

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the May 17, 2002/Vaisakha 27, 1924 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and Forests;
Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development;
Ocean Development; Railways; Science and Technology;
Steel; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions—120

New research labs

†5401. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether new research labs have been
set up in the country during the last three
years in order to promote agricultural
research;

(b) if so, the names of the places where
such agricultural research labs have been
set up during the said period;

(c) the total number of research labs
where research work has been conducted
by the end of March, 2002; and

(d) the total number and names of the
new foodgrain items on which research
work is being conducted in such research
labs?

Curbing the use of pesticides

5402. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to
state:

(a) whether it is a fact that use of
pesticides has gone up by several times in
the last few decades;

(b) whether Government have any
information about the excessive use of
pesticides in agriculture and allied
production, food and food products; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by
Government to curb the unhealthy practice?

Drip irrigation system in U.P.

5403. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH
MALIK: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target had been fixed
for setting up of drip irrigation system in
Uttar Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year
Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial assistance provided to
Uttar Pradesh during that period for the said
work;

(d) whether the above target has been
achieved;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the target fixed by Government for
the Tenth Five Year Plan including funds
allocated for the said purpose?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Agriculture extension services

5404. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are envisaged to revitalize the extension services in States;

(b) whether Government would consider supporting the setting up of regional/district agriculture training centres for farmers and extension works by funding through a special programme for the purpose;

(c) whether the States spend a large amount on salaries of extension personnel, but they lack infrastructure, and lack of funds has reduced the effectiveness of the extension services;

(d) if so, what steps Government envisage to support States; and

(e) whether a special Central scheme is being considered in this regard?

Conversion of barren land into agricultural land

† 5405. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schemes under implementation, State-wise, to convert the barren land into agricultural land;

(b) whether it is also a fact that various schemes to convert the barren land into cultivation land are not being implemented fully through time-bound action plan;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure time-bound implementation of those schemes?

Supply of spurious Seeds, fertilizers etc.

5406. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to supply of spurious seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, the farmers in the country are incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details of companies/agencies involved in supplying spurious seeds, fertilizers and pesticides during the last three years; and

(c) the cases filed against spurious seeds, fertilizers and pesticides suppliers in Karnataka and the value of confiscated seeds, fertilizers and pesticides for the last three years?

Impact of agricultural trade reforms on prices

5407. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by the National Council on Applied Economic Research has indicated that agricultural trade reforms are likely to push up prices of cereals as compared to other grains;

(b) whether the survey has also pointed out that this would adversely affect the poorer segments of both the rural and urban society;

(c) if so, what are the other points made in the survey report;

(d) whether Government have considered the survey report; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

KVKs in Southern States

5408. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States have requested to sanction new Krishi Vigyan Kendras; and

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

Spreading scheme of Chitrakoot farmer

5409. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, in Chitrakoot, a farmer, who even holds two and a half acre of land, even after meeting all his expenses, saves about Rs. 5000/- a year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the demonstration was shown, recently, to the In-charge of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research;

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

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to propagate such a scheme all over the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Death of farmers due to pesticides

5410. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of farmers are dying due to exposure to pesticides, particularly cotton and related health hazards in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such deaths during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of amount/compensation paid to such victims by State Governments/ Central Government or through insurance schemes, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government propose a policy for the benefit of such victim families; if so, the details thereof?

Food crops productivity in Chhattisgarh and Eastern States

5411. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether low productivity of food crops in the Eastern States and in Chhattisgarh has not allowed the full benefits of green revolution to flow to the farmers of these States; if so, what special steps are envisaged for this region; and

(b) whether Government would consider a special package to be implemented at the earliest; if so, the details thereof?

Performance orientation of KVKs

5412. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the basic objectives behind setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in States;

(b) how far these have been able to achieve the objectives; and

(c) the details and measures taken by Government to make these KVKs more performance-oriented?

Development of animal husbandry in Andhra Pradesh

5413. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) for which Centrally sponsored schemes for the development of animal

husbandry sector, the funds were released to Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, scheme-wise and year-wise;

(b) on what basis the funds were released to the State; and

(c) the results achieved in that sector during the said period?

Development of dairying and farming

5414. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total allocations made by Government to promote dairying and farming in the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, State-wise; and

(b) the details of funds provided by Government during 2001-2002 and proposed to be provided, in 2002-2003 State-wise?

