

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the March 17, 2005/Phalgun 26, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 155

REGP in Uttar Pradesh

1696. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established Agro and Rural Industries in Uttar Pradesh under the Rural Employment Generation Programme during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the funds that have been allocated for this purpose and the steps taken so far to implement this programme?

Women in rural industries

†1697. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any headway for development and empowerment of women in the field of rural industries; and

(b) whether Government have for the first time conducted training programmes on the various issues like project management, WTO, gender issue etc. for enhancement of efficiency and strengthening in the field of implementation?

PMRY in Madhya Pradesh

†1698. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan disbursed by the banks under PMRY in Madhya Pradesh since 1999-2000 till date, bank-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether any irregularities have been found in disbursement of loans;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government against defaulters?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Revamping of KVIC

1699. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to revamp the KVIC;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether any expert committee had been appointed in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Disposal of radioactive wastes

1700. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that management and disposal of long-life radioactive wastes, has been a technical and political problem the world over;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Energy Research Group of Reliance Industries in their report has recommended certain solutions for safe storage of nuclear waste; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with action plan of Government to address the issue?

Titanium deposit left by Tsunami on Tamil Nadu beaches

1701. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the December 26, Tsunami has left behind millions of tonnes of Titanium Ore on the beaches of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is also a fact that known global resources of the ore are in the range

of 285 million tonnes and Titanium is among the most sought after metals in the world; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to use the newly added Titanium on the beaches of Tamil Nadu?

Reliance Infocom share episode

†1702. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to conduct an inquiry into Reliance Infocom 'Share Episode' by some agency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the person/companies connected with the share episode?

Illegal rerouting of calls

1703. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for BSNL not pursuing ADC payable for ILD calls terminating on mobile networks for which it should receive an ADC;

(b) whether BSNL is pursuing the illegal rerouting of calls since 1st May, 2003 or for a shorter period of time;

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

(d) whether the DoT believe, according to the TRAI Gray Market Committee Report of 13th August, 2003, that in addition to national security and loss to exchequer revenue, illegal rerouting of calls takes away traffic from licensed operators, thus adversely affect competition?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Quality of MTNL and BSNL mobile services

†1704. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that MTNL and BSNL mobile services are lagging behind when compared to mobile services of other private companies from quality point of view;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that under both the above mentioned mobile services, though one gets roaming facility yet lack of clear-cut voice, frequent call-drops and network problem has become a common feature; and

(c) the details of the plan devised by Government to make the mobile services better than that of other companies alongwith the date of its implementation?

Expansion of communication sector in rural areas

1705. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for telephone and post office facilities is increasing in the rural areas in view of the technological advancement in these fields;

(b) if so, the present situation in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh in the above fields;

(c) whether no improvement has been made in these fields in the rural areas despite the present expansion in the communication sector; and

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

Telecom services in rural areas

1706. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been taken to boost telecom services in the rural areas for the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of the development in the rural areas; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not initiating efforts in this direction?

Common charter of telecom services

1707. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had finalised a common charter of telecom services to provide self regulation by phone companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the charter would be reviewed and upgraded at regular intervals; and

(d) whether the phone companies had given their consent to the charter being brought in by TRAI?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Accessibility of 197 to cell phone users

1708. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 197, the directory enquiry number of MTNL and BSNL, is inaccessible to cellular phones;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that non-access to 197 affects the connectivity of MTNL and BSNL subscribers all over the country;

(c) whether Government would consider making 197 accessible to all phone users in the country;

(d) the reasons for not giving this service to the entire nation;

(e) whether in the long-term such a non-connectivity affects the commercial viability of MTNL and BSNL; and

(f) the steps proposed to rectify this anomaly?

Mobile services in Assam

1709. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that mobile services are not satisfactorily functioning in Cachar district of Assam, particularly in Silchar;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to achieve the satisfactory performance level in mobile services;

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

(d) whether it is also a fact that prepaid card of BSNL is not available in Assam, more particularly in Cachar district; and

(e) whether any steps are being taken to overcome sufferings of the customers for non availability of pre-paid cards?

Demand of IT professionals

1710. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demand for Indian IT professionals in the global market has come down in the recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would assess the requirement of IT professionals in India and abroad on annual basis so as to warn universities and institutes that turn out a large number of IT degree holders each year to avoid producing surplus IT professionals?

Revision of monthly rents of MTNL and BSNL

1711. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering upward revision of the monthly rental of MTNL and BSNL fixed line telephones, increasing call charges and reduction of free calls; and

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

**Development of basic infrastructure
in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and
Chhattisgarh**

†1712. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of India's share in the global I.T. business alongwith the target thereof in future;

(b) whether it is a fact that challenges in this sector have tremendously increased;

(c) if so, the details of the efforts being made to erect a broad framework of basic infrastructure in the country in view of the said challenges, State-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government's attitude in the development of basic infrastructure like I.T. park in each State has been indifferent; and

(e) if not, the details of the said efforts in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh?

Impact on IT boom

1713. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Computer Programme Patenting in terms of the Indian Patent Act introduced by a recent ordinance permitting all computer programmes to be patented is likely to hit IT boom in India;

(b) whether Government have examined the implications of the ordinance as the Software patenting is likely to kill innovations by leaving small firms or software developer liable for patent infringement;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Reduction of investment in telephone
projects**

†1714. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is considering to reduce its investment in telephone projects for rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether by reducing investment, rural telephone is likely to be costly; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

**Funds allocated for communication
services in Uttar Pradesh**

1715. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone exchanges functioning at present in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of telephone exchanges proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges in the State; and

(c) the details of financial allocation made by Government in this regard during the current Budget?

**Provision of telephones in the villages
of Uttaranchal**

†1716. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages/revenue

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

villages likely to be provided with rural telephone facility in the State of Uttaranchal by the end of this year;

(b) whether any time schedule has been fixed to provide telephone to cent per cent villages of this State; and

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

Telephone complaints registered with DET/SDO/GM in Bihar

†1717. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural telephone exchange particularly in Vithali under Darbhanga in Bihar has no complaint book to register the complaints regarding non-functioning of telephones and due to absence of employees, people register their complaints direct to DET/SDO/GM;

(b) the number of such complaints registered with higher officer during the last one year;

(c) whether it is a fact that officer has been informed many times from Delhi and Patna in this regard; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating to check the recurrence of said incident and the details thereof?

Proposal to increase the rate of charges by BSNL

†1718. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL propose to increase the rate of charges of telephone calls in order to make up its losses;

(b) if so, how far it is justified to overburden the consumers instead of making efforts to increase the number of calls; and

(c) the steps taken by BSNL to reduce the losses alongwith the amount of the losses reduced?

Map-India, 2005, IT Conference

1719. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recently hosted Map-India, 2005, geographical information technology conference;

(b) if so, the details of salient issues discussed and important observations made by the experts at the meet; and

(c) the suggestions, if any, made in the meet to further add to our economic boom?

Provision of telephones in the villages of Chhattisgarh

†1720. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facilities have been provided in all the villages of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if not, the number of villages of the State which are devoid of telephone facilities, district-wise;

(c) whether Government have fixed any time-limit for providing telephone facilities in each village of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Development of telecom services in
Tamil Nadu**

1721. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the development work planned to be executed in the field of telecommunications and posts in Tamil Nadu during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) by when, these works are likely to be completed?

Reversion of packers to peons

1722. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the posts of the packers in the various administrative and subordinate offices in the postal department have been downgraded to those of peons (D category) with reduced scale of pay;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that existing incumbents in the category of packers do not suffer a loss of emoluments as a result of this reduction in rank?

**Embezzlement cases occurred in post
offices of Chhattisgarh and Madhya
Pradesh**

†1723. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of embezzlement, fraud and fraudulent withdrawal from the post-offices located in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh that have occurred;

(b) the amount of money lost therein;

(c) the number of officers and employees alongwith their names, found involved in these cases; and

(d) the details of the action taken against them?

Telephone connections in villages

†1724. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken it seriously to provide telephone connections in the villages following a declaration to that effect by the private basic telephone provider companies; and

(b) if so, the details of basic telephone provider companies?

**Connection of villages through
Common Service Centres**

1725. SHRIMATISYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one lakh villages would be connected through the Common Service Centre (CSC) by 2007 as recommended by Eighth National Conference on E-governance;

(b) if so, the number of villages identified in Assam and the other North Eastern States to be connected through the Common Service Centre; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps being taken to implement effective usage of IT and E-governance?

Expansion plan in IT sector

1726. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons (both professionals and support staff) employed in expanding BPO and IT sector in the year 2004 due to major investment plans and consolidation efforts in these sectors;

(b) the growth targets in terms of investment during 2004; and

(c) how much growth is anticipated during the year 2005 due to the emergence of pro-BPO regime in US elections?

Recycling of e-waste

1727. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MAIT (the association of IT hardware makers) has assessed generation of electronic waste worth Rs. 7000 crore annually in India;

(b) whether e-waste contains toxic substances like lead, cadmium, mercury and non bio-degradable plastic posing health hazards;

(c) whether more than 60 per cent e-waste collected for recycling in the West and other developing countries is sent to countries in Asia including India where recycling is cheaper; and

(d) if so, Government's comments thereon?

Computerisation of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly

1728. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Legislators of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Central Government to computerise the State Assembly;

(b) whether Government have considered their request and studied the economic feasibility of computerisation of the entire Assembly; and

(c) if so, the progress in this regard?

Internet sharing

1729. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts are being made to introduce Internet sharing which is a highly advanced method of digital media in a big way in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase of tariff for fixed line calls

1730. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has increased the tariffs for fixed line calls between Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Mumbai subscribers will also have to pay a higher fee for calls made to satellite towns of Thane and Navi Mumbai;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for which these tariffs have been increased?

Internet- telephony for domestic and long distance calls

1731. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to allow Internet-telephony for domestic local and long-distance calls in near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Salient features of Jobs for America Act

1732. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US introduced the Jobs for America Act recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed Act; and

(c) in what manner it would help/affect the Indian IT professionals who wish to go to USA?

MoU between India and Italy

1733. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Italy have signed a set of 8 MoUs for co-operation in various areas of science and technology including early warning of disasters and land mapping for agriculture;

(b) if so, whether MoU envisages among other things, development of web-enabled technologies for small and medium scale enterprises, establishment of research hubs on bio-informatics neuro informatics and grid technologies and setting up of a joint laboratory on micro-electronic-mechanical systems; and

(c) if so, by what time these agreements are likely to be implemented and to what extent it would be beneficial for India?

Indo-Afghan relations

1734. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited Afghanistan in the month of February and had discussions with Afghanistan President and also other leaders during his visit;

(b) if so, whether India has agreed to provide more aid to Afghanistan during 2005-06;

(c) if so, the agreements reached between the two countries;

(d) by what time these agreements are likely to be implemented; and

(e) whether Afghans are looking in a capacity building and hoping to use India as a training ground for their teachers, doctors and administrators?

Revalidation of diplomate passports

1735. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether issue/revalidation of Official/Diplomatic Passport and Visa Note to Secretaries to Government of India from Ministry of Science and Technology has been done after they obtained political clearance and clearance of Screening Committee of Secretaries or Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof including countries visited, countries transited and purpose and duration of visit for the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) if so, whether above visits were private or official; and

(d) if not, the details of issue/revalidation of Official/Diplomatic Passport and Visa Note to above Secretaries without approval of Screening Committee of Secretaries or Prime Minister for the last three years?

India's stand after Tsunami

1736. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government in the after-math of the Tsunami disaster in the South Asia region to establish its position as a benefactor in the region and to prevent outside powers to get foothold in India's backyard;

(b) the expenditure involved; and

(c) the powers involved in the process and the nature and extent of the aid given by each outside power to each Tsunami affected country?

Setback due to postponement of SAARC Summit

1737. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAARC relations had a setback due to the postponement of Dhaka meet 2005; and

(b) if not, whether the Indian diplomacy has been utilized to strengthen the unity among the people to people relationship of Nepal and Bangladesh with India?

Confidence building measures between India and Pakistan

1738. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had submitted a 72 point agenda to Pakistan for confidence building in October 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Pak response thereto;

(c) whether the same was later pared down to a 30 point agenda;

(d) if so, the details of the pruned down agenda; and

(e) the progress so far made in respect thereof?

Bilateral strategic talks with China

†1739. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues raised by Government in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

bilateral strategic talks held with China by India;

(b) whether Government have lodged an objection on the information with regard to the military activities being carried out by China on Indian border;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not raising the said important issue in the said talks?

Setting up of International Criminal Court

1740. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has ratified the treaty of setting up of International Criminal Court to try people accused of violating international law;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not ratifying the setting of International Criminal Court by India?

Running of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service without visa and passport

†1741. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
SHRI T.S. BAJWA:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India had agreed to start Srinagar-

Muzaffarabad bus service across LoC from 7th of April;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this journey would require no passport and visa;

(c) if so, the view point of the Government behind such a decision;

(d) the aspects which were kept in mind by the Government before taking such a decision;

(e) whether Government have also taken it into consideration that this system can be misused; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to tackle any such possible situation?

Conditions imposed by Pakistan for new CBMs

1742. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has taken a position that no new Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) will be taken unless the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service is started without passports and visa; and

(b) if so, Government's response in this regard?

Shortage of staff in Visa Division

1743. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Visa Division employees were working even on holidays despite facing severe staff shortage with the workload increasing manifold;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by Government to ease the workload of the employees?

Bi-lingual entries in passports

†1744. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entries in the passports being issued in the country are being made in Hindi or Bi-lingually; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Suchetgarh-Siyalkot bus service

1745. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 41 given in Rajya Sabha on 3rd March, 2005 and state:

(a) if so, whether Government would consider opening of Suchetgarh (in R.S. Pura)-Siyalkot bus service involving 11 Kms. from border to meet the long pressing demand of people on both sides;

(b) if so, by when this bus service is likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Visit of Secretaries abroad on diplomatic passport

1746. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Secretaries to Government of India from Scientific Departments are eligible to visit abroad on diplomatic passport while visiting abroad as per invitation received by the officer in his personal capacity and after leave sanctioned by the competent authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of diplomatic passport allowed to be used by the Secretaries to Government of India from Ministry of Science and Technology for the last three years including the country visited and the purpose of visit, year-wise and category-wise?

Visit of US Defence Secretary

1747. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US Defence Secretary Ronald Rumsfeld arrived suddenly in India on 8th February, 2004;

(b) if so, what was the agenda of his visit; and

(c) the outcome of his visit?

Indo-Pak composite dialogue

†1748. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during Indo-Pak Secretary level talks on composite dialogue held on 27-28 December, 2004 in Delhi had discussed the progress made and reviews carried out so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the programme formulated to continue this talk?

Deputation for Haj services

†1749. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Departments from which employees besides the employees of the Central Government were deputed for the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

service of the Haj pilgrims during the year 2005;

(b) the list containing the names of the employees along with the names of the respective Departments to which they belong, which were sent on deputation to the Haj during the year 2005;

(c) whether, in the past, this list was used to be kept at the reception counter of the Ministry, for the perusal of the applicants; and

(d) if so, the name of the person on whose orders such a transparent system was discontinued together with the reasons therefor?

Passports under Tatkal Scheme

1750. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications received, on an average, per day at Bangalore Passport Office under Tatkal Scheme;

(b) the procedure for obtaining passports under Tatkal Scheme;

(c) if so, the average number of days taken to issue passports under Tatkal Scheme;

(d) whether Government are aware that at Bangalore Passport Office, there is no separate counter for Tatkal Scheme and after applying under general category, it has to be converted under Tatkal Scheme; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure opening of separate counters and expedite the process under Tatkal Scheme at Bangalore Passport Office?

Authentication of certificates

1751. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians going to certain countries for job opportunities have to get their certificates authenticated by Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also have such stipulation for people coming from these countries to India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Indian peacekeeping forces under UN aegis

1752. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has on the request of United Nations, agreed to increase the strength of its peacekeeping force under UN aegis to 8,000 troops;

(b) if so, presently in which countries our peacekeeping troops are deployed;

(c) the number of casualties, if any, Indian troops suffered during the last five years when serving as UNO peacekeeping forces in different parts of the world; and

(d) whether our troops are adequately compensated for this hazardous nature of duties?

Release of Indo-Pak prisoners

†1753. SHRIMATI KUM KUMRAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to release each other's

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

prisoners following the Indo-Pak Secretary level talks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of the steps taken by Government to release adolescent prisons below sixteen years who crossed over the border by mistake?

Achievement of SAARC

1754. SHRI MURLIDEORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have opted out of the SAARC summit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether countries of South Asia do not have a common security doctrine and perceive the SAARC as a vehicle to countervail India;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereon and the steps taken to do this manoeuvring; and

(e) how for the purpose of setting up this organisation has been achieved?

Meeting of Nepalese King with Indian envoy

1755. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that King Gyanendra of Nepal, who has recently seized direct control of Nepal, has met envoys of key nations including India and U.S.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the nature of talk he had with our envoy in Kathmandu;

(c) whether Government have decided

to stop military aid to Nepal after the recent events; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of skilled labour

†1756. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the need of skilled labours is being felt in certain industries after liberalisation;

(b) if so, the names of these industries and the estimated shortage of skilled labour in each of them;

(c) whether it is also a fact that priority should be given to encourage their health, education and industrial training instead of making a law to increase their efficiency; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

Employment programme for urban areas

1757. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government have agreed to launch a Rs. 10,000 crore employment programme for urban areas in the budget;

(b) whether the Chairman of the National Commission of Enterprise in unorganized sector met the Prime Minister and Finance Minister to brief them on the proposal;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Commission is also reviving existing labour laws including contract act to make them more employment friendly;

(d) if so, whether this scheme has also been included in budget 2005-06; and

(e) if so, by when this scheme is likely to be started in the country?

Introduction of special labour laws

1758. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

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

(a) whether Government intend to introduce special labour laws for economic zones, export oriented units, small scale units and rural industries separately;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps Government plan to improve the labour laws so that these employment oriented units can complete with large units in the country?

Amendment in labour laws

1759. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

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

(a) whether Government plan to amend the labour laws in the view of the present liberalization; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Annual rate of increase among unemployed persons

†1760. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly above four crore unemployed persons were registered in various employment exchanges of the country by the end of 2004;

(b) if not, the actual number in this regard;

(c) whether any estimate has been made by Government to find out the annual rate of increase in the number of unemployed persons in the country;

(d) if so, what was the increase rate during the last three years; and

(e) the estimated number of unemployed persons in the country by the end of year 2009 alongwith the rate of increase in the next five years?

Unemployment allowance

1761. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment in the rural and urban areas is on the increase;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed youths in the rural and urban areas during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise;

(c) whether Government are considering to grant unemployment allowance to unemployed youth awaiting employment for more than three years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the action taken to generate more and more employment opportunities in both urban and rural areas?

Introduction of Private Security Guards Bill

†1762. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce "Private Security Guards Bill" for the purpose of putting a check on the Private Security Agencies operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the efforts being made by Government to save lacks of security guards working in these private agencies from the exploitation and also for the welfare of the same; and

(d) the number of agencies registered as per the official figures and the number of security guards in the country shown as working?

Linking of EPF with PPF

1763. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that EPF Board has considered the issue of linking EPF with PPF in its meeting held on last month;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendation of the EPF Board;

(c) the rate of interest for EPF and PPF ratified by the Board; and

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

Child bonded labour

†1764. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bonded labourers got freed in the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the children were bonded immediately after they were set free; and

(c) if so, the number of such cases which have come to light together with the reasons therefor and the action being taken against the guilty?

Optimizing of EPFO investments

1765. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the EPFO has appointed a Mumbai-based investment consultant to suggest methods for optimizing the EPFO investment;

(b) whether Government had considered, consultant bid evaluation, the availability of expertise on investment matters, within Government like RBI, SEBI etc. and other financial institutions; and

(c) if so, whether Government discovered that it did not have the required expertise in-house?

Enterprises in unorganised/informal sector

1766. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of setting up of National Commission to suggest measures to promote enterprises in the unorganized and informal sectors; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the mandate proposed to be given to the Commission?

Increase in employment opportunities

†1767. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than three crores and sixty lakh of educated youth are unemployed due to less employment opportunities for youth in organised and public sector despite continuous boom in the economy of the country after liberalization;

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

(c) the steps being taken for increasing employment opportunities in the next three years?

Corruption in EPF

1768. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the corruption and mismanagement in the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, whether a group of public representatives have met with him in this connection;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government after such meeting?

Percentage of child labour

†1769. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number

of child labourers has been constantly increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the percentage of child labourers in the country at present; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to reduce child labour?

Labour reforms

1770. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government share the perception that labour sector is crying for reforms;

(b) if so, the steps being contemplated in regard to the labour reforms;

(c) whether while carrying out such reforms Government would keep in view the genuine problems of labour and ensure that their interests and welfare are not comprised in any way; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Employment exchanges in Assam

†1771. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the people in each Employment Exchange in State of Assam who have got employment as on 31st Januray, 2005, district-wise; and

(b) the number of unemployed people who have been provided employment through the Employment Exchanges in the State during the last three years, Employment Exchange-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Unemployed unskilled labourers

1772. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey of unemployed unskilled labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the unskilled labourers who form bulk of unemployed people as a result of which they are in misery; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to help the unskilled labourers who are unemployed?

Constitutional right for education and employment

†1773. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to making education and employment a constitutional right under its consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Employment exchanges

1774. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Employment Exchanges in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the ratio of Employment Exchange and population in each State?

Laws banning child labour

1775. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether existing laws banning child labour in health hazard-prone industries are not being enforced by States;

(b) the number of cases initiated against employers engaging child labour in violation of existing laws for the year 2003-04, State-wise; and

(c) whether puffed rice factories in Karnataka have been engaging child labour in violation of laws and if so, the details thereof?

Social Security Scheme for labourers

†1776. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to make a law for health facilities and social security scheme for the labours in unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Into-US Indus project

1777. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and USA, in co-operation with the ILO, has launched a US \$ 40 million Indo-US Indus project very recently;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the project;

(c) the details of hazardous industries

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

that are going to be covered under this project; and

(d) the details of States that are going to be covered under this project?

Social security cover to workers

1778. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has recommended for introduction of a universal scheme for providing social security cover to all workers engaged in the informal and unorganized sectors; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendation?

Invention of Tsunami Warning System

1779. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Experts have invented a Tsunami Warning System which would be operational in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it would start working?

Tsunami Warning System in Indian Ocean

1780. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are thinking of setting up of

Tsunami Warning System in the Indian Ocean;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the United Nations has come forward to help establish Tsunami Warning System in the Indian Ocean;

(c) in what way, the United Nations would co-ordinate the setting up of Tsunami Warning System in the Indian Ocean;

(d) whether any action plan has been prepared by the Ministry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas

1781. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to organise Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas once in two years in place of holding it annually as is done presently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the other events that Government plans to organise specifically for PIOs and NRIs?

Illegal sending of persons abroad

†1782. PROF. R. B. S. VARMA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken action against agents involved in sending persons abroad illegally;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of complaints received by Government against such agents during the last three years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Emigration Amendment

1783. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider to initiate any effective measures against the involvement of fake recruiting agencies to avoid exploitation of women belong to poor families in Kerala seeking employment in Gulf countries;

(b) whether Government would consider to introduce any Emigration Amendment to do away with such exploitation and malpractices; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Reduction in public holidays

1784. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of reducing public holidays observed by the Central Government;

(b) how many public holidays, including Saturday-Sundays are to be observed during 2005 calendar year;

(c) what is the estimated loss to Government Business-Industry-Economic activity by observing one day holiday by the Central Government; and

(d) whether any representation is received from business community including exporters to reduce holidays?

Reservation for physically handicapped persons

1785. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reserve 3 per cent non-technical Group 'A' and 'B' Civil Services posts to physically handicapped persons in the country;

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

(c) the details of Group 'A' posts in the IAS opened to all three categories of disability *i.e.*, locomotors disability, hearing and visual impairment; and

(d) the details of physically handicapped people appointed in IAS for the last five years under the above categories?

Raids by CBI

1786. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI conducted raids on the premises of various Government and public sector officers suspected of having disproportionate assets during 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the material evidence collected in raids;

(c) whether charges against the alleged persons have been framed; and

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

Vacancy in Central Government Services

†1787. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many vacant posts in Central Government Services are yet to be filled up;

(b) if so, by when the said posts would be filled up to reduce unemployment to some extent;

(c) whether Government propose to relax maximum age limit for joining Central Government Services so that those unemployed youths who have crossed the age limit for joining Government service would get a chance for the same; and

(d) the details thereof?

IAS and IPS posts for Chhattisgarh

†1788. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of IAS and IPS officers sanctioned for Chhattisgarh after the formation of new State;

(b) the number of posts of officers filled and the number of posts lying vacant out of them;

(c) the reasons for not giving these officers in full number for the State; and

(d) the details of the action being taken for removing this shortfall?

Posts reserved for SCs/STs

†1789. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Personnel has centralised the list of officials of Central Secretariat Services Cadre;

(b) if so, the Department-wise, post-wise and category-wise (Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes) details of the posts sanctioned, vacant and filled up; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the posts reserved in various departments have not been filled up so far; if so, by when these posts would be filled up and to what extent the seniority list would be covered according to category and posts; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that in the case of promotion on the reserved posts, the basis of roster point is taken into consideration; if so, the details of the latest position in this regard?

Extention to Secretaries

1790. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether secretaries to Government are eligible to get extension in service after the age of superannuation;

(b) if so, the details including the secretaries who were granted extension after the age of superannuation during last three years, year-wise, category-wise;

(c) the reasons and the procedures laid down for granting extension after superannuation and the period they held the post of secretary before extension; and

(d) the details of rules and procedures for granting extension to Government employees including secretaries as on date?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Monitoring of schemes

1791. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister Office is keeping tab or monitoring the schemes sponsored by Ministries in various States;

(b) if so, the details of schemes which are being implemented as per schedule; and

(c) if not, the efforts to be taken to monitor such schemes in PMO?

