

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, the December 16, 2005/Agrahayana 25, 1927 (Saka)*

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**(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 —155**

#### **Agricultural contribution to GDP**

2577. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the  
contribution of agriculture to GDP ratio is  
declining year after year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the  
efforts made by Government to improve  
the position?

#### **Refusal of MSP on cotton by Maharashtra to farmers**

2578. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO  
JOSHI: Will the Minister of  
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state  
whether it is a fact that Government of  
Maharashtra is refusing to give the cotton  
farmers of Maharashtra at the time of the  
purchase more than 80 per cent of the  
Minimum Support Price of cotton fixed  
by the Central Government?

#### **Study on impact of liberalized import of agricultural products**

2579. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN  
AHMED: Will the Minister of  
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have  
conducted any study to assess the impact  
of liberalized import of agricultural products  
on Indian agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Kisan Call Centres**

2580. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the  
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether Kisan Call Centres (KCC)  
have been set up in various States to assist  
the farmers;

(b) if so, the number of such KCCs  
opened in various States, so far, and the  
details of their functions;

(c) whether more KCCs will be opened  
in the country;

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

(e) whether information technology is used by these centres to assist farmers; and

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

**Scheme for cultivation of medicinal plants**

†2581. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS  
BAL APTE:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme for promoting cultivation of medicinal plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government feel the necessity of conducting a study in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Operation of slaughter houses**

†2582. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN  
PANY:  
DR. SWAMI SAKSHI JI  
MAHARAJ:  
DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH  
LODHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of livestock district-wise/State-wise/Union Territory-wise and species-wise;

(b) the names and addresses of licensed/illegal slaughter houses operating in various districts/States/Union Territories in the country;

(c) the number of livestock being killed

everyday in slaughter houses operating legally or illegally and the norms and rules fixed for killing; and

(d) the details of the quantum and the form in which meat is being sold in the country and exported to foreign countries from each slaughter house, year-wise?

**Achieving rice production target**

†2583. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously contemplating over the reasons for not achieving the targeted rice production;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard so that the production target can be achieved in the forthcoming years; and

(c) whether any special proposal or special advice in this regard has been given by Government to the major rice producing States in the country and if so, the details thereof?

**Schemes for development of agriculture sector**

2584. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented togetherwith such fresh schemes proposed for agricultural development in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) the details of the achievements made in this regard during the above said period, State-wise; and

(c) the amount of funds utilised under those schemes, so far?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Agricultural contribution to GDP**

2585. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the population in percentage and number which is dependent on agriculture and agriculture sector;

(b) its contribution to the GDP during the last ten years;

(c) how it matches with the targets fixed therefor, year-wise;

(d) how it compares with GDP contribution by other sectors, namely, service, industrial, I.T., manufacturing, etc.;

(e) the work force employed in agriculture sector and the percentage thereof to the total employment potential in the country;

(f) the percentage of annual growth in agriculture sector, during the last ten years;

(g) how it matches with the targets fixed therefor, year-wise;

(h) the percentage of GDP invested in agriculture sector as capital input, during the last ten years, year-wise; and

(i) the corrective steps taken to re-energize the agriculture sector?

### **Decrease in growth rate of agriculture sector**

†2586. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:  
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth rate of agricultural sector is on the decrease during the last decade;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are formulating any scheme to solve problems relating to the agriculture sector in view of promoting development of the same;

(d) whether Government are formulating any scheme to increase agricultural loans and to ensure easy availability of loans to farmers for farming; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

### **Use of plastic in agricultural activities**

2587. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recommended the use of plastic in agricultural activities, if so, the justification for this recommendation; and

(b) whether any study has been done on the alternatives to plastic, if so, the details thereof showing the comparative cost-benefit ratio?

### **Gram Panchayat as unit under crop insurance scheme**

†2588. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of the country have requested Government to consider Gram Panchayat as unit instead of Block under crop insurance scheme so that farmers could get insurance on damage of crops in entire Panchayat, due to natural calamity;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard and the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **National Horticulture Mission**

2589. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the National Horticulture Mission;

(b) the details of areas that have been identified in Andhra Pradesh which are regionally different from others for cluster approach and for the development of horticulture crops in the State;

(c) the difference between Technology Mission for integrated development to Horticulture and NHM;

(d) the total allocation made for NHM in the Tenth Plan for Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the targets set for National Horticulture Mission?

### **Weight of milk pouches at mother dairy**

†2590. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that milk pouches at mother dairy outlets weigh less;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

### **Implementation of animal husbandry schemes**

†2591. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the schemes for the animal husbandry are not being implemented properly;

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

(c) the efforts made by Government in this regard so that livestock can be used properly?

### **Foodgrain production and shortage**

†2592. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:  
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of growth rate of foodgrain production and population in the country;

(b) the extent of shortfall registered in the foodgrain stocks in the country during the last two years;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to avoid import of foodgrains from foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Assistance to Maharashtra for kharif crop loss**

2593. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 35 to 40 thousand farmers in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra have been badly affected by the loss to their standing kharif crops on more than 30 thousand hectares, due to torrential rains this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided by the Union Government to farmers whose kharif crop has been damaged?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Assistance to J&K for agricultural production**

2594. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to grant special status to J&K to increase its agricultural production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the steps taken by Government for promoting agriculture to improve the condition of farmers in the State; and
- (d) the details of the amount allocated for the purpose during the last three years?

**Employment melas by CIFNET**

2595. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET) to hold employment or rozgar melas to find trained and certified crew for imported deep-sea fishing vessels and tuna boats;
- (b) the number of such employment melas held by CIFNET of Cochin in the last six weeks;
- (c) the number of people who came forward and could be hired as fishing hands and other jobs;
- (d) whether it is a fact that CIFNET has agreed to supply adequate crew to all companies operating deep-sea tuna vessels; and
- (e) if so, the details of the assurance given by CIFNET and Government to imported tuna boat operators?

