

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the March 18, 2005/Phalgun 27, 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

Replacing MSP

1851. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some Agriculture Experts have suggested to replace the system of Minimum Support Price for specified crops by a system of remunerative prices and a participatory price insurance scheme, and to expand the National Employment Guarantee Scheme to provide employment beyond 100 days a year;

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to their request; and

(c) if not, whether alternative proposals are also being considered or the present schemes being further strengthened?

Fertilizer and fertility

†1852. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertility of the land of our country has declined due to use of chemical fertilizers; and;

(b) if so, the details of action plan formulated by Government to deal with it?

Alternatives to tobacco cultivation

†1853. SHRIMATISUSHMASWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco cultivation has been affected due to the ban imposed on the advertisements of tobacco products;

(b) if so, whether any suggestion has been given by the Ministry to tobacco cultivators for alternative cultivation; and

(c) whether any research has been undertaken for suggesting alternative cultivation?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Customs duty on raw-materials for irrigation system

1854. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken or proposed to be taken regarding exemption of customs duty on raw materials to be imported for manufacture of micro-irrigation system sold in Andhra Pradesh to make it more affordable for an ordinary farmer to utilise this system, specially when the ground water resources are getting drastically reduced, causing unbearable hardships to small farmers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Sher-e-Kashmir University

1855. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 164 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the requisite money for 500 acres of land procured for Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology has been received from the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether compensation has been paid to the villagers for their land acquired for the university;

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

(e) the details of the Rs. 5427.29 lakhs spent on this university?

Wastage of agricultural produce due to flood, drought etc.

†1856. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantity of agricultural products are destroyed every year due to flood, drought and absence of proper techniques and maintenance; and

(b) if so, the assessment of the quantity destroyed separately, due to each of the above said reasons?

Precision farming

1857. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to conduct experiments in precision farming towards maximising agriculture productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-frame has been set to take such experiments to operational capability; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Reforms in agriculture sector of Orissa

1858. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have committed to bring a complete reform in the agriculture sector of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the National Horticulture Project that is proposed to be launched in the State; and

(d) the other measures Government propose to evolve to help the beleaguered paddy farmers of the State from the clutches of the middlemen?

Mustard oilseeds production

†1859. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the rabi crop, production of mustard oilseeds has been estimated to be more in comparison to the last year;

(b) if so, the estimated total production this year and to what extent it is more than that of the last year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that NAFED has decided to purchase mustard containing eight per cent moisture at minimum support price;

(d) if so, whether due to irregularity of rains the moisture in the mustard produced in rabi is upto 9 to 10 per cent; and

(e) if so, the provisions made to purchase the mustard containing such an excessive moisture?

Agricultural Policy

†1860. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new agricultural policy keeping in view the interests of the farmers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent it will be helpful for the Indian farmers; and

(d) the effective steps to be taken by Government to implement the said policy in the country?

Promotion of organic farming

1861. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for creation of regional centre at Nagpur for the promotion of organic farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Godowns in rural areas

1862. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to set up large number of storage godowns in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the existing storage capacity and the proposed number of storage godowns to be set up in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu?

Drought proofing policy

1863. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a permanent policy on Drought Proofing;

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

(c) the details of the assistance extended to Karnataka as the drought affected State?

Damage to Rabi crop due to natural disasters

†1864. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that severe damage to the crop of Rabi has been estimated due to untimely rain in the southern region as well as hailstorm in the northern region;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the production, on about 44000 hectare of land, has been affected on account of the above factors;

(c) if not, Government's assessment in this regard and the value of agro-produce estimated to be damaged due to above reasons; and

(d) the relief decided to be provided to the producers to compensate such loss?

Decreasing agricultural growth rate

†1865. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural growth rate has decreased in the country during the last nine years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the measures being taken by Government to increase the agricultural growth rate?

Suicides by farmers

1866. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of suicides by farmers in different States on economic grounds during 2003-04 and 2004-05 upto 31st December, 2004;

(b) the consequences of farmers agitation in Rajasthan during the period from August to December, 2004; and

(c) the steps taken by Government and also by the State Governments in curbing the background of suicides by farmers?

Sugarcane farmer's problems in UP

1867. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to solve the problems of the Sugarcane Farmers of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the assistance given to the sugarcane farmers of the State during 2004-05?

National Fertilizer Policy

1868. SHRISUDARSHAN AKARAPU:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

formulated/finalized the new National Fertilizer Policy;

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

(c) if not, the time-frame by which the policy would come into effect?