Increase in employment opportunities

1792. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increased rate of growth and economic development has no corresponding increase of jobs in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase job opportunities for rural and semi-urban areas of the country; and

(c) the rate of increase in employment during 1991-2000 and 2001-04 in organised sector and unorganised sector?

Increase in consumer prices

†1793. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the gap between annual growth rate and annual increase in consumer price index in the country during the current financial year as on date;

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

(c) the estimate regarding the likely impact on the economy of the country due to this gap?

Implementation of Central Schemes

†1794. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for effective implementation of the schemes financed by the Central Government on the basis of suggestions given by the National Advisory Council;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by National Advisory Council; and

(c) the details of the decisions taken on the basis of these recommendations till date?

Infrastructure development in the country

1795. SHRI S. P. M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to divert farm subsidies to infrastructure development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the serious consequences that would arise out of this move against farmers; and

(d) if so, the assessment of Government?

Transfer of funds to States

1796. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stipulated that henceforth there should be no transfer of funds including Plan assistance, in the form of loans from the Centre to the States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Special grant to Tamil Nadu

†1797. PROF. R. B. S. VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has requested the Central Government for special grants;

(b) if so, the head from which this grant was given;

(c) whether Government have issued instructions to Tamil Nadu Government with regard to use of allocated amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Employment in North-Eastern States

1798. SHRIMATILAL SARKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the potentials of employment generation in different sectors have been sorted out by the Planning Commission;

(b) whether the State Governments have been given instructions to this effect;

(c) the sectors identified for employment generation in the North-Eastern States;

(d) whether Government have any policy to give priority to the youths of the North-Eastern States in respect of employment in the public sector in consideration of their isolation; and

(e) the details of the policy of Government?

People below poverty line

†1799. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 41.4 crore people in India are living under the below poverty line as per a report of the World Bank; and

(b) if so, the action plan with Government to redress this problem alongwith details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**People living below poverty line in
Uttar Pradesh**

†1800. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people living below the poverty line in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan; and

(b) the details of the families which were brought above the poverty line in the last three years after the efforts made by Government, State-wise?

Backward districts in Karnataka

1801. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently declared four districts in Karnataka as the most backward districts in the State;

(b) if so, the criteria for choosing only these districts;

(c) the details of all the additional allocations, assistance and relief from Government for these districts; and

(d) the long term plans towards improving the conditions?

**Opportunities for the Scientists of
Indian origin**

1802. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA:
SHRI C. PERUMAL:

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

(a) whether Ministry had prepared a scheme to provide more opportunities to Scientists and Technologists of Indian origin

desirous of working on short-term projects in India;

(b) if so, whether any concrete schemes in this regard have been worked out by which it would be able to spend 2-12 weeks in an Indian laboratory and work on projects;

(c) if so, the other steps that Government propose to take to provide more opportunities for the Scientists of Indian origin in the country; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Scientists and Technologists of Indian origin settled in different countries had suggested that India should pick and choose the research areas according to its own socio-economic needs?

New Disaster Warning System

1803. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring in a new disaster warning system in place of the existing one; and

(b) if so, the kind of deficiencies that were detected in the existing system with action plan of Government to make the system a fool-proof to take care of all kinds of natural calamities?

Standards of Weather Forecasting

1804. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether weather Forecasting in our country is upto Global Standards; and

(b) if not, the steps taken to make it upto Global Standards?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Institute of Seismological Research in Gujarat

1805. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

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

(a) whether Government have taken any measure to establish an Institute of Seismological Research in Gujarat/all over the country to caution the public of devastating earthquake/Tsunami waves near the coastal areas in future which would be a R & D Institution of International Repute;

(b) if so, the decision on the proposal by Government; and

(c) the provisions of funds for the project?

Monitoring of crustal movements

1806. SHRITARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that scientists have cautioned, about the possibility of major earthquake in some parts of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had taken steps to monitor the crustal movements; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

Stem-Cell research

1807. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel a need for regulating stem-cell research in India;

(b) if so, the details of any legislation being considered in this behalf; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Port connectivity project in Orissa

1808. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Rs. 5720 crore worth of port connectivity project to change the roadmap for trade;

(b) if so, the details of this ambitious plan;

(c) the status of the project and the time-frame by which it would be completed; and

(d) the details of projects that would be taken up in Orissa State?

Development of Cochi Port

1809. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign Companies has been given any contract to work/develop the Cochi port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the port that are being developed/ operated in joint ventures by the foreign companies?

National Highways in Nagaland

1810. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to take over any roads under

National Highways in Nagaland;

(b) if so, the roads which are proposed to be taken over under National Highways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Corridor Management Policy

†1811. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have decided to emphasize on corridor management by making corridor management policy instead of constructing National Highways;

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

(c) the proposed outlines of the new corridor management policy; and

(d) by when the target of its implementation after final announcement of such policy would be made?

Contract for the supply of security number plates

1812. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contract for the supply of security number plates for the vehicles in 28 States and Union Territories is being given to a person alleged to be aligned with criminals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the ground on which he has been selected for this contract?

Scrap lying at Mumbai Port

1813. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would inform the reasons for scrap lying at Mumbai Port;

(b) if so, for how many months containers of the exporters are withheld;

(c) whether Government are aware of this fact; and

(d) whether Government would find out a plan to divert the traffic in view of the work going on at Mundra Port?