**Farmers leaving agriculture**

2596. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:  
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 40 per cent farmers would like to quit agriculture business due to unsafe and low margin to agro-produce, water dependent production as well as unavailability of agriculture loan on lower percentage of interest rate in the country;
- (b) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto; and
- (c) the details of measures taken or proposed to be taken for improving the current unfavourable atmosphere in the agriculture by keeping in view the poor farmers of the country?

**Shortfall in agricultural production**

2597. SHRI RAASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite upbeat projections, preliminary estimates shows that agriculture sector is already falling short of its crop production for July, 2005-June, 2006;
- (b) if so, whether foodgrain target for that period is 215 million tonnes and kharif production 110 million tonnes but the first advance estimates puts it at 105.25 million tonnes;
- (c) whether this will be marginally up from the last year but will be short of the target;
- (d) if so, the details of the target set; and

(e) the steps taken to meet the foodgrain shortfall?

#### **Subsidy to MSCCGMFL**

2598. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal for subsidy to Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Limited for maintaining MSP of cotton during the season 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the subsidy will be given to Government of Maharashtra for the above purpose?

#### **Criteria for sanctioning KVKs**

2599. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for sanctioning Krishi Vigyan Kendras; and

(b) the names of the districts where KVKs are proposed to be set up in West Bengal?

#### **Substandard seeds manure and pesticides**

2600. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that substandard seeds, manure and pesticides are responsible for low agricultural production;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study to assess this issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of existing mechanisms to regulate quality of seeds, manure and pesticides?

#### **Research projects by ICAR for Andhra Pradesh**

2601. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of research projects in agriculture funded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) during the last one and a half year;

(b) the details of projects earmarked for Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the amount released during that period;

(d) the number of projects to be taken up by the ICAR in the State during 2005-2006; and

(e) the number of *ad-hoc* projects to be funded by Government of Andhra Pradesh during 2005-2006?

#### **Problem in agriculture sector**

†2602. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted a survey with regard to the problems being faced in the development of agriculture sector;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the main problems identified so far;

(c) the problems out of the above which are due to paucity of funds;

(d) the problems which are due to lack of knowledge; and

(e) the decline noticed in agriculture sector due to the same?

#### **Cotton production**

2603. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 230 lakh bales of cotton was produced in the cotton season 2004-05;

(b) whether the cotton crop is expected to be over 270 lakh bales in the cotton season 2005-06 and whether this will affect the prices;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to export surplus cotton;

(d) whether Government are aware that China will be short of cotton by almost 2.5 to 3 million metric tonnes in the cotton season 2005-06; and

(e) the details of the cotton export plan?

#### **Delicensing of slaughter houses**

†2604. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of slaughter houses being operated illegally, district-wise/State-wise/ Union Territory-wise and reasons for not taking action by the police and administrative officers against them;

(b) the number of cattle slaughtered in each slaughter house every day alongwith species and standard of the slaughtered cattle; and

(c) the reasons for not canceling licences of the slaughter houses in spite of finding involvement of the slaughter houses in slaughtering/purchasing of plundered/ stolen livestock in the police enquiry and even after registration of crime in police station?

#### **Bringing deep sea fisheries under purview of Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

2605. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:  
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:  
SHRI THENNALA G.  
BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to transfer the subject of deep-sea fisheries from Ministry of Agriculture to Ministry of Commerce and Industry due to administrative compulsions;

(b) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Agriculture has expressed its inability to properly appreciate and understand the commercial aspects of deep-sea fisheries sector;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under the present set up, the Ministry of Agriculture is unable to decide issues and problems of the deep-sea fisheries in the country; and

(d) the steps proposed to encourage deep sea fisheries in the country through efficient and proper administration?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Implementation of new Agriculture Policy**

†2606. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new Agriculture Policy was announced in the year 2000 in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any scheme has been chalked out for its implementation; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the impact of the implementation of new Agriculture Policy on agriculture in the country?

**NCF recommendation for grain banks**

2607. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers has recommended for the creation of grain banks in the districts where National Food for Work Programme is under implementation;

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

(c) what has been the impact of the creation of grain banks; and

(d) if Government did not implement it the reasons therefor?

**Slaughtering of plundered/stolen livestock by slaughter houses**

†2608. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of

slaughtering/purchasing of plundered/stolen livestock and killing more cattle than authorized number and even killing of conceived, milk and herd of cattle;

(b) whether Government are aware that the plundered/stolen livestock is being purchased and slaughtered by the slaughter house located in Aligarh district in Uttar Pradesh and whether the crimes in the connection have been registered at Banna Devi Police Station in Aligarh district on 15th July, 2005 and at Salempur Police Station in Bulandshahar district on 5th July, 2005; and

(c) reasons for not taking action against the above mentioned slaughter houses?

**Agreement with manufacturers on drug price control**

2609. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:  
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to arrive at an agreement with manufacturers to fix prices of life saving and other drugs;

(b) if so, the areas of disagreement; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure availability of life saving drugs to patients at reasonable rates?

**Demand of chemical fertilizers**

†2610. DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

assessed that during the current year, the supply of chemical fertilizers would be less in comparison to demand thereof;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and assessment with regard to quantity of demand and supply thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the gap between demand and supply would impact the prices of chemical fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the assessment in this regard?

#### **Sales promotion by pharma companies**

2611. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:  
SHRI DARA SINGH  
CHAUHAN:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that pharma companies are spending huge amounts on their sales promotion; and

(b) what are the details of promotional expenditure of the top ten pharma companies for the last three years?

#### **Allegations against DPLRC**

2612. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Drug Prices Liability Review Committee (DPLRC) has been acting in an arbitrary manner and notices have been sent only to Indian Companies and large MNCs have been left out;

(b) the details of the notices issued, names of the companies and the amount involved;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 26 cases are still pending with DPLRC;

(d) the reasons for the same; and

(e) the names of the companies and the amount involved?

#### **Prices of essential drugs**

2613. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in consultation with the major pharmaceutical MNCs have lately taken any effective steps and evolved a policy to bring down the prices of essential drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the policy so evolved; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction and the outcome thereof?

#### **Revival of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.**

2614. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to revive Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., which was declared sick in 1992 and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether all the employees who were originally with IDPL would be re-employed and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Coal-based fertilizer units**

2615. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal-based fertilizer plants set up in the country as on

30th November, 2005, State-wise and plant-wise;

(b) the details of sick fertilizer plants in the country closed, State-wise and plant-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to revive the closed plants?

#### **Retail prices of drugs**

2616. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether Government propose to implement uniform retail prices for drugs (maximum retail price) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it will be implemented; and

(d) the reasons for the increase of prices in certain States and the steps taken to control the increased drug prices?

#### **Subsidy to single super phosphate industry**

2617. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the crisis-ridden single super phosphate industry has urged the Government to double the subsidy on this fertilizer product;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as against the total annual fertilizer subsidy of Rs. 18,000 crores, the subsidy on SSP is only Rs. 165.00 crore; and

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

#### **Sugar production**

†2618. DR. MURLI MANOHAR

JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER

SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding the quantity of sugar production in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated production of sugar in the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively;

(c) the stock of sugar in the country during the month of October, 2005 and the expected stock in the month of October, 2006; and

(d) the quantity of sugar consumption in the country during the month of October, 2005 and the expected consumption during the month of October, 2006?

#### **Price of sugar**

†2619. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER

SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR

PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been assessed that ex-factory price of sugar will be Rs. 17.50 to Rs. 18.50 per kg. in 2006-07 in the country and its sale price for the common people will be around Rs. 21.00 per kg.;

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

(c) whether it has also been assessed that the production of sugar in 2006-07 would be much higher in comparison to that in 2005-06;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, whether the selling price of the sugar to the consumers would be less in comparison to that in the last year; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Policy**

2620. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal/draft for Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Corruption in FCI depots in Punjab**

2621. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the corruption prevailing in various depots of Food Corporation of India in Punjab;

(b) the complaints received in this regard during the last three years, year-wise; and

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

#### **Decreasing sugar mills**

†2622. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the last

few years, the number of sugar mills and factories is decreasing constantly;

(b) if so, their total number in the country in 2002-03 and the estimated number thereof in 2005-06; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite the decreasing number of sugar mills, the production of sugar in the country is increasing, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Complaints by MPs**

2623. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that letters/correspondence pertaining to complaints by the MPs are not being responded to by his Ministry;

(b) the details of the letters/correspondence from January, 2005 till date addressed to his Ministry by the Members of Parliament;

(c) whether any such letter pertaining to complaint against the violation of condition by some magazines in New Delhi is pending for reply;

(d) the status on this letter/correspondence till date, alongwith the action taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

#### **BIS on technical barriers to trade agreement**

2624. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Indian Standards has been entrusted with

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the task to work on technical barriers to trade agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the agreement ensures improved market access to countries across the world; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Public prosecutors**

2625. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide for a network of public prosecutors to assist the poor and lower middle class consumers seeking to file complaints under the Consumer Protection Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government have any other plan to assist this category of consumers in view of the technicalities involved in various consumer products?

#### **Black marketing**

†2626. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to check black marketing of vegetables and fruits (particularly onions) in the country;

(b) whether people of the country are suffering due to black marketing and farmers are not getting their due profits and common man has to pay double or triple price while purchasing fruits and vegetables; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in the matter?

#### **Setting up of Commodity Exchanges**

2627. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up Commodity Exchanges in the country as part of its proposal to reform the commodities markets, whereby farmers would be free to sell their foodgrains anywhere they want to; and

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

#### **Shortfall in sugar production**

2628. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether annual sugar production is expected to fall to 12.5 million tonnes during the current sugar season October, 2004 to September, 2005;

(b) if so, whether it is against 40 million tonnes recorded during the last year;

(c) if so, whether India would go out for imports as the shortfall in output will put pressure on prices of domestic level;

(d) the steps Government propose to take to meet the shortage of sugar in the country; and

(e) whether this shortage has pushed the prices of sugar on an increase?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**SDF loan to Karnataka**

2629. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made by the State Government of Karnataka for sanctioning an amount of Rs. 50.50 crores from the Sugar Development Fund for setting up a 10 MW Co-Gen unit and a 45 KL per day distillery;

(b) the present status of consideration of this proposal; and

(c) by when the funds are likely to be released?

**Clearance of irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh**

2630. SHRINANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh *vide* letter dated 27th April, 2005, addressed to his Ministry sought clearance of irrigation projects, namely (1) laying of water conductor system for Godavari lift Irrigation Scheme; (2) Maddigadda Project and (3) Peddagadda Reservoir Scheme;

(b) the reasons for delay in giving early clearance, inspite of having already received clarifications from Andhra Pradesh Government as sought by his Ministry;

(c) whether Government would ensure clearance of these pending projects at the earliest, in the interest of increasing agricultural production in our country;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Forest dwellers**

2631. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families compelled to leave forests owing to provisions of forest and Environment Act during the period from 2000-01 to 2003-04, State-wise;

(b) how many of them are tribals; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of the forest dwellers?

**Poaching of tigers**

2632. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that three poachers have admitted that they killed at least 22 tigers in Ranthambore since 2003 right under the nose of 273 forest staff that guard india's most famous tiger reserve;

(b) whether it is a fact that these poachers had free access to the forests and they even travelled by jeep; and

(c) if so, whether Government have done any investigation in this matter and the action proposed thereon?

**Rejuvenation camps for elephants in Tamil Nadu**

2633. SHRI C. PERUMAL:  
DR. K. MALAISAMY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government, as one of the steps towards conservation of wild life,

have got a scheme of running rejuvenation camps for elephants as done in Tamil Nadu at Madumalai Wild Life Sanctuary; and

(b) if not, whether they would follow suit in other parts of the country, particularly, when the scheme in Tamil Nadu is a good success drawing world wide attention and recognition besides appreciation all over?

#### **Water pollution at Pali**

2634. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the Pali, a textile town in Rajasthan which is water-scarce State;

(b) whether Government are also aware about the filth it produces hampering crops around;

(c) whether it is a fact that only after protest from residents and farmers, the first treatment plant of the country was set up to control pollution of water;

(d) whether Government are planning to construct more such plants to treat water pollution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Development of forest wealth**

2635. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a road map for the development of forest wealth in the country through an integrated and holistic approach of the problems of environment, wild life and tribal people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same has been reflected

in the provision of the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 presently pending in Parliament; and

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

#### **Environmental clearance for residential and non-residential projects**

2636. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether draft notification issued on 15th September, 2005 proposes certain restrictions and prohibitions on the construction of all residential and non-residential projects and the development of new townships and real-estate developers have to seek prior environmental clearance;

(b) whether demand has been made to exempt residential complex and individual IT parks from the notification;

(c) if so, whether suitable amendment is being made in the notification;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Maintenance of plants and trees on central verge of roads**

2637. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects regarding maintenance of plants and trees on Central verge of roads in the Capital for example on the road connecting Nizamuddin Bridge in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that for months together, the department fails to maintain,

prune and shape beautifully the plants and trees with the result that unwieldy growth takes place giving a bad look to the roads; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

#### **Air pollution in Delhi**

2638. DR. K. MALAISAMY:  
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi's air is the worst among the 20 Asian cities as evaluated recently by a joint study of the World Bank and Asian Development Board;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Supreme Court has identified 16 cities in India as equal or more polluted than Delhi in Air Pollution Warranting Action Plan;

(c) if so, what are the action plans so far evolved and executed and to what extent the problems have been curbed, controlled, contained and mitigated;

(d) what are the preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion technologies; and

(e) what has specially been done on vehicular emissions, the major cause for urban ambient of air quality?

#### **Wildlife conservation by army soldiers**

2639. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that army soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East will be engaged in wildlife conservation;

(b) if so, the rationale of the decision and its possible impact on already stressed army personnel;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is also contemplating funding/ sponsoring of ecological battalions; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme envisaged?

#### **Environmental clearance to projects**

2640. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether overhaul of environment clearance regulations has been done and has been now submitted to PM for final approval;

(b) if so, by what time these new rules are likely to be announced;

(c) to what extent the new rules will help in immediate clearance of projects by both the Centre and States; and

(d) whether at present it takes longer time in according environment clearance to the projects?

#### **Polavaram project**

2641. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that due to Polavaram project's proposed design, 300 villages in 9 mandals in three districts in Andhra Pradesh would be submerged displacing more than two lakh tribal people and their livelihood; and

(b) if so, how the Central Government accorded environmental clearance (EIA) to the project and allowed the Andhra Pradesh State Government to go ahead with the project work without other clearances?

### **Social Forestry Programme**

2642 SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of Social Forestry Programme in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last one and half year, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the above programme has failed to yield any results in last one year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to identify the bottlenecks and to plug the loopholes?

### **National Environmental Policy**

2643. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG:  
SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH  
SHARMAH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Environment Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps Government propose to take for implementation of the said scheme in the national interest?

### **Agri-business package**

2644. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI  
BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning

to formulate guidelines for a new integrated agri-business package which will include both ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook food items;

(b) whether such a plan was announced when the Minister was speaking on a round table discussion on the Food Safety and Standards Bill organized by CII in the capital in September, 2005;

(c) whether the Cabinet has also considered agri-business package and vision document and the National Food Processing Policy; and

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

### **Differences between Government and MCI**

2645. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major points of differences between Government and the Medical Council of India as widely reported in the press;

(b) to what extent Government have made efforts to whittle down the differences and organize a working relationship with the Medical Council of India; and

(c) the steps proposed to evolve a clear policy on medical education?

### **Hepatitis-B and other communicable diseases**

2646. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Hepatitis—B Virus (HBV) poses a far

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

greater threat than the Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS);

(b) if so, whether there are some more fatal diseases like Japanese encephalitis, dengue, typhoid, polio, dysentery, filariases, kala-azar, etc.; and

(c) what are the multi-dimensional steps proposed to be taken for treatment and prevention of these diseases?

#### **Initiative to control TB, Hepatitis, etc.**

2647. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new initiative is being taken by Government to check the diseases like TB/hepatitis-B/AIDS/Malaria etc. which are rapidly spreading in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **China for tie-up in bio-medical research**

2648. SHRI MANOJ  
BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI C. RAMA-  
CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether China has evinced keen interest for a tie-up with India in the field of bio-medical research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed co-operation is contemplated only in the area of traditional medicines or likely to extend to the field of modern medicines also;

(d) whether specific proposals for joint

research have been received from the Chinese Government if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government are considering similar joint research activity with other countries, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Norms fixed for pesticide level in packed food**

†2649. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed by Government for carrying out tests of packed food items and soft drinks;

(b) the number of items for which tests were carried out during the last three years;

(c) the details of items which have been fulfilling the said norms alongwith the names of companies manufacturing these items; and

(d) the names of companies found flouting such norms during the last three years and rules under which action was taken by Government against such companies?

#### **Iodization of salt**

2650. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WHO has confirmed that even a modest dietary intake of iodine by people who are not iodine-deficient will not be harmful but beneficial;

(b) whether Government will consider salt iodization as a public health measure and mandate for blanket iodination of salt at salt heads; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have laid down proper packing norms for the manufacturers of iodized salt?

#### **Diabetic population in India**

2651. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of urban and rural population who were suffering from diabetes; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to make the masses aware about the disease?

#### **World Bank aid on drug quality control**

2652. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is aiding any project for food safety and quality control of drugs;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the details of implementation of the scheme in India?

#### **Marketing of medicines by its generic names**

†2653. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to remove the brand names of the drugs and marketing the drugs by their generic names so that the high prevailing prices of the drugs can be brought down;

(b) if so, the problems being faced in this regard;

(c) the maximum percentage difference in the prices of drugs being sold at brand name and in generic form; and

(d) the details of control mechanism of permitting the maximum difference in the cost price and selling price of the drugs?