Indo-France agreement on agri-foods

5415. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have decided to increase cooperation in the area of agri-foods;

(b) if so, whether any concrete programme of action has been undertaken by both the countries in regard to agriculture;

(c) whether both the countries have also agreed to work more in agro-food and agro-processing areas, as India is one of the leading producers and exporters of these products; and

(d) if so, what are the agreements reached between the two countries in regard to agri-foods?

Production-rate of foodgrains

†5416. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the production-rate of foodgrains in all the States;

(b) if so, the details of production-rate of wheat, paddy, sugarcane, and cotton in each State;

(c) whether Government have identified the States where possibilities to increase the production-rate exist; and

(d) if so, which are those States and to what extent the production-rate can be increased there?

Impact of globalisation on small and marginal farmers

5417. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have brought it to the notice of Government that certain aspects of globalisation are subjecting small and marginal farmers and farm workers in India to many hardships;

(b) whether it is a fact that the indebtedness among farmers is on the increase in the changed circumstances of globalisation; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to safeguard the interest of the farming community?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Differing production rates of irrigated and non-irrigated lands

†5418. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a wide gap has been noticed between production rate of irrigated land and that of non-irrigated land;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed this gap; and

(c) if so, the details of this gap in the production rate of wheat, paddy, sugarcane, oilseeds and pulses?

Training to cane growers

5419. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of availability of manufacturing prototypes, improper field and crop conditions, lack of technical know-how of the mechanics and operators, the cane growers have not been able to achieve better results of their produce;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to impart necessary training to farmers on these aspects;

(c) whether sugar industry's involvement in the matter has also been examined; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Regulations for importing Soya oil

5420. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has laid down the rules stating that all

imported Soyabean oil should be genetically non-modified;

(b) if so, when these rules are likely to be enforced on consignments of imported Soya oil;

(c) whether distinguishing the genetically modified soya oil from the conventional (non-modified) soya oil is immensely difficult through tests; and

(d) if so, how Government propose to enforce the new regulations?

Losses in seed producing institutions

†5421. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector seed producing institutions in the country have been continuously running in losses;

(b) if so, the total losses suffered by these Public Sector institutions from 1998-99 to 2000-2001; and

(c) the reasons for these losses?

Phasing out of Vintage Allowance

5422. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to phase out 5 per cent Vintage Allowance Scheme for fertilizer units within the 7th pricing period;

(b) if so, whether the Group of Ministers constituted for the purpose reviewing the 7th and 8th pricing period in their recent meeting considered to withdraw Vintage Allowance for the 7th pricing period;

(c) if so, to what extent this decision would help the fertilizer units; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether the fertilizer companies have welcomed this move?

FDI in domestic pharma sector

5423. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether the new drug policy provides for 100 per cent foreign direct investment in the domestic pharma sector;

(b) if so, whether this limit was raised from 51 per cent to 74 per cent in March, 2000;

(c) if so, the reasons for increasing the same to 100 per cent; and

(d) by when this drug policy would be announced?

Subsidy to fertilizer plants in Tamil Nadu

5424. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy extended to the fertilizer companies in the country in general and Tamil Nadu in particular during the last three years;

(b) whether the production of fertilizers has improved during the same period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Recovery of subsidy from urea units

5425. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to phase out the vintage allowance given to urea units as recommended by the Expenditure Reforms Committee;

(b) whether the fertilizer units would have to cough up at least Rs. 1900 crores excess payment made to industry *via* subsidy mechanism;

(c) if so, the amount of subsidy to be recovered from each unit; and

(d) how Government propose to recover this amount from the urea units and to what extent their production would be affected as a result thereof?

Distributorship of IPCL

5426. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Petrochemical Corporation Ltd. (IPCL) offered distributorship for polymers without following prescribed procedures, during the last two years; and

(b) the action proposed to enquire into the matter through the Vigilance Commissioner or CBI?

Increase in prices of medicines

† 5427. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to increase the prices of medicines;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider not to increase the prices of medicines;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have any consideration in this regard so far; and

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

assistance going to be provided by the Government of India; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in appointing the technical consultants?

Transfer of Hindi speaking officers of KTRIBHCO

†5428. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether KTRIBHCO has transferred its Hindi speaking marketing officers to Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether knowledge of local language is essential for marketing and business promotional works; if so, whether the said officers have the knowledge of the local languages of these places; and

(d) if not, by when such Hindi speaking officers would be transferred to Hindi speaking States?

Facilities available for power generation at FCI

5429. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from Andhra Pradesh Government has been received in the Ministry to provide a suitable technical consultancy, to prepare a detailed techno-economic study with regard to utilising the facilities available at FCI, Ramagundam, Andhra Pradesh, for power generation;

(b) if so, when such request was received in the Ministry;

(c) whether it is also a fact that APGENCO is ready to assist the technical

Development of National Parks/ Sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh

5430. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing funds for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of funds provided during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the results achieved therefrom during the said period?

Rights of villagers/tribals in designated forests in Andhra Pradesh

5431. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the local population, like tribals and villagers, have specified rights in the designated forests who heavily depend on forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such designated forests in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether Government intend to inform the Village Panchayats about the specified rights to pass on to the local population; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Funds to Andhra Pradesh under
National River Conservation
Programme**

5432. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Govern-
ment has forwarded any proposal for release
of funds under National River Conservation
Programme, to take up the work of
Environment Action Plan for Hyderabad
city; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects and
the action taken by Government in this
regard?

Vehicular pollution in Delhi

5433. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 64 per cent of
air pollution in Delhi is because of vehicular
pollution, as per Centre for Science and
Environment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an
estimated 1300 metric tons of pollutant are
emitted by vehicles in Delhi everyday which
is more than the total in four other metros in
the country; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by
Government for availability of cleaner fuel,
better quality batteries and hydrogen fuels
like developed countries, to make
environment free pollutants in Delhi?

**Tigers in Sitanadi and Udanti
Sanctuaries**

5434. SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be
pleased to state:

(a) the number of tigers in Sitanadi and
Udanti Wildlife Sanctuaries, in Chhattisgarh
during 2003 and the figures since 1970,
separately;

(b) whether the Sitanadi and Udanti Wild
life Sanctuaries are being considered as
Project Tiger Reserves during the Tenth Five
Year Plan; and

(c) the other forest areas in India, being
considered as Project Tiger Reserves, during
the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Tigers in Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary

5435. SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be
pleased to state:

(a) the tiger census figures for Sunabeda
Wildlife Sanctuary since 1970 alongwith
the details of tigers even if the area had not
been declared as a wildlife sanctuary; and

(b) the number of tigers which were
counted inside the Sunabeda Wildlife
Sanctuary in Orissa during 2002 alongwith
the break up of males, females, cubs,
etc.?

Development of forests

†5436. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are liberal in
the development of forests;

(b) whether Government keep
information about loss due to fire in forests
every year;

(c) if so, on how many hectares of land,
the vegetation like trees and plants has
vanished so far, due to fire incidents in
forests;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the measures taken to control fire in the forests;

(e) whether Government propose to initiate any movement to encourage replantation programme in those areas, where incidents of fire have taken place; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

National Forestry Action Programme in Andhra Pradesh

5437. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP) to address the problems of forestry sector;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether land has been earmarked in Andhra Pradesh for implementation of NFAP; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with main components thereof?

SC directive on air pollution

5438. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court, while strongly indicting the Union Government in the CNG case, drew their attention to the increase in respiratory diseases among children;

(b) if so, whether the Court also pointed out that it has been the concern of the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has also warned the Union Government and the health authorities to take appropriate action and arrest air pollution; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government?

Spending forest funds on private lands in A.P.

5439. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Deccan Chronicle of April 1, 2002, captioned "Forest funds splurged on private lands", to the effect that forest officials in Andhra Pradesh spent public money on developing private lands, in violation of the World Bank norms for afforestation;

(b) if so, whether Government have since inquired into the matter; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the inquiry, indicating the amount of funds spent in violation of the norms and the area of land in various districts submitted to such afforestation?

MNCs in commercialization of water

5440. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the recent trend in commercialization of water is attracting the MNCs to step into this business;

(b) would the said venture be beneficial to India; if not, what steps Government propose to take to avoid commercialization of water; and

(c) whether Government would ensure free availability of drinking water to common man?

**Posting of Armed Police in Satkosia
Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary**

5441. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2 Platoons of the Orissa State Armed Police have been placed inside the Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary in Orissa during the year 2001;

(b) if so, whether such a deployment proved beneficial for forest protection; and

(c) whether the state Government intend to continue with the exercise in future?

Meetings of Wildlife Board

5442. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Indian Board for Wild life was constituted; and

(b) the number of meetings held since its constitution, year-wise?

Man-made forests in Vizag Steel Plant

5443. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Vizag Steel Plant a green's delight" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 19th April, 2002;

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

(c) whether Government would allocate funds and encourage the growth of similar man-made forests which, besides creating

pollution-free environment, would also provide natural habitat for the wildlife, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Processing infrastructure for agro
products**

5444. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major part of agro-products go waste due to non-availability of sufficient storage and processing infrastructures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of measures taken by Government to provide infrastructure facilities for fruits and vegetable growers;

(d) whether any time-bound programme has been worked out; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Human development level

†5445. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the human development level of the people in some States of the country has been found to be pitiable;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) whether Government have decided to bring them at par with other States by implementaing special scheme; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Grants to Madarsas

5446. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government were planning to modernise madarsas in a bid to bring them into the national main stream;

(b) if so, whether about 1000 madarsas are being given grants by Government; and

(c) whether Government have also increased the budgetary provision for development of Urdu from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 20 crore?

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "59 girls rescued from brothels" appearing in The Hindustan Times of 26th December, 2001;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that most of these young girls belonged to Nepal, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, and the rescue operation was helped by a NGO in the Capital;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken to constitute a permanent machinery, in order to check prostitution of under-aged girls?

Reservation for disabled teachers

5447. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court directed the Centre and the University Grants Commission to provide 3 per cent reservation in teaching posts for physically and visually disabled persons;

(b) if so, whether the Supreme Court Bench directed the UGC to give relaxation of 5 per cent marks at the Master's Degree level to the disabled, as was being given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) if so, to what extent the Centre and the UGC has issued instructions to the concerned authorities to implement the Supreme Court's orders?

Check on prostitution

5448. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

Grants to madarsas

†5449. SHRI B. P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grants provided by Government during the last ten years to Madarsas, being run by the Muslim community in the country, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have the information as to their management, their syllabus and their annual financial expenditure and from where the same becomes available;

(c) whether provision of Government grants to educational institutions of a particular community violates the secular principles of the Constitution, whether such grant is provided to institutions of any other community also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last five years?

Madarsas in the country

†5450. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether madarsas in the country are being run by only the Muslim community and whether only Muslim children study therein;

(b) whether these madarsas are imparting education about Islam and Koran;

(c) whether Government have any control in appointing teachers and in formulating syllabus thereof; and

(d) what is the justification for providing grants to them every year when these are run by the minority community only and for imparting Islamic education only?

Lumpsum payment to Inquiry Officers in KVS

5451. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kendriya Vidyalayas Sangathan provides lumpsum payment to those of its retired employees who are assigned the work of acting as Inquiry Officers and presiding officers;

(b) if so, the details of the relevant provisions and amounts etc.;

(c) whether there is any provision for permitting payment to retired employees who act as Defence Assistants in departmental inquiries initiated by KVS; and

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

Thermal imaging equipment

5452. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists in the U.S. have developed a sensitive thermal imaging equipment which can spot a liar without the person knowing it and it can help trap terrorists at airports;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce this device in India; and

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

Stopping the madarsa's education

5453. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a change in life-style of Muslims in the border areas of Rajasthan as a result of madarsa education as per a recent survey, with the result that they are differentiating themselves in their dress and social observances;

(b) whether it is a fact that millions of rupees are clandestinely coming to propagate fundamentalist, exclusivist and divisive faith among them;

(c) whether any enquiry had been conducted in the matter;

(d) if so, the result of the enquiry; and

(e) the action taken to stop madarsa education in India, before any further division of the country?

Revival of posts at KVs Bhopal

5454. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that numerous posts of Kendriya Vidyalayas teachers of Bhopal Region labelled surplus/withdrawn at the time of annual staff strength determination, have been sanctioned soon after, in April, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of such posts, category-wise and Vidyalaya-wise; and

(c) the justification of revivals, if any, in each case?

Effect of IT slowdown on computer education

5455. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether slowdown in IT has adversely affected computer education in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for it;

(c) what efforts are being made by Government to improve computer training in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Navodaya Vidyalaya

5456. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Navodaya Vidyalaya functioning in the country as on date, State-wise with locations;

(b) the amount spent on Navodaya Vidyalaya during the last three years;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open more Navodaya Vidyalaya in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

New scheme for Readers

5457. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission has devised a new scheme for Readers, instead of promotions as Professors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the teachers thereon?

Ineffective women's law

5458. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that various laws concerning women are outdated and ineffective;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to review such laws and to make them effective;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Human development in States

†5459. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recently released a report regarding human development of residents of all the States of the country;

(b) if so, the position in respect of the level of human development of residents of different States, on the basis of the said report; and

(c) the reasons for such a big difference in the level of human development in States?

Regional Consultation Workshop on Women

5460. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Consultation Workshop on Women was held in Bangalore on the 10th December, 2001;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the workshop has appealed to Government to steer the Tenth Five Year Plan towards a gender sensitive and people-centred plan with focus on decentralised empowerment of communities, concentrating on grassroot level participation;

(c) if so, what were the other main decisions taken in the workshop;

(d) whether Government have considered these suggestions; and

(e) if so, what are the steps being taken to implement them?

Schools for secondary education

†5461. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a scheme for setting up schools under a new policy, to provide education in the country upto secondary level;

(b) if so, the name of the scheme and by when it is going to be implemented; and

(c) the total number of schools being run by Government to provide education in the country upto secondary level and total average number of students getting education in these schools annually?

Vacant post of clerks in KVS, Jammu

†5462. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that posts of clerks of different categories in various Kendriya

Vidyalayas in Jammu Division have been lying vacant for a long time; and

(b) if so, the school-wise, category-wise (and not all India division wise) details thereof?

Education for female children

5463. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 200 million female children, only 120 million are attending the schools; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to improve the situation?

Teacher-student ratio in schools

5464. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the teachers-students ratio in the country, especially in Government schools;

(b) whether Government would review the ratio, to ensure more teachers for students to improve the standards of education; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the total literacy in the country would be achieved?

Controversial transfers in NCERT

5465. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item, "NCERT transfers kick up a controversy" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 23rd April, 2002;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the steps Government propose to take to cancel the transfers made, as per press reports, on extraneous considerations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

NGOs for dissemination of literature, culture and art

†5466. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of NGOs are working in the country for the dissemination and propagation of literature, culture and art;

(b) if so, the total number of such organisations by the end of March, 2002, indicating their numbers in each State; and

(c) how much amount in the form of grant is provided by Government to these organisations annually?

Female scientists

†5467. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate a plan to give encouragement to female scientists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of facilities provided to female scientists during the last three years; and

(d) the present number of female scientists and the fields in which they are working?

Arbitrary donations and fees in private schools and technical institutes

†5468.DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether taking of arbitrary donations and fees by private schools and technical education institutes, for admission in such schools and institutes is legitimate;

(b) whether any limit for fee from students of each class of private schools has been fixed; and

(c) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government to curb such arbitrary recoveries by educational institutes?

Upliftment of children

5469. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to achieve the targets committed at the 1990 World Summit for Children, as brought out in a news-item in Times of India, dated 19th April, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons contributing to lack of required facilities, as revealed in the report of the UN Secretary General; and

(c) what steps have been proposed to be taken to create adequate facilities for the upliftment of children and their proper care?

Value-based education

5470. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day "South-Zone Vice-Chancellors' conference " was held in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Mysore from September 30, 2001, for discussion on a wide-range of issues, including value-based education in universities, role of private sector in higher education, with a special focus on problems facing the university education in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that as many as 60 Vice-Chancellors from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu have participated in the conference;

(c) what were the main subjects discussed and decisions arrived at; and

(d) what steps are being taken to implement them?

Child care

5471. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, out of every 100 children born today, 63 births are not registered at all and 47 suffer from malnutrition in the first three years of life, and as many as 26 per cent are born with birth weight, less than 2500 grams;

(b) whether 15 per cent of the children never go to school and out of the remaining who join first grade, only 52 per cent reach the fifth grade; and

(c) if so, what specific steps are being taken by Government for more investment on children, especially on their health, education and protection?

Unemployed youth

5472. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed youth in the country, State-wise for the last three years;

(b) whether Government have ever conducted scientific study to find out the causes for this problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government plan to conduct such study and remedy the situation?

Children languishing in jails

5473. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences has of late conducted a study into the number of children languishing in jails with their mothers or other wise, and the conditions in which they are living therein;

(b) if so, the latest figures of boys and girls so languishing and how many of them are below six years, State and Union territory-wise; and how many of them are there in jails for over one year; and

(c) how many of these children were rounded up for begging or petty offences, and what steps are taken and conditions provided for their stay in jails?

Contractual system for teachers

5474. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has plans to adopt contractual system for teachers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the teaching community thereon?

Transfer on promotion of KV teachers

†5475. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers are transferred from their home town to different parts of the country, following their promotions;

(b) whether it is also a fact that families of such teachers are badly affected due to such transfers; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to simplify the rules pertaining to transfers?

Gold from sea water

5476. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a study conducted recently, it is possible to extract gold out of sea water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any feasibility study of the project including its financial viability has been carried out and if so, the details thereof?

Medicines from seas

5477. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been conducted to study the potential of obtaining medicines from seas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any step has been taken to promote and market those medicines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rail Projects in Iraq

5478. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Iraq Government for 14 Rail Projects worth Rs. 1100 crore;

(b) if so, whether the project is subject to approval from the United Nations since Iraq faces US sanctions;

(c) whether these projects would be built up against exchange of crude oil;

(d) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(e) how many projects, out of 14 would be implemented during the current year?

Suicide attempts on Kolkata Metro Track

5479. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of suicide attempts is on the increase on Kolkata Metro-High-Volt rail track;

(b) whether it is also a fact that besides, legal implications, the incidents are causing much inconvenience to the Metro rail users; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to coordinate the relative role of the Police and Railways?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

New pension scheme for railway employees

5480. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways is going to introduce a new pension scheme for the railway employees;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the view of railway workers in respect of this scheme; and

(d) by when it is likely to be operational?

Construction of unauthorised railway crossings

†5481. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many accidents are taking place at unmanned railway crossings;

(b) if so, the number of people killed in accidents at unmanned railway crossings, during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to negligence of Railways and delay in granting permission for construction of railway crossings, local public resort to construct their own unauthorised railway crossings for their use; and

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

Gauge conversion of Mangalore-Hassan Railway line

5482. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gauge conversion of Mangalore-Hassan Railway line is underway for the last few years;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the progress of implementation of the project is not satisfactory, primarily, owing to delay and inadequate release of funds by the Central Government; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for expeditious completion of the project?

Crimes committed in Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express

5483. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that security in various trains has deteriorated during the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of robberies, and other crimes committed on various important trains, including Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express, during the last one year, zone-wise; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to strengthen the security on trains in near future?

Beggars in trains

†5484. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of beggars in trains is increasing consistently;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Railways is aware of inconvenience caused to passengers, specially difficulties being faced by passengers of reserved compartments, in safeguarding their luggage; and

(c) if so, the details of steps Government propose to take to stop beggary in trains?

Quality of food on trains

5485. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reason behind the poor quality of food on the running trains;

(b) why Vendors are allowed to roam about freely on the running trains who often commit a lot of thefts; and

(c) whether Railway Minister would take cognizance of this and improve the food quality especially on long distance trains?

Priorities for railway projects

5486. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Ministry and Planning Commission have asked the Railways to review priority on implementation of ongoing projects;

(b) if so, whether the railways have prioritise the projects in the light of suggestions made;

(c) if so, the details of such projects, and when the action on their implementation was initiated, the original estimated cost and the schedule for their completion finalized, if any; and

(d) what is the present cost of these projects and whether these have been cleared

by the Finance Ministry and Planning Commission?

Railway hospitals in Tamil Nadu

5487. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway hospitals in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government propose to open any railway hospitals in that State during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Preparation of Railway Vision-2020

5488. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made by the Railways under the second Corporate Plan 1995—2000;

(b) whether Government propose to prepare 'Railway Vision-2020' this year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Yoga training to Railway employees

† 5489. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to impart training in yoga to railway operating personnels;

(b) if so, the details and the purpose thereof; and

(c) by when, this training is likely to be started?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rail fractures in Jabalpur Division

† 5490. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many rail accidents took place during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in Jabalpur Railway Division;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of these accidents occurred due to rail fractures;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to solve this problem;

(d) whether it is also a fact that most of the rails in Jabalpur Division are more than 30 years old which increases the chances of accidents; and

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

Doubling of Konkan rail line

5491. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many trains run on the Konkan Railway;

(b) whether the New Delhi - Trivandrum Rajdhani Express is always late by couple of hours because it has single track; and

(c) whether Railway have any plan to double this line in the near future?

Rail Yatri Niwas in Tamil Nadu

5492. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to set up RailYatri Niwas Bhawans at important tourist places in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Sky Bus Project in Mumbai

5493. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan for a SKY Bus Project in Mumbai, in collaboration with Konkan Railway Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the project would be completed?

Facilities and amenities at New Delhi Railway Station

5494. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Times of India of 15th April, 2001 that passenger facilities/amenities at the New Delhi Railway Station are far below, and utter confusion prevailed for purchase of platform tickets, securing wheeled chair for handicapped, etc.

(b) if so, whether administration had failed to provide sufficient stock and passenger guides to help the passengers, especially the handicapped;

(c) whether DRM officials, sitting close-by, failed to monitor the arrangements/facilities, especially during peak hours; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the administration to take care of the matter?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Transfer policy in Railways

†5495. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Ministry has prepared a policy to transfer the employees/officers who have completed five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some employees/officers of stations attached to Allahabad Division are working there for more than five years, if so, post-wise, time-wise and Station-wise, details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that due to this, administrative problems and corruption have increased and number of complaints have been received during this period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what action Government would take in this regard?

Replacement of sleepers at Mainpuri Section

†5496. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the shortage of old and worn and torn wooden sleepers, the Kalindi Express from Shikohabad to Mainpuri is run at a very slow speed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the wooden sleepers have been replaced with cemented sleepers from Ferrukhabad to Mainpuri Kutchery;

(c) whether there has been unreasonable delay due to connivance in fixing the cemented sleepers from Mainpuri to Shikohabad as a result of which precious time of passengers is wasted; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made by Government to expedite the said work and by when, it would be completed?

Tourism development projects of Railways in Orissa

5497. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) rail projects proposed for development of tourism in Orissa, during the year 2002-2003 and subsequent thereto; and

(b) the proposals in hand to link the famous religious and historic tourist centre 'Sun God Temple' and other such centres in Orissa by rail, if not, the reasons therefor?

New Schemes in 150th year of the Railways

†5498. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways is Considering to initiate some new schemes on the occasion of completion of 150 years by the Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when these are likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Siding charges for locos

5499. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was inaction/delay in the revision of siding charges in respect of locos used for hauling wagons on private colliery sidings of Bilaspur Katni Section, during the year 2000-2001;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether this lapse on the part of railway administration resulted in short recovery of more than Rs. 25.00 crores by South Eastern Railways; and

(c) whether this was brought to the notice of the Railway Administration by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in October, 2001, and if so, Government's reply thereto?

Earthquake risk evaluation centre

5500. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVU-KKARASU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made in this regard;

(d) whether any recommendation were made in the 89th Indian Science Congress for disaster preparedness of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of Government thereon?

Support to Science and Technology projects of Karnataka

5501. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) which projects serviced by Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology are supported by the Department of Science and Technology; during 2001-2002; and

(b) the amount released to Karnataka for these projects during the above period?

Restructuring of CSIR institutions

5502. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has decided to restructure some of the institutions and close down some other centres;

(b) if so, the names of institutions to be closed;

(c) the reasons for doing so; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

Supplying information regarding marine Catche to fishermen

5503. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether information regarding marine catche and matters connected therewith is being supplied to fishermen community from satellites;

(b) the names of coastal States where such information is being supplied; and

(c) whether Government have assessed the benefits to the fishing community from this new facility; if so, the details in this regard?

Study on melting of glaciers

5504. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology has commissioned projects to study the melting of glaciers and of the resultant threat of global warming;

(b) whether the Centre has woken up to the threats of receding glaciers in the Ganga

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and Brahmaputra basins and if so, whether the Centre would consider setting up glaciology study/research centres, on the lines of Glaciology Research Centre, Moscow and Lanzhon Institute of Glaciology and Geocryolgy, China; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Operationalising "SARAS"

5505. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when the multi-role SARAS Aircraft is likely to be test flown;

(b) when the work on this project was started and what was the target date for taking it to skies;

(c) the reasons for the delay in this regard; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

Research on earthquake

5506. SHRI C. RAMACHAN-DRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up various new research activities on earthquake;

(b) if so, what are the details of the new research initiatives;

(c) whether any efforts are also proposed for finding out ways to get advance intimation on earthquakes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Researches for advance information about human bombs

† 5507. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research to get advance information about dangers of human bombs

or living-being bombs and to de-activate the same is going on in the country; and

(b) whether the requisite technology or resources are available indigenously for undertaking such research?

Review of Polymetallic Nodules Programme

5508. SHRI C. RAMACHAN-DRAIAH: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had appointed a Committee to review the Polymetallic Nodules Programme;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, what are the recommendations made; and

(d) what action is proposed to be taken by Government?

New programme for EEZ

5509. SHRI C. RAMACHAN-DRAIAH: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a new programme for systematic research and a comprehensive survey of the EEZ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the programme;

(c) what are the benefits likely to accrue; and

(d) by when it is likely to start?

National mission on bamboo applications

5510. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH:

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

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to launch a National Mission on Bamboo applications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be launched; and

(d) what are the targets being fixed?

Research activities in Antarctic region

5511. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to enhance research activities at Antarctic Station;

(b) if so, what are the new activities proposed to be taken up; and

(c) what are the achievements made during the last three years in Antarctic Research Programme?

Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme

5512. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has agreed to continue with the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme for another five years;

(b) if so, whether it has been decided that more emphasis would be given for development of Malaria, TB, HIV and typhoid vaccines;

(c) whether this decision was taken during the two-day meeting of the Indo-US

Science Forum which was held on 19th March, 2002; and

(d) if so, what are the other decisions taken in the meeting?

Co-operation with Mauritius in field of Biotechnology

5513. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mauritius has expressed its desire to work with India in the field of information and communication technology and biotechnology;

(b) if so, whether the Mauritius Deputy Premier had a long discussions with the HRD Minister during his visit in the month of April, 2002;

(c) whether any agreement between the two countries has been reached;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent both the countries have agreed to work in this regard?

KVPY in Karnataka

5514. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students who were selected under the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana in Karnataka for taking up research careers in basic sciences, engineering and medicine during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the amount of scholarship released to these students during the above period; and

(c) how many of the students selected during the above period are residents of Karnataka?

Steel Plant in Bihar

†5515. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to set up any steel plant in Bihar;
- (b) if so, by when; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Institute for Adventurous sports

†5516. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to set up a National Adventure Sports Institute, to promote adventurous sports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and which adventurous sports would be promoted by this Institute; and
- (c) by when, the Institute would start functioning?

Employment and rehabilitation of youths in A.P.

5517. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to assist the Chief Minister's empowerment of youth programme, being arranged by Andhra Pradesh Government, for employment and rehabilitation of youths; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, how youths would be encouraged in their self-employment efforts?

Improving the sports standard

5518. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken by Government to improve the standards of Indian sports at the international arena during the last five years;
- (b) whether the same has shown improvements;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Training/Coaching centre for national games in A.P.

5519. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to sanction training or coaching centre in Andhra Pradesh to fully utilise the sports equipment and infrastructure being created by the State Government, to conduct the 32nd National Games at Hyderabad, from 15th to 25th November, 2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, how active encouragement to sports and games would be made?

Grants to NGOs by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

5520. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

been given grants for training of youths, promotion of national integration, adventures etc.;

(b) if so, how the NGOs are selected for such grants and in what manner their activities are monitored, so as to ensure proper utilisation of grants;

(c) when this scheme was started and how far the desired benefits have been achieved; and

(d) whether Government propose to involve more such NGOs in these activities?

NEW DELHI;
The 11th May, 2002

Vaisakha 21, 1924 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	: 5401, 5402, 5403, 5404, 5405, 5406, 5407, 5408, 5409, 5410, 5411, 5412, 5413, 5414, 5415, 5416, 5417, 5418, 5419, 5420, 5421, 5444,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 5422, 5423, 5424, 5425, 5426, 5427, 5428, 5429,
Environment and Forests	: 5430, 5431, 5432, 5433, 5434, 5435, 5436, 5437, 5438, 5439, 5440, 5441, 5442, 5443,
Food Processing Industries	: —
Human Resource Development	: 5445, 5446, 5447, 5448, 5449, 5450, 5451, 5452, 5453, 5454, 5455, 5456, 5457, 5458, 5459, 5460, 5461, 5462, 5463, 5464, 5465, 5466, 5467, 5468, 5469, 5470, 5471, 5472, 5473, 5474, 5475,
Ocean Development	: 5476, 5477, 5503, 5508, 5509, 5511,
Railways	: 5478, 5479, 5480, 5481, 5482, 5483, 5484, 5485, 5486, 5487, 5488, 5489, 5490, 5491, 5492, 5493, 5494, 5495, 5496, 5497, 5498, 5499,
Science and Technology	: 5500, 5501, 5502, 5504, 5505, 5506, 5507, 5510, 5512, 5513, 5514,
Steel	: 5515,
Youth Affairs and Sports	: 5516, 5517, 5518, 5519, 5520.