Bribe paid by bus and truck operators

†1814. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that truck and bus operators all over the country give crores of rupees every year as bribe to police, traffic police and other Government officials;

(b) the amount collected from these operators as taxes and duties by Government during this period;

(c) the loss of revenue incurred by Government every year in such cases due to lax implementation; and

(d) the details in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Grading of Maritime Training
Institutes in the country**

1815. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to
meet the international benchmarks in
quality, Government propose to make
grading of Maritime Training Institutes in
the country mandatory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of recognised private
Maritime Training Institutes in the country;

(d) the details of fake Maritime Training
Institutes in the country; and

(e) the action taken by Government to
spread the general awareness among general
public about these fake Maritime Training
Institutes?

**Damage of National Highways in
short period**

1816. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many
highways constructed by Government have
been damaged in a very short period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the
details of such highways, State-wise and
National Highway-wise;

(c) whether Government have
conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

Trees along the National Highways

1817. SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received
sufficient grants from international agencies
like World Bank for development of green
belt and plantation of trees along the
National Highways and Expressways;

(b) if so, the details of grants/financial
assistance received from the World Bank;
and

(c) the steps Government have taken to
complete the Green Belt Programmes, so
far?

Help to accident victims by hospitals

1818. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHAI has responded
to offers from hospitals and medical
establishments to render help and attend
to accident victims;

(b) the details of any such positive
response from the NHAI in the last year;

(c) whether it is a fact that the NHAI is
reluctant in such matters;

(d) to what extent is there a need for a
more active role by the NHAI; and

(e) the details of the steps proposed to
energise the NHAI?

Private sector participation in port sector

1819. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector participation in the port sector has yielded good results in economic development of the country;

(b) the areas of private participation which have yielded good income to the Government; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage investment in the port sector?

Road safety programmes

1820. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have invited proposals from voluntary organisations for undertaking road safety programmes;

(b) the total amount of grants-in-aid that Government would give to voluntary organisation for conducting these programmes; and

(c) the kind of audit and monitoring mechanism that is adopted by Government to ensure effectiveness of these programmes?

Regulatory authority for private ports

1821. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a

regulatory authority with the emergence of private ports and the prospects of enhanced trade through item;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be in place?

Work on NH-47

1822. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the NH-47 in the Nattrampally-Chennai sector is progressing slowly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to expedite the work?

Maintenance of road and National Highways in U.P.

1823. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds granted by Government for construction, widening, maintenance and repair of various roads and National Highways in the country particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the period of Tenth Plan, year-wise, State-wise, Road-wise and National Highway-wise;

(b) the details of actual amount released and spent so far for the aforesaid purpose during this period, year-wise, State-wise and National Highway-wise; and

(c) the details of targets and achievements made in this respect during this period?

National Highways in Kerala

1824. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total extend of four-way tracks in the National Highways in Kerala;
- (b) whether Government propose to convert further areas of the National Highways in Kerala into four lanes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the amount, if any, set apart for the same and the areas, if any, selected for the conversion and the time by which the work relating to the same is likely to commence?

Expert advice on road problems

1825. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have a policy to extend expert advice whenever sought by any State Government to solve some problem related to roads;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Director General, Roads is the nodal body to give advice on engineering problems related to roads;
- (c) whether any request has been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government in the last three months seeking advice on some road improvement work;
- (d) if so, the details of such advice; and
- (e) the response of Government to the request for expert advice on matters related to critical roads?

Sub-contracting by NHAI contractors

1826. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of contractors of NHAI sub-contract their work;
- (b) whether NHAI allows contractors to auction their contracts in little bits;
- (c) the details of the policy of NHAI in this regard;
- (d) whether it is a fact that low quality work has resulted due to such sub-contracting of work by NHAI contractors; and
- (e) the steps proposed to stop this evil practice?

Private sector in Maritime sector

1827. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are working out a new Maritime Policy;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) what is the action plan of Government to involve private sector in Maritime sector to tap its potential?

National Highways in Tamil Nadu

1828. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the National Highways in Tamil Nadu where works relating to

widening, extension and repair have been undertaken as on date during the last three years; and

(b) the time by which works on the above highways are likely to be completed?

Inclusion of Chhattisgarh in Golden Quadrilateral Project

†1829. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the decision taken by Government, no region of Chhattisgarh has been included in the Golden Quadrilateral National Highways Scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government would include Chhattisgarh also in this scheme; and

(c) whether the number of national highways in Chhattisgarh would be increased as a special case due to inclusion of Chhattisgarh in the Golden Quadrilateral National Highways Scheme and would be provided with special amounts separately?

Assistance for roads to Assam

†1830. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance have been provided by Central Government to the State of Assam for construction, repair and widening of the roads during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of proposals submitted by the State of Assam during these periods?

Roads in North-Eastern States

1831. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the names of the National Highways undertaken/to be undertaken by Government during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 for broadening and renovating;

(b) the number out of them belong to the North-Eastern States;

(c) whether Government have a plan to double-lane NH-44 from Assam to the Sabroom of Tripura; and

(d) if so, the progress made so far and the fund spent out of the fund allocated?