#### **Anaemia in children**

2654. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 75 per cent Indian children are anaemic;

(b) if so, whether Government had surveyed in this regard in each State/UT;

(c) if so, the details Government have in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that at least 6.6 million newborns suffer from various deficiencies;

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(f) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation;

(g) the funds allocated to each children hospitals in each State/UT during the current Five Year Plan; and

(h) the funds utilized, so far?

#### **Financial help to Orissa for leprosy eradication**

2655. SHRI B.J. PANDA: MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the Orissa Government has committed to declare the State "a leprosy-free region";

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government has achieved magnificent success in containing this affliction since 1982-83; and

(c) the future action plan of the Central

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government to help this cash strapped State to save the leprosy patients from disfigurement?

**Inequalities in healthcare delivery system**

2656. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on a plan to reduce vast inequalities in healthcare delivery system across different regions and socio-economic groups in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also finalized its policy on soliciting private sector involvement for advancing healthcare facilities across all regions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Infant and maternal mortality in India**

2657. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an alarming scenario pertaining to infant mortality and maternal mortality in India, as portrayed in World Health Report, estimating 1,36,000 maternal and 10,00,000 new-born deaths in India, every year;

(b) if so, Government's comments and the official statistics in this regard;

(c) whether the Report also mentions that one in every three malnourished children in the world lives in India;

(d) if so, Government's reaction and official statistics in this regard;

(e) the total number of new births in

India, every year and how many of them die (i) just at birth (ii) within 4 weeks of birth, (iii) within year of birth, (iv) within five years of birth; and

(f) the steps being taken to reduce infant mortality and maternal mortality?

**AIIMS study on child death in India**

†2658. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent children born in the country die within three-four weeks after birth;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as per the survey report of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the National Neonatal Forum the care of newly born infants is being neglected generally in the National Healthcare Programmes; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking to improve this condition?

**Fatality of TB to AIDS**

2659. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people suffering from TB; State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that 1.8 million new infections are reported every year;

(c) if so, the details of infections reported during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether it is also a fact that TB kills more people than AIDS, malaria, leprosy, etc.; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if so, what emphasis Government are giving to eradicate TB?

**MCI rules on foreign medical students**

†2660. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in violation of the orders of Honourable Supreme Court, the Medical Council of India (MCI) is permitting foreign medical students to practice without screening test;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of cases where such permission has so far been granted;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the MCI Act, it is mandatory for all the foreign medical students to undergo through screening test; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction with regard to these irregularities being committed by the MCI?

**Tuberculosis prevention**

†2661. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) whether the number of patients of tuberculosis is rising continuously in the country;

(b) if so, the number of T.B. patients during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) used for treatment of T.B. is available in whole of the country; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government

to control the above disease and educate people, particularly the residents of slums, in this regard?

**Director of National Institute of Homoeopathy raided by CBI**

2662. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently CBI has conducted raid in the premises of Director, National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the raid, CBI has discovered huge amount of assets; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose against the official for the sake of proper investigation?

**Release of Population Development Fund Report**

2663. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the release of a Population Development Fund Report recently by the UNO;

(b) if so, whether Government would agree with the above report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Infant mortality**

2664. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States like

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Punjab, Haryana, Delhi have as per latest health indices, have led other States, and shown a sharp growth in the matter of infant mortality, maternal mortality and sex-ratio;

(b) if so, how these States compare in relation to these indices with all India figures and those pertaining to the South Indian States; and

(c) what directions have been issued and incentives offered to these North Indian States to make good the female-male ratio and to improve the conditions with respect to infant mortality and maternal mortality and allied matters?

#### **DOTS centres for TB prevention**

†2665. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that programme of DOTS centres are being run throughout the country for prevention of T.B. effectively;

(b) if so, whether the whole country has been covered under the said programme;

(c) if not, the names of States alongwith their districts which are still to be covered under the said programme; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to cover the districts which are yet to be covered?

#### **Raw material for bird flu medicine from China**

2666. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has agreed to export

raw material to India to control the migratory bird flu in India;

(b) if so, what medicine shall be made from this raw material and how the bird flu will be controlled;

(c) how Government shall propose to control the flu; and

(d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

#### **Illegal sale of medicines**

†2667. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the availability of medicines and their compounds being sold in the market without prior permission of the Drug Controller General of India; and

(b) if so, the names of these medicines/ compounds and the action being taken by Government against these companies?

#### **Migration of health workers to foreign nations**

2668. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Indian health care workers are migrating to richer nations, as per a new UN report;

(b) what is the rough estimate of health care workers who have migrated during the last five years to the developed countries;

(c) whether coupled with resurgence of infectious diseases *i.e.* HIV/AIDS, high rate of infant/maternal mortality rate, etc. in our country, the migration will exacerbate an

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

already acute shortage of healthcare system in our country; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address this issue?

**Achievement of target of the health care policy**

2669. DR. K. MALAISAMY:  
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the people in rural areas are yet to get modern medicine and health care despite the progress of India on health front;

(b) the target set by the National Health Policy for different years and why the target and achievement of his Ministry is nowhere near the target of National Health Care Policy; and

(c) whether with its knowledge base and growth potential, India is capable of much higher levels of achievement?

**Complaints about staff of CGHS dispensary No. 73, Gurgaon**

2670. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been numerous complaints against the staff posted at various CGHS dispensaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any action has been taken on the complaints of misbehaviour against the employees posted at CGHS dispensary No. 73 (Gurgaon); and

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

**Deficiency of doctors in Rural Health Schemes**

2671. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy and action have been initiated by Government so far to activate all primary, community or public health centres of the country as envisaged in the National Rural Health Mission;

(b) whether there is any policy from Government to remove the crisis of doctors and staff in Rural Health Centres which is the prime cause of deteriorating rural health scenario today; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Regulation of clinical research**

2672. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
DR. KARAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether international scientific journals recently raised doubts on credibility of certain drug research work in India;

(b) whether his Ministry is taking steps to regulate clinical research;

(c) if so, whether Government have set up a Central Drug Standard Control Organisation under Drug Controller General of India for the purpose;

(d) whether Government have contacted a panel of regulators mostly eminent doctors and researchers to inspect research sites in their zones; and

(e) if so, to what extent these steps will be helpful to regulate clinical research?