Availability of pesticides

†1869. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to increase in prices of pesticides after enforcement of product patent in place of process patent under the Trade Related Intellectual Property Right, the farmers will be adversely affected;

(b) if so, the efforts made by Government to ensure easy and cheaper availability of the said pesticides to the farmers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Price control on drugs

1870. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has been able to regulate the prices of control-free drugs and retail margins and if so, to what extent;

(b) whether the revenue recovery notices issued by NPPA to overcharging drug makers to the aggregate extent of more than Rs. 500.00 crores have been stayed due to litigation in courts; and

(c) whether any Committee has been set up to monitor control-free drugs and

retail margin of medicines and if so the findings thereof?

Drug Price Liability Review Committee

1871. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Drug Price Liability Review Committee was formed around 10 years ago; and

(b) if so, the details of the reports received from this Committee and details of the pending cases?

Drug manufacturers in the country

1872. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATISAVITA SHARDA:

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

(a) the number of Drug manufacturers working in the country, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of production of Drugs by the Manufacturers, in Monetary terms, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that nearly Rs. 4000 crores worth of duplicate drugs are manufactured by unregistered Drug Manufacturers in the country; and

(d) the steps Government propose to combat duplicate drug manufacturing causing danger to the life of citizens of our country?

Drug testing laboratories

†1873. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the number of laboratories to test the quality of medicines in the country alongwith the locations thereof;

(b) the names and number of samples of medicines tested in these laboratories during the last three years and the number and names of medicines found to be adulterated and substandard;

(c) the action taken against manufacturers of these medicines; and

(d) the details of facilities available for testing quality of medicines being sold in the States, not having laboratories?

Production cost of fertilizers

1874. SHRI N. R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production cost of chemicals and fertilizers in the country is higher than the international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government had made efforts to find out the cost of production of chemicals and fertilizers in the developed countries?

Introduction of WR System

†1875. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are to introduce Warehouse Receipt (WR) System instead of purchasing the foodgrains from the farmers at minimum support price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete arrangements made by Government to ensure that the benefit of this system is passed on to the small and medium farmers only?

Streamlining in sugar prices

1876. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

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

(a) the reasons for steep hike in the prices of sugar in the country, as the prices have increased by 75 per cent from that were a few months back;

(b) whether traders are responsible for creating temporary shortage, if so, the action taken by Government;

(c) whether Government are proposing to import sugar to streamline the prices in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Black-marketing at FPSs

†1877. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the black-marketing going on at Fair Price Shops;

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken by Government to check it; and

(c) the total number of Fair Price Shops, throughout the country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Quality checks during purchases by FCI

1878. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether quality checks are carried out before FCI purchases rice or foodgrains;
- (b) if not, the reasons thereof;
- (c) if so, the steps taken if the quality of the foodgrain is found to be below-standard;
- (d) the action taken against persons who are found responsible;
- (e) whether the view of the respective State Governments are also considered when the foodgrains are given for Public Distribution System through distributors; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Stealing of grains from PDS

1879. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that 50 per cent of grains is stolen from Public Distribution System stores every year in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action being taken against the officials behind the corruption in PDS?

VRS in FCI

1880. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Food

Corporation of India has decided to offer VRS to ten thousand employees;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, sector-wise;
- (c) whether FCI would be able to operate with depleted strength for more efficient performance; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Import of raw sugar

1881. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed import of raw sugar;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor in terms of domestic production and demand;
- (c) the rate at which raw sugar is proposed to be imported and the sources thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken to make the country self reliant in sugar requirement?

FAQ norms for paddy procurement from Orissa

1882. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have relaxed the Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms for paddy procurement by 5 per cent for the last Kharif season;
- (b) whether both the private agencies and Government are procuring the damaged paddy from the farmers of Orissa at the minimum support price fixed by the Centre; and

(c) if so, the total amount of paddy procured by Government and other agencies by the end of December, 2004 from the farmers of Orissa?

Wheat procurement

1883. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the procurement of wheat during the rabi marketing season 2005-06 is estimated to be 180 lakh tonnes against 168 lakh tonnes last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that wheat production for the ensuing rabi season is expected to be around 25 million tonnes;

(c) whether Government have finalised arrangements for procurement of rabi wheat and coarse cereals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Approval for MRP on packaged goods

1884. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) printed on the packages and packed consumer goods is by and large very high and costlier;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering to make it mandatory to get the MRP approved by an appropriate agency by safeguarding the interest of consumers; and

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

Loan from SDF to Sugar factories

1885. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides loan from the Sugar Development Fund to Sugar factories for cane development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such proposals, duly recommended by State Governments, have been received since 2000, State-wise and still pending for consideration;

(d) the reasons for delay in disposing of these proposals; and

(e) by when loan from Sugar Development fund for cane development is likely to be sanctioned to sugar factories in the country, with particular reference to Maharashtra?

Tuteja Committee

1886. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have concluded the assessment of the Tuteja Committee report on revitalization of the sugar industry;

(b) whether the country is facing a sugar shortage, in terms of depleted buffer stock due to poor cane harvesting last season; and

(c) whether Government have initiated move to import raw sugar, as recommended by Tuteja Committee, to tide over the present shortage leading to a 45 per cent price rise in retail sugar prices?

Spraying cold drinks

†1887. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in several areas in the country are spraying cold drinks manufactured by multinational companies instead of pesticides, which is proving effective also;

(b) if so, whether such cold drinks would not prove fatal for human health; and

(c) whether such cold drinks are still being sold in Indian market?

Draft on quality of food items

†1888. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA:

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

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has presented a draft regarding the quality of food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such food items are also being sold in the Indian market which do not fulfil the quality standards of BIS?

Increasing Sugarcane price

1889. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of sugar has been increased recently whereas the price of sugarcane has not been increased proportionately; and

(b) if so, the details of Government's policy in this regard?

Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal

1890. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority has taken any measures of security against the dangerously/chemically affected surroundings and campus soil of the Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above chemically affected plant premises are open and accessible to the general public;

(d) if so, the action taken to protect the public from health hazards of the plant premises; and

(e) whether the Competent Authority has taken any action on the report submitted by the Bhopal Commission on the environmental/industrial aspect of the Bhopal Gas leak from the Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal?

India's rank in world countries

1891. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a new environment sustainability index

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

produced by a team of environment experts at Yale and Columbia Universities and released at the World Economic Forum in Davos has ranked India as one of the worst polluters rating her at 101 of 146 countries in respect of air pollution, biodiversity, quality and adequacy of potable water supply and green house gas emissions;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in addressing these deficiencies?

Erosion of forest land, land sliding, etc., in Himalayan region

†1892. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the action Government are taking to prevent the problem of erosion of forest land, reduction in forest cover and land sliding, etc, in Himalayan region;

(b) the proposal for conservation of forest wealth in Himalayan region; and

(c) the action Government are taking to create awareness among the people of Himalayan region in this regard?

Inclusion of Udanti, Achnakmar and Sitanadi Sanctuaries under Project Tiger

1893. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chhattisgarh Government have sent the proposals for inclusion of Udanti, Achnakmar and Sitanadi Sanctuaries under Project Tiger;

(b) if so, the current status of sanctions of the above proposals; and

(c) if not yet sanctioned, the likely time frame within which these proposals would be sanctioned?

Approval of Kyoto Protocol

1894. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kyoto protocol has recently been approved by various nations for reducing toxic emissions by promoting green practices;

(b) the names of the countries which approved the said protocol;

(c) whether it is a fact that some countries which are not in a position to plant trees in their own countries can do so in the third countries by providing Carbon Credit;

(d) whether Government have allowed inflow of Carbon Credit to our country; and

(e) if so, the details of procedures thereof?

Factories affecting the quality of water in metro cities

1895. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

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

(a) whether Government are fully aware of the fact that a large number of factories have affected the quality of water in the metropolitan cities;

(b) whether it is a fact that water in many metropolitan and capital cities has been unpotable due to effluents discharged by these factories; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Accumulation of e-wastes

1896. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the accumulating electronic wastes which are hazardous to health;

(b) whether Government have developed any system to deal with e-wastes; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to tackle the e-wastes threat?

Report on drying water lands

1897. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Report, Inland Water Lands of India-Conservation Priorities by Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, the water lands have been drying in 14 States of the country;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Report recommended for having a national policy on this;

(d) if so, the details thereon; and

(e) the details of wet lands in the country as on 1st Jan, 1980 and as on 1st January, 2005?

Guidelines allowing developmental/ construction activities in forests

1898. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred

Question 517 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 2005 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has also allowed to cut trees in the forest areas;

(b) whether any consultations with the State Governments have been held in this respect; and

(c) if so, the outcome of such consultations?

Proposal regarding construction works from Uttaranchal

†1899. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals received for approval during the last two years regarding construction works from Uttaranchal:

(b) whether all these proposals have been approved;

(c) if so, the details of these proposals; and

(d) the details of the proposals approved, so far, district-wise?

Amount allocated under National Afforestation Programme

†1900. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to the States during current financial year under National Afforestation Programme, State-wise;

(b) the increase registered in forest covered area due to this programme; and

(c) the official policy in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Kyoto Protocol

1901. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Kyoto Protocol has come into effect from February this year;
- (b) if so, the obligations on our country in terms of this protocol; and
- (c) the steps taken to honour the obligation?

Death of tigers in national parks

†1902. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of national parks in the country where tigers have died last year;
- (b) the causes of their deaths;
- (c) the action taken against the officials responsible for death of these tigers; and
- (d) the safety measures taken by Government to avoid premature deaths of such species of tigers?

Tigers and wild cats in different national parks

1903. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the population of tigers and other wild cats in different national parks and sanctuaries in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Assam and other States;
- (b) how far the population of each species of tigers and wild cats has come down from census to census as per last three counts and the latest population figures in respect thereof; and

(c) the main reasons therefor and the steps being taken to preserve and promote these species?

Threat of prowling animals in Pir Panjal range

1904. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government are aware that residents of border areas on the hills of Pir Panjal range bordering Rajouri, Doda and Poonch districts in Jammu and Kashmir are constantly living under the threat of prowling wild animals without little help from Wild life department;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and how many persons have actually been killed/injured by wild animals during the last three years; and
- (c) the remedial steps Government propose to take to ensure the safety of villagers in those areas?

Amendment of law

†1905. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposal to amend the law made for protecting the existence of environment and wild animals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that protected animals from national parks/sanctuaries and rare botanical species are rapidly heading towards their extinction;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the details of efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Total forest area

†1906. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total forest area of the country, State-wise;
- (b) the total amount spent by each State on afforestation during the last three years;
- (c) the total revenue earned from the forests during the said period;
- (d) whether Government have received any information regarding depleting forest area due to encroachment of the same; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Recommendations of Swaminathan Committee

1907. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
DR. M.A.M.
RAMASWAMY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently the M.S. Swaminathan Committee on coastal regulation system has suggested *inter-alia* 'bio-shields' like mangroves to protect India's coastal areas and cautioned against unregulated developmental activities to prevent disasters like Tsunami;
- (b) whether the Committee has submitted its report;
- (c) if so, the details of other major recommendations made by the Committee; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

Swaminathan Committee on CRZ norms

1908. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Swaminathan Committee examining the existing CRZ norms has considered the post Tsunami scenario of environment and ecology along the nation's coastline;
- (b) whether some Tsunami affected States have called for more stringent CRZ regulations; and
- (c) whether any time-frame has been given to the Swaminathan Committee to submit its report?

Deterioration of River Godavari

1909. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have not taken a positive stance to demands from environmentalists and concerned citizens to protect the rapid deterioration of the River Godavari in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the River Conservation Cell of Government have not moved beyond some Delhi-Centric action;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring more focus on the rapid deterioration of the health of the River Godavari in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) whether a team would be sent to meet concerned activists on this matter; and
- (e) the role of Government in conserving such important rivers?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Deliberate killing of wild buffalos

1910. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a deliberate killing of wild buffalos in the Papikonda Game Sanctuary in the last two years;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fast depletion of wild buffalos in Papikonda Game Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the corrective or preventive steps Government have initiated in responding to various demands to better protect this game sanctuary;

(d) whether Government would take stock of the situation on an urgent basis; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed in this regard?

Taxing polluting units and municipalities

1911. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

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

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to tax polluting units and municipalities that don't take steps to curb pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria to select the polluting units; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be implemented?

Mixing of Naptha with petrol

†1912. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Naptha is being mixed with petrol;

(b) if so, the percentage thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the smoke of Naptha-mixed petrol is dangerous from the point of view of health and environment; and

(d) if so, what are the bad effects of Naptha-mixed smoke on health and the details of steps taken by Government to check this adulteration?

Cutting of trees

†1913. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that various diseases are spreading due to pollution caused by cutting of trees for speeding up the work of construction of houses and buildings in rural regions for the urbanisation of several cities in the countries; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken by Government to stop the cutting of trees to control the pollution?

Cruelty towards animals

1914. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

cruelty towards animals during the last one year; and

(b) the action taken against the guilty individuals?

Growth of food processing industries

1915. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of growth of food processing industries during the last two years of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the percentage of growth estimated during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the steps taken to realize the estimated growth?

Regulation of infant foods

1916. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI A. VIJAYA-
RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to repeal the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the specific reasons for not incorporating the provisions of the Act, particularly relating to provisions to promote and protect breastfeeding in the new integrated food laws?

Taking off of FPIs

1917. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite India being a very significant producer of a large number of agricultural items, the country lags behind Philippines and China, as far as food processing industries are conserved;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the food processing sector constitutes 14 per cent of the manufacturing GDP and employs 13 million people directly and more than that number, indirectly;

(c) whether the high cost structure needs urgent tackling for the food processing to take off; and

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

New FPIs set up *vis-a-vis* employment generation

†1918. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to be spent on the food processing industries set up and functioning in various States of the country under the Tenth Five Year Plan, togetherwith the State-wise/year-wise amount spent thereon, so far during the last three years; and

(b) the number of persons who have been provided employment through the new food processing industries set up in the country during this period, togetherwith the number of persons who are likely to be provided with employment during the current financial year?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

MCI authorised medical colleges

1919. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical colleges in the country which have been recognized by the Medical Council of India presently;

(b) the number of seats in all the colleges combined;

(c) whether there are plans to expand medical education in the country;

(d) if so, whether Government would give any fund for colleges which can be set up in backward areas; and

(e) the details thereof?

Presence of Argemone Maxicina in edible oils

†1920. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the presence of Argemone Maxicina in edible oils has been confirmed in some regions of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of regions affected by it;

(c) the number of deaths occurred in the nearby regions of Lucknow and Delhi, due to the outbreak of dropsy resulting from adulteration of edible oils and the action taken by Government to check this disease; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to check the adulteration of edible oils?

Adulteration of foodstuffs

1921. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that 90 percent of the foodstuffs sold in the unorganised sector is adulterated with dangerous ingredients and even the branded stuff do not necessarily conform to the standards; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to check adulteration of foodstuffs in unorganised sector?

Progress in construction of Medical Research Centre in Raipur

†1922. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Medical Research Centre is being opened in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on the lines of All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) the progress made in this regard, so far; and

(c) by when the said task is likely to be completed?

Unsafe injections

1923. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 60 per cent of injections administered in various hospitals are unsafe according to a World Bank funded study;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether the study of Indian National Injection Safety Association has also found

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

that safety of injections in India is poorest at immunization clinics; and

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

NIMHANS

1924. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the courses being conducted by NIMHANS, Bangalore;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there is lack of trained manpower to treat mental disorders and neurological problems in the country; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to increase the intake of various courses being conducted by NIMHANS to overcome the shortage?

Ban of 'Roficoxib'

1925. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the recommendation of the expert group, the popular pain-killer medicine 'Roficoxib' has been banned by Government;

(b) if so, the names of the companies which were manufacturing this medicine;

(c) whether Government are aware that this medicine is still available in the market; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken against those who are selling this banned drug?

Rural Health Scheme

†1926. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to introduce Rural Health Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where this scheme is being introduced; and

(d) the amount likely to be allocated by Government for this scheme?

State-of-art hospitals

1927. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step or being contemplated in setting up state-of-art hospitals in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any emphasis is being laid on the rural areas as far as construction of good hospitals;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

AIIMS like hospital in Punjab

†1928. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to open a hospital and medical college in Punjab on the lines of AIIMS;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the location of this hospital and by when it would be opened; and

(c) the details thereof?

Common drug treated as narcotic drugs

1929. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some common drugs containing Diazepam, Lorezepam, Alprazolam etc., commonly prescribed by doctors are being now treated as narcotic drugs;

(b) whether it has created troubles for chemists, consumers and medical practitioners and associations for want of such drugs as no alternative drugs for such prohibited drugs are available; and

(c) whether for such drugs and other drugs Government are considering Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) monitoring system?

Action plan on price control

†1930. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of drugs are likely to increase due to new patent system;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to formulate any action plan to control the prices of drugs so that consumers are not affected adversely due to production patent system;

(c) whether Government have approached various drug companies in this regard;

(d) whether Government are contemplating to formulate independent price index regarding price assessment of patented drugs; and

(e) if so, by when and the full details in this regard?

Protecting medicinal plants

†1931. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared an action plan to protect the medicinal plants linked with indigenous unani system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that multinational companies are getting Indian medicinal plants patented on a large scale; and

(d) the number of medicinal plants got patented by his Ministry and the number of Indian medicinal unani plants got patented by the foreign companies during last three years?

Free vaccination to children

1932. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to give free vaccination of all types to all children, just as polio is given, or give any assistance to State Governments in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

National Maternity Benefit Scheme

1933. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under National Maternity Benefit Scheme, an assistance of Rs. 500/- is being given to pregnant women from BPL families for better nutrition; and

(b) if so, the number of beneficiaries in each State since its introduction, year-wise and State-wise?

Free medicines to patients

1934. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government supplies medicines and other consumables to Government run hospitals in the country for issue to the needy patients free of cost;

(b) if so, the allocations made, sanctioned and spent for the purpose during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that medicines and other consumables particularly expensive life saving drugs supplied to the hospitals have been diverted for sale in the open market;

(d) if so, the details with revenue implication; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such incidence in future?

Legislation to ban smoking

1935. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed laws for imposing ban on smoking with aggressive IEC campaign in India;

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

(c) whether Government propose to impose high level of 'cigarette tax' for funding anti-smoking campaign, research and healthcare; and

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

Adulteration in food

1936. SHRI R. P. GOENKA:
SHRI ABUASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that despite series of regulatory rules administered by the Central and State Governments, adulteration in the production of various categories of food items of daily consumption, through the unbridled use of harmful pesticides, chemicals, toxic substances and other contaminants, continues unabated, causing grievous hurts and/or deaths amongst the general public; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken, including review of the extant laws, with a view to plugging the loopholes and making their enforcement more effective, to check the rampant adulteration of food items?

National Rural Health Mission

1937. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) envisaged strengthening Community Health Centre/Primary Health Centre (PHC);

(b) if so, details of the States confined to NRHM, the criteria adopted to select States for NRHM, fund allotted to NRHM that includes to strengthen the PHCs State-wise, category-wise as on today;

(c) the steps adopted and fund allotted to strengthen PHCs of States not covered under NRHM; State-wise as on today;

(d) whether NRHM envisages population control;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is any proposal to form Indian Public Health Standard for evaluating public hospitals; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Drug testing laboratory in Karnataka

1938. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status with regard to construction of a Modern Drug Testing Laboratory funded by Drug Controller

General of India and the World Bank at Erragadda, Hyderabad;

(b) whether Government would ensure of completion and for functioning of the Laboratory, very shortly to check the menace of fast ever-growing sales of sub-standard and spurious drugs and medicines in the State of Andhra Pradesh to raise the administrative capability to Testing a large number of samples a year;

(c) if so, within how many months; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Population and unemployment

†1939. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several national social and economic problems of the nation are increasing due to burden of rapid increase in population;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to increasing population of country, maximum number of educated and uneducated people are afflicted with unemployment;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the newly made projects and programmes formulated by Government to check the increasing population of the country and the steps being taken to implement these programmes?

Scheme for AIDS prevention

†1940. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes being run by Government for prevention of AIDS;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the names of those Non-Governmental Organisations which are being provided economic assistance for prevention of AIDS alongwith amount being provided for the same; and

(c) the details thereof State-wise?

Low standard medical syllabus

1941. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proliferation is taking place in the private medical colleges in the country and standards are falling in the medical syllabus;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

Spurious/out dated drugs

1942. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain pharmaceutical companies who had taken huge loans from certain banks for manufacturing medicines had shown that they have destroyed several tonnes of medicines that had expiry dates but instead these medicines were pushed in the market for its sale in an unauthorized way; and

(b) if so, what deterrent punishment/action Government have taken till date against such pharmaceutical companies who have not only cheated banks but held responsible for playing with lives of thousands of innocent persons by selling out-dated medicines?

Betterment of medical education

1943. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Medical Council of India, responsible for betterment of medical education, has been challenged for malfunction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to protect the autonomy and effective discharge of its functions?

CGHS for EPFO retired employees

1944. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of EPF Organisation are getting facility of CGHS which are covered under CGHS areas and have been issued CGHS cards, whereas the retired employees of EPF residing in CGHS covered area are denied benefits of CGHS facilities; and

(b) if so, the details of Government's Policy in this regard?

Population suffering from various diseases

†1945. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of people suffering from common diseases as well as serious diseases are constantly increasing in the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, Government's assessment in this regard;

(c) what is the percentage of increase in the number of people suffering from both types of the diseases mentioned above during the last five years; and

(d) the number of such people during the years 2000-01 and 2004-05?