Bridge and roads under BOT scheme

1832. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the bridge and road projects on BOT basis under the aegis of NHAI that are presently at the operational stage;

(b) the location of each such road/section/bridge;

(c) the extent to which NHAI is in control *inter-alia* in the matter of determination of toll rates at the operation stage;

(d) whether revenue, as targeted, is being collected on each such road, section/bridge;

(e) if not, the factual position during the preceding three years, year-wise; and

(f) the remedial steps contemplated?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Toll-tax in Haryana and Punjab

1833. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the location of over bridges on National Highways passing through in Haryana and Punjab where toll tax is being levied;

(b) the rate at which toll tax is charged, vehicle-wise;

(c) the total toll collected during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the criteria adopted for fixing the rate of toll tax;

(e) whether toll tax on over bridges is uniform in the whole country; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Toll tax collection centres on G.T. Road

1834. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are three toll-tax collection centres at Doraha, Shambhu and Karnal on G.T. Road from Delhi to Amritsar;

(b) if so, the annual collection from these centres, barrier-wise, and how is it spent;

(c) Government's policy of collecting toll-tax;

(d) whether it is also a fact that toll-tax charged from a person travelling two kms. is same as charged from a person travelling 100 kms.; and

(e) if so, the action Government propose to take to reduce the toll-tax?

Construction Work on NH-8

1835. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Express Highway construction work on NH-8 is very slow and has caused loss of hundreds of lives in road accident;

(b) the number of deaths in road accident in between Rao Tularam Marg to Rajiv Chowk during last two years; and

(c) the precautions that have been taken by Government in this regard and to finish the work early?

Road constructed under Golden Quadrilateral Scheme

† 1836. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the road targeted to be constructed in terms of kilometers under Golden Quadrilateral scheme during this year;

(b) the areas and the States where this road would be constructed alongwith the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the total amount likely to be spent on this construction?

RCC Bridge on Torsa river

1837. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that re-alignment of NH-31 from Falakata to Pundibari in Cooch Behar, West Bengal remains incomplete because of non-

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

completion of a major RCC bridge on Torsa river;

(b) whether Government of West Bengal has forwarded a revised estimate seeking timely completion of the project;

(c) the steps that are being taken by Government to expedite the project; and

(d) the progress that has been made so far in this regard?

ISRO agreement with Germany

1838. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ISRO would launch a 350 kg. Italian scientific satellite "AGILE" as a long foreign satellite on its PSLV rocket this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ISRO had made an agreement with a German Company in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of Poverty Alleviation Programme

†1839. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the target of poverty alleviation from the country can not be achieved merely by investing money in Plan implementation;

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

(c) whether Government have taken any action to make Plan implementation effective by improving the administration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

IHF criteria in selection of coaches and players

1840. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the current actions of IHF has made a laughing stock of our country's hockey;

(b) whether the recent dismal performance of our team is a direct result of whimsical knee jerk action of the IHF management in selecting coaches and players; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to stem this rot?

Private participation for sports

1841. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds earmarked for development of sports in the country is inadequate;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to enhance the funds for development of sports, especially in view of Commonwealth Games in 2010;

(c) whether Government are considering to involve private participation for creating infrastructure for sports to that of international standards; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Profit/loss of BCCI

1842. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total earning of BCCI for the last three financial years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the total expenses of BCCI for the last three years;

(c) the total revenue earned by BCCI by sponsorship of various tournaments and International matches;

(d) the total contribution to the improvement of cricket in the country by the BCCI; and

(e) whether they are accountable to the Department for their activity in the field of cricket development in the country?

Financial assistance to sports bodies

1843. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised guidelines for giving financial assistance to sports bodies, the State Governments and the local bodies for the propagation, development and popularization of sports in the country from the primary school level onwards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of State Governments and sports bodies in regard thereto?

Outcome of the meeting of Sports Ministers

1844. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the topics discussed in the conference of Sports Ministers held in Delhi in February last;

(b) the decisions arrived at; and

(c) the steps so far taken by Government and those proposed to be taken to implement them?

Criteria for cricket matches

1845. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria of allotting cricket test matches and one day Internationals to various cities in the country; and

(b) the efforts that are being made to encourage small cities by way of enhancing infrastructure like security, parks, civic amenities etc.?

National Service Scheme

1846. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any appraisal of functioning of "National Service Scheme" in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to extend the scheme to cover Secondary school and High school students?

Construction of Stadia in Ghaziabad and NOIDA

†1847. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the cities in addition to Delhi where Government have decided to organise the Commonwealth games; and

(b) whether Government propose to construct stadia of world class in Ghaziabad and NOIDA?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Disabled sports persons

1848. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sports Authority of India selects talented sports persons from across the country and imparts them training in various games;

(b) whether disabled sports persons have also been selected and trained;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the number of disabled sports persons so selected *vis-a-vis* the general sports persons, State-wise and game-wise, especially in the State of Rajasthan; and

(d) if not, the other steps being taken to nurture the sports talent among the disabled?

Expenditure on sports persons who got training abroad

†1849. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of YOUTH

AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sports persons sent abroad by Government for training during the last three years;

(b) the criterion for the selection in this regard; and

(c) the percentage of sports budget spent on the training of the sportsmen?

Bidding for Asian Games

1850. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had consulted Government before bidding for Commonwealth Games 2010;

(b) whether IOA sought Government's suggestions before bidding for Asian Games 2014;

(c) if so, how much it is going to cost to the exchequer; and

(d) if not, whether Government have taken any action against IOA?

NEW DELHI;
The 11th March, 2005
Phalgun 20, 1926 (*Saka*)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

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