**Physiotherapy units as per WHO norms**

2673. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms of the WHO for space requirements for providing gym and electrotherapy and other physiotherapy units in hospitals;

(b) what is the area provided to different units of physiotherapy of Safdarjung Hospital;

(c) whether area provided for different units of physiotherapy of Safdarjung Hospital is in conformity with WHO norms; and

(d) if not, the reasons for which WHO norms are not followed in this hospital?

**Medical colleges in Srinagar and Almora in Uttaranchal**

2674. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to set up medical colleges at Srinagar and Almora in Uttaranchal and had allocated funds in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government are aware that Uttaranchal Government had since shifted the location of the medical college from Almora to Rudrapur in violation of the decision taken by it;

(c) if so, whether the Central Government was taken into confidence before taking this decision; and

(d) by when Government would issue directions to State Government to set up the same in Almora to benefit the people living in remote hilly areas of the State?

**Millennium Development Goals**

2675. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India would be able to meet the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the health indicators of some States are equal to that of developed countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**People suffering from diarrhoea and malaria in Orissa**

†2676. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the untimely deaths of people living in the Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa due to diarrhoea and malaria;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether the main reasons behind such deaths is non availability of primary health system in the KBK districts for which National Human Rights Commission has also expressed its concern in their report; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by Government to avoid untimely deaths caused by these diseases?

**Ayurvedic research centres**

†2677. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

research centers, keeping in view the demand of Ayurvedic medicines in the country and abroad;

(b) if so, the number and places where they are situated; and

(c) whether Government are planning to give more incentives to them?

#### **Funds for health care**

†2678. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:  
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN  
PANY:

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

(a) the details of the funds sanctioned by Government for the family welfare programmes during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that the funds so sanctioned during the plan period are not sufficient for family welfare programmes; and

(c) if so, the decisions taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Malaria eradication**

†2679. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a national programme is being run to eradicate malaria;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made with regard to its effectiveness;

(c) whether it is a fact that a proposal was approved to provide mosquito repellent fog spray machines for increasing the impact of the said programme; and

(d) if so, whether the said proposal is being implemented?

#### **New equipment for Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery in Safdarjung Hospital**

2680. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been spending a huge amount of money on upgradation of the new equipments in Government hospitals like Safdarjung, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of such equipment alongwith the cost incurred thereon since 1990, year-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no electro-therapy equipments have been purchased for physiotherapy units of Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery of Safdarjung Hospital since, 1990;

(d) whether Government have any plan to procure electrotherapy equipments for the said units; and

(e) if so, by when the vital equipments are likely to be purchased?

#### **Drugs and Cosmetics Act**

2681. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan before his Ministry to bring unregulated devices under the purview of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act;

(b) whether bringing the above unregulated medical devices under the Act will reduce treatment cost;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) how his Ministry is going to ensure quality of medical devices that are imported into India; and

(d) how his Ministry can bring the medical devices under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act since they are technically non-pharmaceuticals and are only categorized as devices which don't fall under the purview of the existing regulations?

**Banned drugs of arthritis in circulation**

2682. SHRI JANARDHANA

POOJARY:

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that certain banned drugs for arthritis are openly sold in the market;

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

(c) whether such breach of Government's directives takes place because of the slackness of the enforcing agencies;

(d) if so, what measures are contemplated to strengthen the system;

(e) whether Government would consider cancelling the licence of the retailers found selling a banned drug and dispensing alternative drugs not prescribed by the physician; and

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

**Diagnostic facilities for cancer detection**

2683. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number

of cancer patients are on the rise in the country;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the existing diagnostic facilities in hospitals are inadequate to meet the increased requirements; and

(d) if so, the details of measures Government propose to take in this regard?

**DDA plot for CGHS dispensary No. 74, Janakpuri**

2684. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had been engaged in purchasing a DDA plot in Janakpuri for construction of a permanent building for CGHS dispensary No. 74 in the year 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the year 2003, Department of Health had issued advertisement inviting parties for renting their premises for housing this dispensary; and

(c) the objectives behind above efforts and the outcome thereof?

**AIIMS like institutions in J&K**

2685. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to construct some hospitals in various States on the lines of All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, whether any such hospital is likely to be constructed in J&K State;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any foundation stone was laid in J&K for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the status of construction of this hospital?

**CGHS dispensary in Vikaspuri and Mayur Vihar Phase-III**

2686. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of Central Government employees in Vikaspuri and Mayur Vihar Phase-III are facing tremendous difficulties due to non-availability of CGHS dispensaries in these areas;

(b) whether the employees have to travel to Janakpuri and Mayur Vihar Phase-I respectively for obtaining treatment and thus face great inconveniences in emergencies;

(c) if so, by when Government propose to sanction and operate CGHS dispensaries in these areas; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Hurdles in getting disability certificate from hospitals**

†2687. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that people get overaged while waiting anxiously for getting disability certificate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) time limit fixed for issuance of

disability certificate by the hospital authority;

(d) whether Government are also aware of the fact that people keep on visiting hospitals for months for getting disability certificate as sometimes doctors of the concerned department aren't available while people keep on wandering about due to lack of information; and

(e) whether Government are formulating any action plan for streamlining the process and if so, the comprehensive details thereof?

**Advertisement on drugs**

†2688. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unani or herbal medicines of different types, attracting the patients by advertisements these days, are licensed by Government;

(b) whether Government have found them suitable for the treatment of advertised diseases after making complete test of these medicines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action that has been taken by Government so far on sale and advertisement of such unauthorised medicines treating it as illegal?

**Charges for various tests in Government hospitals**

2689. SHRI A. VIJAYA-RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

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

(a) whether Government Medical

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Colleges including All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have introduced charges for many tests and medical investigations and surgical/operative procedures, aids and appliances which were free of cost earlier;

(b) whether it is a fact that AIIMS has also increased the charges for various tests;

(c) if so, the details of medical colleges that have introduced above fee as on today, State-wise and category-wise;

(d) whether steps will be taken to withdraw above charges; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same in detail?