Unhealthy hospital equipments in Safdarjung Hospital

1946. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to Government's notice that cancer patients in Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi are being treated through outdated and rusty machines which are hazardous both to the patients and to the hospital staff;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been investigated; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken on the basis thereof?

Undernourished people in India

1947. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R. K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimated number of undernourished people in the world is 852 million with India alone contributing 221 million;

(b) if so, the strategy of Government to tackle it; and

(c) if not, what concrete measures are required and how Government proposes to monitor its implementation?

Amendment of Human Organ Transplantation Act, 1994

1948. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to amend the Human Organ Transplantation Act, 1994 to make it donor and patient friendly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of medical staff

1949. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is shortage of doctors and paramedical staffs and beds in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is only one doctor for 1008 persons and one bed for 1223 persons; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the situation?

Selection of health workers by Panchayat Samities

1950. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Panchayat Samities of villages are going to select the health workers in the new scheme;

(b) whether Government are aware that there will be a danger of rampant corruption and nepotism in selecting these health workers; and

(c) if so, Government's response and the reaction thereto?

CGHS dispensary in Kalkaji

1951. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CGHS dispensary No. 75 is housed in four LIG flats located separately at DDA Kalkaji and one flat out of the four flats is even located on first floor;

(b) whether the initial amount had been paid to DDA for a small plot of land at Alaknanda between Aravali and Mandakini;

(c) whether the said land has since been vacated by JJ clusters and is lying unutilized;

(d) the steps being taken by his Ministry to erect the CGHS dispensary building on the earmarked plot to help the CGHS beneficiaries; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Popularising the Naturopathy

1952. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to popularize naturopathy and yoga in the country's urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to open nature care centres in community centres throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the Government's plan?

Dental clinics and AIDS

1953. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dental clinics are causing the transmission of HIV and some dental clinics do not adhere to strict hygienic practices, which is causing for transmission of HIV;

(b) whether Government have formulated any stringent rule to maintain their clinics hygienically and to curb the serious menace of transmission of HIV through dental clinics; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Leprosy awareness campaign

1954. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the mission launched by the International Leprosy Union regarding awareness campaign and educating people against stigma attached to it;

(b) the steps taken by Government to eliminate the disease and spread awareness in the society to stop hatred for leprosy patient since it is a curable disease now;

(c) the percentage of leprosy patients in the country and the action taken to rehabilitate them; and

(d) the success achieved, so far, to eliminate leprosy disease?

Increase in AIDS/TB/Cancer cases

1955. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increase in the cancer, AIDS, TB cases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, State-wise; and

(c) the remedial action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Mashelkar Committee on spurious drugs

1956. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the extant laws relating to manufacture and sale of spurious and sub-standard drugs, which cause grievous hurt or even death;

(b) if so, the results thereof and the steps taken/being taken to check the menace and make the manufacture and sale of such drugs unprofitable; and

(c) the details of follow-up steps taken on the recommendations of the R.A. Mashelkar Committee which had *inter-alia* suggested penalties for various such offence under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act?

HOPE scheme for rural areas

1957. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNIREDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that to improve the health condition of the people in the rural areas Government are going to start a new scheme called 'HOPE';

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

(c) whether any of the districts have been identified to implement the scheme on pilot mode; and

(d) if so, the details of districts that have been identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

Splitting of National Institute for Communicable Diseases

1958. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to divide the present National Institute for Communicable Diseases into two institutes;

(b) if so, the details of such plans;

(c) how does Government propose to have an early warning system issued by the NICD for any potential out-break of diseases in the country;

(d) whether such system is already in place; and

(e) if not, what steps are proposed by Government with regard to NICD?

Dental colleges in Karnataka

1959. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that most of the private dental colleges in Karnataka lack proper infrastructure and suffer from deficiency in teaching arrangements;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Dental Council of India in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that faculty members visit dental colleges from two to five days only in a month for teaching; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken to curb this system as it would affect the standard of dental education in Karnataka?

Integrated system of medicine

1960. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) with the development of major systems of medicines like Allopathy, Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Unani, etc., coupled with practices like Yoga, Naturopathy, etc., whether Government are thinking of integrating salient points of all these systems to evolve an effective integrated system of medicine which should be cost-effective and time-effective; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when this system is likely to emerge for imparting such medical education through specialised Medical Colleges?

