructure etc. of the concerned Kendriya Vidyalaya has recently been used for other purposes;

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

(c) whether the practice is continuing even now?

Appointments on compassionate grounds

1253. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 469 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th August, 2001 and state: