

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the December 17, 2004/Agrahayana 26, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions —155

Milk production project by NDDB in Uttaranchal

1590. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some milk production projects have been undertaken in the joint sector with co-operative milk federations of different States by NDDB;

(b) if so, whether any such project has been started in Uttaranchal;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal to undertake some of such projects in that State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Funds for agricultural marketing

1591. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a scheme to make available funds for developing and strengthening agricultural marketing only for such States as have made certain policy changes towards reforms;

(b) if so, the nature and details of the policy changes required for the State Governments to qualify for the aid under this scheme; and

(c) the extent of aid extended thereunder to different States, so far?

Timing of Kathgodam and New Delhi Sampark Kranti Express

1592. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that passengers from hilly areas of Uttaranchal are left stranded and are unable to use the Sampark Kranti Express between Kathgodam and Delhi, as it arrives and departs from Kathgodam at 10.45 P.M. and 8.50 A.M. respectively, and the State Government has banned public transport on hills during night;

(b) if so, whether Government would change the departure timing of the train to 4 P.M. from Kathgodam and 9 A.M. from Delhi; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose a link train from Ramnagar be connected with this train similar to the Ranikhet Express to benefit people of Garhwal?

Subsidy *vis-a-vis* interest of farmers

†1593. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRIRAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the statement made by the Planning Commission wherein it has been said "The key for the development of Agriculture is to increase the capital investment and not to give subsidy";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that developed western countries are giving annual subsidy in terms of billions of dollars to their agricultural producers; and

(d) if so, what arrangements will be made to safeguard the interests of Indian farmers in international market?

Rice scam

1594. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of rice scam in Karnataka;

(b) the quantity of rice involved and misused which was meant for Food for Work Programme;

(c) whether an enquiry by CBI is being ordered/contemplated; and

(d) whether similar scams occurred in other States in the country; if so, the details thereof?

Income of small and marginal farmers

1595. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the debt burden on poor and marginal farmers is increasing and sourcing of their income decreasing day by day in the country;

(b) if so, the details of average income annually of poor and marginal farmers in each State/UT as on date and also of annual debt;

(c) whether Government propose to write off agricultural loan at least up to 10,000 rupees; if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what schemes Government propose to give financial relief to poor farmers in the country in 2005-06?

Drought assistance to Andhra Pradesh

1596. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes and facilities provided to farmers affected by continuous drought;

(b) the details of budget released, scheme-wise for 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, district-wise and Mandal-wise in Andhra Pradesh, to save the farmers from worst crisis, due to continuous drought; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not releasing any budget or any special package schemes, so far?

Agricultural growth

1597. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

considering a proposal to develop on a large scale, post harvest management technologies in Agriculture to give a fillip to overall growth of the economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other measures are being considered for achieving and surfacing high agriculture growth which, as per present estimate is likely to come down during 2004-05?

Agri-clinics

†1598. SHRIRAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the setting up of agri-clinics and following their directions may prove to be beneficial in order to develop the agriculture in the country and minimise the wastage or avoidable loss occurring thereto;

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

(c) whether this project is already in operation in many States of the country;

(d) if so, the States where this project is going on at present; and

(e) the measures proposed by Government to promote it?

System for monitoring rain deficiency

1599. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rain deficiency States visited by the Central Teams to assess the situation on cultivated crops;

(b) the details of their observations;

(c) the action taken to assist the affected districts;

(d) whether any system of monitoring for rain-deficiency has been planned; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Enhancing production of horticulture

1600. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to enhance the production of horticulture products to 300 million tonnes by 2011-12;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to bring in 40 lakh hectares under horticulture;

(c) whether Government are considering to convene a meeting of State Agricultural Ministers to discuss switching over to horticulture in areas where traditional crops were grown; and

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

Assistance to M.P. for production of oilseeds and pulses

†1601. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal for grant of Rs. 145.74 crores for increasing production of oilseeds and pulses in Bundelkhand region with the help of GICA;

(b) whether the Central Government are considering the said proposal; and

(c) if so, by when the expected budget and sanction will be provided?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Setting up of Coconut Research Institute in Karnataka

1602. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka is a major producer of coconuts in the country;

(b) whether any proposal from the State is pending with the Centre for setting up a Coconut Research Institute there; and

(c) whether the proposal has undergone examination of the ICAR and if so, the decision taken thereon?

Reports of National Commission on Farmers

1603. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) by when the National Commission on Farmers, which has been constituted to improve the conditions of farmers in the country, under the chairmanship of Mr. Swaminathan, is going to submit its report;

(b) whether any interim report has been submitted by the Commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the priority areas that the Commission is asked to look into?

Mitigating drought

1604. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate comprehensive action plan for eradication/mitigation of drought in the rainfed areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of evaluation of programmes launched for drought proofing all these years; and

(d) the special features of New National Policy for drought proofing?

Task Force on micro irrigation

1605. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 65 given in Rajya Sabha on the 9th July, 2004 and state:

(a) Government's response to the report submitted by Task Force Committee on micro irrigation;

(b) what are the salient features of the report; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the encouragement of micro irrigation in the country?

High yielding variety sugarcane

1606. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that scientists of Sugarcane Research Institute, Tamil Nadu, have developed a high yielding sugarcane variety suited well for problem soil and drought conditions; and

(b) if so, when it is expected to be declared officially for sugarcane growers in order to derive early benefits?

Transgenic crops

1607. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering transgenic as an important area for future development of agriculture;

(b) if so, what are the crops in which research is being conducted;

(c) the amount earmarked for the transgenic research;

(d) the details of scientists working in the area;

(e) the tentative time for developing transgenic seeds;

(f) whether ICAR can alone compete with MNCs and developed nations on research programmes; and

(g) whether Government will consider having a joint venture research activity with private sector in transgenics?

Agricultural production

1608. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural production during 2004-05 is likely to meet the projected targets; and

(b) if not, the reasons of deceleration and the steps proposed to boost agricultural growth?

Drought assistance to Rajasthan

†1609. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan is reeling under severe famine until the arrival of new crops;

(b) whether drought condition in the State is far more severe than that of other States;

(c) whether Government plan to provide financial assistance to that State for drought relief until arrival of the new crops in the month of November; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Kharif production

1610. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kharif output will be lesser than that of 2003-04 because of decrease in Kharif area coverage by a significant 6 million hectares during 2004-05;

(b) whether Government apprehends that heat stress caused by raising temperature would adversely affect the ensuing Rabi crops; and

(c) whether Government are working on the hindsight gained from decreased Kharif output, to evolve corrective strategy for the Rabi season?

Drought relief to Andhra Pradesh

1611. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have in month of July, sanctioned Rs. 100 crores as a drought relief to Andhra Pradesh and other States;

(b) if so, the total amount provided to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the total demand made by that State;

(d) to what extent that State has urged Government to provide more; and

(e) the Centre's reaction thereon?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Decline in prices of cotton and potato in Punjab

1612. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge decline in the prices of cotton and potato in Punjab;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps Government have taken so far, to increase the price when the quality of these commodities are better in international market; and

(d) whether Government are intending to allow export of these commodities?

Fall in cotton prices

1613. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of cotton are falling unprecedentedly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed by Government to arrest this fall;

(c) whether Government intend to rope in Cotton Corporation of India to purchase cotton at MSP; if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government intend to compensate the cotton farmers who have sold their produce at distressed prices?

Industrial status to agriculture sector

1614. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give industrial status to the agriculture

sector so that it could develop in its full dimension;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by what time it is likely to be done;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the scheme of Government to boost production in the agriculture sector in 2004-05 and 2005-06?

Expensive treatment and medicine

†1615. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that with treatment getting increasingly expensive in the country, common man has to spend 82.2 per cent of his pocket money on medicine and treatment;

(b) if not, what is Government's assessment and whether it is also a fact that in rich countries like America and England these expenses are 15.3 per cent and 10.6 per cent respectively; and

(c) if not, what is Government's response in this regard and what steps are being taken by Government to make medicine and treatment cheaper?

Uniform policy on pricing and availability of drugs

1616. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a uniform policy at the national level on the pricing and availability of drugs to do away with discrepancies in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

prices of medicines and prevent sale of spurious drugs;

(b) whether the disparities in prices is benefiting the middlemen and affecting the poor patients; and

(c) the early steps proposed to check the exploitation of patients by the druggists taking advantage of variance in prices?

Conversion to gas/coal based plants

1617. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

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

(a) whether there is a lack of coordinated approach between Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Petroleum & Natural Gas and Coal for converting naphtha based urea plants to either gas based or coal based plants;

(b) if so, whether a group of Ministry is being formed to address the issue; and

(c) if not, the detailed action plan for reviving/rebuilding such units in States of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa where there is no urea producing unit at present in public or private sector?

Shortage fo NPK fertilizers in West Bengal

1618. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) whether all potato growing districts in West Bengal are facing acute shortage of NPK fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the details of the shortage faced and time bound action plan to rush NPK fertilizers to the above districts, district-wise?

Reviewing the PPL sell off deals

1619. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to review the Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) sell off deal arrived at earlier;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status of the deal of sell off of PPL?

Import of fertilizers

1620. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of different varieties of fertilizers is being imported every year;

(b) if so, the details of import duty during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to increase domestic production?

Supply of DAP fertilizers in Punjab and J & K

1621. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA:
SHRI T.S. BAJWA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that supply of D.A.P. fertilizer is not sufficient in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps Government have taken, so far, to meet the demands of the farmers?

Distribution control on urea

1622. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring back distribution control on urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this move will affect the smooth availability of urea to the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Budget and expenditure on INDIACHEM

1623. SHRIMATI. KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure that have been budgeted *vis-a-vis* spent by the department for promotion of INDIACHEM 2004;

(b) the details of expenditure and allowances alongwith the names of the officers, who have undertaken tours abroad for the above; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

Urea Marketing Policy

1624. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

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

(a) whether Government have recently reviewed the Urea Marketing Policy;

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

(c) whether under the new Urea Marketing Policy Government propose to permit open market sale of 50 per cent urea and to keep 50 per cent urea under controlled sale in the interest of farmer community;

(d) whether Government have constituted a committee to suggest measures for reviving sick/closed down urea plants and to set up new gas based/ coal based urea plants in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, showing composition, terms of reference and the stipulated period for submission of report?

Restarting closed fertilizer industries

†1625. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restart the closed fertilizer industries;

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

(c) the total number of employees rendered jobless on account of closure of the said fertilizer industries; and

(d) by when the said fertilizer industries are proposed to be restarted separately?

Transportation of food materials in Jammu and Kashmir

1626. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a huge corruption in transportation of food materials in various parts of country particularly in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the rates for the transportation of per ton/per truck food material from Pathankot to Srinagar and Jammu to Srinagar during the last five years; and

(d) what are the reasons for delay in tender for transportation of food materials particular for Jammu to Srinagar when the date of prior tender has been expired?

Restructuring FCI

1627. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan has been formulated to re-structure the Food Corporation of India with a view to improving its functioning to control inefficiencies that increase the food subsidy burden; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status?

DPS in FCI

1628. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of non-implementation of the direction of the Supreme Court on Direct Payment System (DPS) in Food Corporation of India in Punjab, as represented by trade unions;

(b) whether 841 workers stand retrenched in 14 depots where DPS was introduced additionally subsequent to the Supreme Court order; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to regularize the retrenched workers and implement DPS in all depots?

Numbers of passengers in AC

1629. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the complete details of carrying capacity and number of passengers travelled in First AC, 2AC and 3AC in trains originating/terminating from/ at Ahmedabad, Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Mumbai and Guwahati during first six months of 2004, train-wise and sector-wise;

(b) what are the details of percentage utilization, class-wise on these trains, train-wise and sector-wise; and

(c) what are the earning to Railways from the above trains during the above period?

Procurement of rice and wheat

1630. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) what was the target set for procurement of rice and wheat in the year 2004, State-wise;

(b) how it is going to be procured or achieved; and

(c) if the target is not achieved the reasons therefor?

Transit loss in Railways

1631. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether major transit losses of food-grains are caused on account of lack of proper foodgrain booking arrangement in Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact that generally Railways do not issue any receipt of their own and thus foodgrains are transported at the risk of the Ministry;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry propose to install their own weighing bridges at the stations at their own cost;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of Agribusiness Revitalisation and Restructuring Tribunal

1632. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether food industry has demanded setting up of an Agribusiness Revitalisation and Restructuring Tribunal for disposing of or restructuring assets of sick units which are heavily burdened with debit;

(b) if so, whether they have also proposed tribunal to help in speedy recovery of non-performing assets and use of equipments and infrastructure for productive purpose by interested parties;

(c) if so, to what extent Government have considered their demands; and

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

Involving PRIs in the functioning of TPDS in Orissa

1633. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa Government has implemented the guidelines issued by the Department of Food and Public Distribution in June, 1999 for greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the functioning of TPDS to bring about a more transparent and accountable system of distribution; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard and the results achieved therefrom up to 30th November, 2004?

Prices of onion and potato

1634. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of onion and potato are high as compared to the international market and there is scarcity of these commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the prices of onion and potato in international market;

(c) the quantity of onion and potato exported during the last three years, country-wise, along with the foreign exchange earned; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government to keep prices of onion and potato under control?

Corruption in Labour Unions of FCI

†1635. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of corruption in different States in becoming a member of the Labour Unions of Food Corporation of India particularly in the State of Punjab, where any labourer

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

can become a member of Union by paying one lakh rupees and also that office bearers of these Labour Unions belong to mafia and are of criminal nature who have been occupying these posts for years together;

(b) if so, whether the top officials of the Food Corporation of India are aware of such large scale corruption prevalent in Labour Unions; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government to remove corruption and crime as above?

Foodgrain procurement and exports by FCI

1636. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrain procured by the FCI during the last three years and the amount of subsidy paid by Government; and

(b) the quantity of foodgrains exported by the FCI during 2001-2004, the countries to which exported and the foreign exchange earned from such exports?

Submerging of FCI godowns

†1637. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a request has been submitted to Government regarding damage and drainage of foodgrains as a result of submerging several godowns of the Food Corporation of India caused by devastating floods this year in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the full details thereof and the godown-wise position and the quantum of foodgrains in quintals and the amount involved in it?

Delay in disposal of consumer cases

†1638. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards inordinate delay being caused in disposal of consumer related cases;

(b) if so, the reasons for such delay; and

(c) whether Government propose to take urgent action to ensure speedy disposal of consumer related cases in view of the fact that consumers are losing their faith in the consumer courts because of the undue delay taken by these courts in disposing of the cases?

Godowns in Maharashtra

1639. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial grants/ assistance given to Maharashtra for constructing foodgrains storage godowns and to develop public distribution system infrastructure there; and

(b) the details of the funds granted to the State during the last three years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Cereal procurement

†1640. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 80 per cent of Government purchase of cereals are made from Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the details of the quantity of Government purchase on support price from rest of the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 27 per cent of the total production of cereals are made in the aforesaid states; and

(d) if not, the facts in this regard?

Sugar production

1641. SHRIRAMA MUNIREDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of sugar in 2003-04 is less when compared to 2002-03;

(b) if so, the production of sugar in 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(c) whether Government are thinking of allowing private sugar mills to import sugar from other countries to meet the domestic demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Notice to hospitals for non-compliance of bio-medical waste

1642. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

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

(a) whether Delhi Pollution Control Committee has recently issued notices to a number of major hospitals in Delhi for non-compliance of bio-medical waste norms;

(b) if so, the names of the hospitals that have defaulted in this regard; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the defaulters?

Shifting of industries from residential areas

1643. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to shift residents from the polluted areas instead of shifting the industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide land to these residents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Tribal villages settlement

1644. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got any information on the Status of Survey and Settlement of Tribal lands in forest area;

(b) if so, the Status of Tribal village settlement and evictions in different States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Forest cover in Madhya Pradesh

†1645. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to allocate more funds to Madhya Pradesh for forest conservations as Madhya Pradesh has bigger forest cover than any other State in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Clearance to power projects in Krishna-Godavari basin in Andhra Pradesh

1646. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will
the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of decision of Government in empowering States to grant environment clearance to natural gas based power projects having a capacity of 3000 MW or less, instead of empowering States for clearance upto the capacity of 500 MW or less in view of huge natural gas found in the Krishna-Godavari basins in Andhra Pradesh and to avoid delay in commissioning of power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government will assure of taking of a favourable speedy decision in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Papikonda Sanctuary in A.P.

1647. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the Sanctuaries where the Indian Wild Buffalo is protected;

(b) whether it is a fact that Papikonda Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh is a Wild Buffalo Sanctuary;

(c) whether Government have allotted funds for the Sanctuary in 2003-04; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Dust pollution in metro cities

1648. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRISANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether there are any plans under consideration of Government to reduce dust pollution, especially in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) Government's plan to do away with the dust pollution caused by the red sand being spread regularly around Government buildings like Parliament House, Rashtrapati Bhavan and few other buildings?

Transferring forests to Central List

1649. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will
the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the workshop "Media Plan for Promotion of Forest Cover in the country", held recently in Bhopal, it was suggested that forests should be transferred from the Concurrent to the Central list as this would be better technically, administratively and legally and would further help in protecting the forests; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating such a change and what is the time-frame for the same?

Sewri-Nava Link project

1650. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal for a Link (Sewri-Nava Link project) connecting Mumbai to the Mainland in order to reduce congestion in the Island city, for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far for clearance of the project and the extent of cost escalation suffered by the project due to this delay;

(c) whether decision has since been taken to accord due clearance of the project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Environment courts

1651. SHRIMATIN.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Law Commission has recommended for constituting Environment Courts in the States;

(b) whether Government has also recommended for appointing retired judges as supervisors and are assisted by experts to deal with the cases pertaining to environment;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Law Commission; and

(d) what action Government have taken or proposed to take on those recommendations?

Central fund for forest conservation

1652. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a Central fund for forest conservation;

(b) if so, salient features thereof;

(c) whether Centre has disbursed this fund to the States; and

(d) if so, the details of the amount that has been disbursed to the Orissa State?

Implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

†1653. SHRIKRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is the main hurdle in implementation of "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana" in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of cases for clearance to construct roads in the intervening forest land falling enroute the roads to be constructed that have been forwarded to the Government during the last three years alongwith the number of such proposals cleared and pending till date; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to seek a permanent solution?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Proposals under consideration under
Forest Conservation Act in
Chhattisgarh**

†1654. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals from Chhattisgarh which are under Government's consideration under Forest Conservation Act 1980;

(b) whether there is any time limit for taking the final decision on the proposals received, if so, the time limit;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal under consideration to lay down time limit; and

(d) by when the decision would be taken on the proposals received from Chhattisgarh?

**Environmental clearance to Western
Free-Way Sea Link Project**

1655. DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stipulated a condition while granting environmental clearance to the Western Free-Way Sea Link Project in Mumbai that there should be a permanent transfer of the Municipal Corporation land extending to 15.90 acres at Worli to the Naval Establishment;

(b) if so, why a condition unrelated to the Project has been included in the clearance; and

(c) whether the project will be given clearance deleting the condition so that this very important project designed for decongesting the existing choked Western

Road network can be carried out expeditiously?

Draft policy on Environment

1656. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed draft policy on environment has in its purview the problem of pollution specially that of noise, air and water pollution caused by industries located in residential areas in urban habitations;

(b) if so, the details of specific provisions in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Air pollution

1657. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air pollution levels in major cities including metros in India are above levels that are regarded as safe;

(b) whether it is also a fact that pollution levels in many major cities have been increasing over the last five years;

(c) if so, change in pollution level figures for five years for ten most polluted cities in India; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to bring back the air pollution levels within safe thresholds in the worst-affected cities?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reduction of forest area of U.P. due to bifurcation of States

‡1658. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a plan to declare certain areas as reserve forest area after identification of certain new areas;

(b) whether forest cover of Uttar Pradesh has been reduced due to inclusion of its certain forest area in Uttaranchal;

(c) Government's plan to compensate Uttar Pradesh in this regard; and

(d) The total amount allotted to Uttar Pradesh towards afforestation?

Creation of Forest Development Agencies for Wasteland afforestation

1659. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that green cover area in the country is depleting year after year;

(b) if so, the area under green cover during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether various schemes with Central Grants have been proposed for conservation and augmentation of forest cover;

(d) if so, the details with grants released during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(e) whether Karnataka Government has requested for financial support for creation of Forest Development Agencies for wastelands afforestation, bamboo development programme, etc., through

Village Forests Committees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and Centre's reaction thereto?

Input prices

1660. SHRITARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that input prices of wheat, sugar, vanaspati etc. have gone up at an alarming rate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this has forced the food processing industries to rethink the production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

India as illegal drug transit

1661. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has come out with a report which has included India as one of the major drug transit and illicit drug producing countries; and

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

Authorised Blood Banks

1662. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

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

(a) what is the source and amount of blood collected by Blood Banks in the

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

country with details of authorized Blood Banks;

(b) whether blood is also imported from foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details in this regard, with amount spent on such imports annually and measures put in place to ensure the imported blood is not contaminated/infected;

(d) whether it is a fact that blood imported from U.K. was infected with 'Mad Cow Disease' virus; and

(e) if so, the details of such imports and the action taken to assess the damage caused by infected blood and contain further damage?

(a) whether Government plan to include private doctors in population control programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the compensation package to doctors in this regard;

(d) whether any districts have been identified to launch this scheme in the country;

(e) if so, the details of districts in various States; and

(f) the districts that have been identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

Disparity of ACP among ayurvedic homoeopathic and allopathic pharmacists

1663. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ayurvedic and homoeopathic pharmacists in CGHS are being given first ACP (after 12 years) starting from Rs. 5500/- whereas the allopathic pharmacists in CGHS get first ACP (after 12 years) at Rs. 5000/-;

(b) if so, the reasons for the said disparity; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to bring at par the ayurvedic, homoeopathic and allopathic pharmacists?

Private doctors for population control programme

1664. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

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

Vacant posts in CGHS Dispensaries

1665. SHRI VEER SINGH:
SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of posts of Pharmacists are lying vacant in CGHS Dispensaries (Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic), Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, Dispensary-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that class-IV employees are distributing the medicines to the patients with the consent of Incharge/Additional Director (Zones) in R.K. Puran, Shahdara, M.B. Road in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when Government propose to fill the vacancies to post the pharmacists in the above dispensaries?