#### **Deficiency in Russian medical education**

2690. SHRI AMAR SINGH:  
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of Medical Council of India after visiting Russia detected several deficiencies in the standard of medical education of the colleges where Indian students have been studying and recommended withdrawal of recognition of such institutions; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

#### **Golden triangle partnership for drug development**

2691. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to spend Rs. 120 crores in the next few years under the Golden Triangle Partnership of

the CSIR and the ICMR to work on scientific validation and drug development for Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy;

(b) if so, whether Government had prepared any roadmap for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government had identified the States for this purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the budget to be allocated to Andhra Pradesh during the current year?

#### **Setting up of laboratories to test Ayurvedic medicines**

†2692. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:  
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up laboratories to improve the quality of Ayurvedic medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent on setting up these laboratories by Government; and

(d) the places where these laboratories are likely to be set up?

#### **Leprosy eradication**

2693. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K.RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:  
SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the deadline

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to eliminate leprosy from the country is December, 2005, *i.e.* this month;

(b) the details of States that have been able to completely eliminate leprosy from their health map;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a meeting of the State Health Secretaries was held sometime back; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the meeting?

#### **Supply of Hepatitis B vaccine to Government Hospitals**

2694. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government regarding supply of Hepatitis-B injections to Government Hospitals;

(b) whether there is any special fund for this; and

(c) if so, the details of fund allocation, State-wise?

#### **Change of sex**

2695. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian medical science has been successful in sex change;

(b) if so, the number of persons who have changed their sex so far; and

(c) how far the female population in the country will be protected from the short fall?

#### **Rural electrification in Jharkhand**

†2696. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Jharkhand had assigned the work of rural electrification to Rail India Technical and Engineering Service Ltd. (RITES);

(b) whether RITES after getting the above assignment had allotted this work to some other private company to carry out the same;

(c) whether the Government of Jharkhand has recently cancelled that contract;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the status of that contract at present?

#### **Vacancies in Railways**

2697. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacant posts in Railways and its subordinate offices of the country as on 30th November, 2005, division-wise, post-wise and category-wise; and

(b) by when these vacant posts will be filled up?

#### **Dedicated freight corridor**

2698. SHRI B. J. PANDA:  
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the new 60,000 crores Railways' proposal for a dedicated freight corridor along the Golden Quadrilateral;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Cabinet has cleared the proposal; and

(c) the details of the projects that would be taken up in the Orissa State to speed up freight movement under the above project?

#### **Hubli-Ankola rail line**

2699. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Hubli-Ankola new railway line project in Karnataka;

(b) the amount, so far, spent;

(c) whether the Forest Department has given clearance for taking up of the project in the forests;

(d) if so, when the clearance was given; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to get the early clearance?

#### **Khanna rail accident**

2700. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since examined the findings and follow up action on the Khanna rail accident report; and

(b) whether all the affected persons/families of Khanna (Punjab) rail accident have got the compensation?

#### **Tatkal reservation scheme**

2701. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail passengers can now get confirmed railway

tickets under the Tatkal Reservation Scheme 72 hours in advance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under this scheme, a passenger has to purchase ticket upto the termination place of the train;

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

(e) whether any corrective measures are being taken in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Looting in North-East Express**

2702. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of four armed Government Railway Police (GRP) constables looted dozens of passengers in general compartments of the 2506-down North-East Express between Tundla and Kaurara stations near Etawah recently;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against culprits; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure fearless journey to all the North Eastern Railway passengers?

#### **Safety of local trains in Mumbai**

†2703. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether local trains running in Mumbai are safe;

(b) if not, whether Government are working on any new plan to make them better and safe; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what are the plans and by when they are likely to be completed?

**Doubling of railway line in Tamil Nadu**

2704. SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make single railway line into double railway line in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the names of single railway lines which have been converted into double railway line during the current financial year?

**High Speed trains**

2705. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in regard to high speed trains between Delhi and Chennai and between other major cities of the country, line-wise, so as to reduce the journey time considerably;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any assistance of Japan and France has been sought in this regard to utilize their expertise in successfully running high speed trains;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**CNG based green trains**

†2706. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to run CNG based green trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this plan is only for metropolitan cities;

(d) if so, the names of those cities; and

(e) to what extent Government have been successful in giving an actual shape to this project?

**Purchase of Yossarian Electro Diesel Engine from Germany**

2707. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has placed any order for purchase of Yossarian Electro Diesel Engine from Germany;

(b) if so, the details of number of engines and the time schedule for inducting the same in trial runs and other details;

(c) whether his Ministry is aware that the Tom Wolfe Committee Report in Germany has halted its induction into the Euro Rail System;

(d) whether his Ministry has conducted any feasibility study in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Steps to prevent rail accidents**

2708. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to avoid rail accidents in the country;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government propose to adopt high-tech instruments to avoid increasing rail accidents;

(c) if so, the total estimated cost of the project and the total area of the rail line to be covered; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to complete the project?

#### **Mumbai Urban Transport Project**

2709. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of the cost of the Mumbai Urban Transport Project is to be borne by the Central Government;

(b) the details of the Central components and the amount that has already been paid;

(c) the progress made therein and by when the balance amount would be paid;

(d) the entitlement of the State for Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project, a supplement to Mumbai Urban Transport Project, under National Urban Renewal Mission from the Centre;

(e) whether the same has been approved;

(f) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(g) how much has already been paid?

#### **New railway lines in NER**

2710. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for the new

railway lines which have been included for survey work in the current Railway Budget for 2005-06 in NER; and

(b) the details of time-frame fixed to complete survey work of the said new railway lines?

#### **Upgradation of railway stations in Andhra Pradesh**

2711. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway stations taken up in the Tenth Plan for upgradation in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the present status of upgradation work in the above stations;

(c) the amount sanctioned in the first three years of the Tenth Plan for this purpose to the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of track in Kilometers upgraded as a part of modernization in the Tenth Plan in Andhra Pradesh?

#### **Railway projects in Assam**

2712. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects in the country particularly in the State of Assam completed during the last three years;

(b) the total funds allotted and spent on these projects;

(c) the details of new rail projects formulated and to be taken up for the development of Guwahati station during the current year; and

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

**Freight Corridor Project**

2713. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has agreed to extend a loan of Rs. 18,700 crores to India for Freight Corridor Project;

(b) if so, the terms of the loan; and

(c) the details of the freight corridor proposed to be constructed with the help of the loan, the period required for its completion and by when it would become operational?

**Broad gauge conversion of Gandhinagar-Palanpur rail line**

2714. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when conversion of metre gauge to broad gauge work has started between Gandhinagar and Palanpur in Western Railway;

(b) the stipulated period in which this work was to be completed;

(c) the other investing partners in this work; and

(d) how much amount is allocated for this work and how much has been spent by 31st October, 2005?

**Cyber cafes at major stations**

2715. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rail Tel proposes to set up cyber cafes in major stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and locations thereof?

**Smoking in trains**

2716. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in boggies of train smoking is not allowed but passengers are always smoking in trains;

(b) if so, the number of passengers caught smoking in boggies and fined during the last one year, till date and the action taken against them; and

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

**Electrification of Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur rail line**

†2717. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether electrification of Jaipur Sawai Madhopur rail line is under consideration;

(b) if so, by when the work would commence and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the transport capacity of railway would get increased as a results thereof?

**'Rain Alert' System**

2718. SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Rain Alert' system has been introduced in all the trains passing through Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether this proposal has also been introduced in the other parts of the country;

(d) by when it is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Promotion to outstanding sportspersons**

2719. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has not granted promotion or even increment to its outstanding sportsmen and sportswomen;

(b) if so, the details of cases, pending with his Ministry;

(c) the reasons for delay; and

(d) the steps taken to grant promotions or increments to the outstanding sportspersons serving the Railways?

**Mumbai Urban Transport Project**

2720. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS  
BAL APTE:  
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:  
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra had initiated a Mumbai Urban Transport Project for improvement of traffic and transportation conditions in Mumbai with the help of World Bank aid;

(b) if so, the details of the infrastructure including the rail component to be created and improved, the cost thereof, how the cost is to be shared and the nature and extent of World Bank and Central assistance proposed or secured for the purpose; and

(c) what stages of approval/clearance the matter has been through and the schedule for implementation thereof?

**Railway track in Maharashtra**

2721. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length and the details of new railway tracks added in Maharashtra during the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans, so far;

(b) the length and details of the railway tracks replaced and upgraded to broad gauge during the period; and

(c) the length of new railway lines to be added and replaced in Maharashtra during rest of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

**World Bank fund for long term investment and development plan**

2722. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways has approached the World Bank for a \$150 million (Rs. 680 crores) assistance package to fund its long term investment and development plan;

(b) if so, the details of the above said plan; and

(c) the status of World Bank's approval for the funding?

**Introduction of unigauge in railway**

2723. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce uni-gauge in railway system;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number

of accidents in metre gauge (MG) section is higher than broad gauge (BG) section;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total number of train accidents in the last five years, cause-wise?

#### **Generation of revenue by advertisements on rail tickets**

2724. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has a proposal of allowing advertisements on rail tickets to generate revenue which can then be utilized for providing facilities to passengers;

(b) what is the total revenue that his Ministry is got through advertisement during the last 10 years, year-wise and zone-wise; and

(c) whether the revenue so generated will go into general pool of account or whether there is any other pool where all the money is collected?

#### **Rail link with Myanmar**

†2725. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:  
SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:  
SHRI PYARELAL  
KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that talks have been held by Government with Myanmar regarding construction on rail contact route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether decision has been taken for constructing rail contact route between the two countries; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be made on this projects?

#### **Rail Neer Plants**

2726. SHRI B. J. PANDA:  
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up new Rail Neer plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of location of the existing plants in the country;

(d) whether such a plant is also proposed to be set up in the backward poverty stricken Orissa State to improve its economy; and

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

#### **Over-utilization of Ahmedabad-Mumbai rail line**

2727. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing capacity of Ahmedabad-Mumbai Railway line has been over utilized;

(b) whether his Ministry is considering augmentation of the capacity of this line by providing an additional track; and

(c) if so, by when this project would be taken up?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Incremental revenue for Railways by overloading of wagons**

2728. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incremental revenue of more than Rs. 2,700 crores has materialized for Railways by carrying an extra 10 metric tonnes of freight on each wagon;

(b) whether the Commission of Railway Safety has questioned this overloading of wagons on the ground that century old bridges and ill-maintained tracks would not permit such a move; and

(c) whether the Railways has secured the required safety and technical clearance from RDSO and Commission of Railway safety before launching the overload drive?

**Reservation facility for district headquarters without rail services**

†2729. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the district headquarters where rail services are yet to reach;

(b) the district headquarters out of the above where reservation facility has been made available by 31st October, 2005;

(c) whether Government have decided to provide reservation facility in all such districts where rail services are yet to reach; and

(d) reasons for not providing the reservation facility in Jashpur Nagar (Chhattisgarh) so far along with the details thereof?

**Profits by NMDC**

†2730. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the net profit earned by NMDC in the last three years;

(b) the turn over of NMDC in the last three years with respect to mining of iron ore and share of Chhattisgarh in it;

(c) the amount of corporate tax and dividend paid by NMDC to Government of India in the last 3 years; and

(d) the details of royalty paid by the NMDC during above period separately to the Government of Chhattisgarh?

**Iron-ore export**

2731. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's iron ore production during 2004 was around 142 million tonnes against domestic demand of 56 million tonnes;

(b) whether the RK Dang Committee has recommended that iron ore exports should be tapered off in a span of ten years from now;

(c) whether steel industry is pitching for a total and immediate ban on iron ore exports, while the ore export lobby wants exports to continue indefinitely; and

(d) whether an abrupt ban on iron ore export would adversely affect the ore mining industry in Karnataka and Goa with a lot of investments in ports and mines and the machinery would become idle?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 10th December, 2005*  
*Agrahayana 19, 1927 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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