79th Constitutional Amendment Bill

1961. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to proceed further with regard to the 79th Constitution Amendment Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 1992; and

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

Food adulteration

1962. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that food adulteration is being reported regularly in one or other parts of the country;

(b) whether the entry of MNCs in food industry contributed to adulteration to gain competitive edge on price front; and

(c) the steps taken to identify/prevent adulteration?

Qualifications for nursing course

1963. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nursing Council of India insists that the applicants for nursing course should be unmarried or legally divorced women;

(b) whether the height and weight are prescribed as an eligibility condition for admission;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to change the above eligibility criteria as it require modification on par with developed community and made it viable with the existing social structure; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

Injectable contraceptives for women

1964. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of introducing hormonal injectable contraceptives for women like neten, depo provera, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how effective is the above contraceptive, when compared to other existing ones?

Polio eradication

†1965. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by the end of 2004, India had to become a polio-free country so that it could be included in the list of polio-free countries in the year 2007;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the target has been achieved by the country in this year; and

(c) if not, whether it will not damage the prestige of India in the world?

Mobile public call office in trains

1966. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has initiated mobile public call office in trains;

(b) if so, the details of this innovative initiative; and

(c) by when this facility is going to be extended in all trains in the country?

Telephone booths at the railway stations

1967. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operators of public telephone booths running on the railway stations have been asked to stop the functioning forthwith;

(b) if so, the reason therefor and whether Government are aware that most of the booth operators are disabled persons; and

(c) whether Government would review the decision, if any in the matter and whether the physically handicapped persons are given preference to operate the booths in the railway stations?

Electrification of railway stations in Punjab

1968. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government on electrification of railway stations in Punjab during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the names of railway stations electrified during the period; and

(c) the names of stations identified in Punjab for electrification in the near future?

Manning of unmanned level crossings

1969. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have prepared any plan for manning unmanned level crossings in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any criteria has been laid down for unmanned level crossings to qualify for manning;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the particulars of unmanned level crossings in Maharashtra which have qualified this criteria for manning?

Platforms at Chitrakoot Dham Karvi Station

1970. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of both the platforms at Chitrakoot Dham Karvi Station is quite lower than the last step of passenger bogie resulting in a lot of inconvenience to passengers, pilgrims, especially senior citizens and handicapped persons;

(b) whether the matter was taken up with his Ministry earlier; and

(c) if so, the steps taken and by when the job of raising the platforms is likely to be completed?

Dilapidated goods sheds and freight terminals

1971. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive plan has been formulated to redevelop some 7000 dilapidated goods sheds and freight terminals into State-of-the-art logistics parks, in partnership with the private sector, for better utilization of the infrastructure/facilities already available there;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that 23 of such "damaged assets" have already been handed over to the Central Warehousing Corporation for such upgradation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and machinery established to resolve major difficulties encountered by the Central Warehousing Corporation?

Andhra Pradesh Express

1972. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Express which is operating daily between Hyderabad and New Delhi and back is always late;

(b) whether it is also a fact that vendors of all types and beggars swarm the second-class sleeper compartments creating nuisance to the passengers; and

(c) the steps the Railways would take to check these vendors and beggars from entering the reserved second class compartments of the train; and also to improve the cleanliness?

Case of fraud in sale of tickets for general bogies

†1973. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case of fraud in the sale of tickets for general bogies and charging excess fare in Darbhanga, Patna and the North Eastern Uttar Pradesh has come to light as has been appearing in media;

(b) whether stringent action has been taken against employee involved in the said fraud;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have formulated any stringent rules to check such incidents in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Survey for new rail lines proposed during 2004-05

†1974. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposal for new railway lines, which have been included for survey work in the Railway Budget for 2004-05;

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

(c) the prescribed criteria to grant sanction to these railway lines after completion of survey work; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the State-wise figures regarding railway network in the country, the position of Rajasthan in railway network in comparison to other States alongwith the details thereof?

Use of Kulhars

1975. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kulhars (earthen-pots) are used to serve tea in all the trains;

(b) if so, the details about the expenditure on Kulhars (earthen-pots) incurred by Government; and

(c) whether plastic cups/things have already been banned by Government in the trains?

Outsourcing by ICF

1976. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether outsourcing of parts to private companies have made ICF workers and machinery unutilised or idle;

(b) whether there is any plan to fully utilise the existing work force and machinery; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Passenger Fare Goods Freight Regulatory Authority

†1977. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
DR. ALLADI P.
RAJKUMAR:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to set up any Passenger Fare Goods Freight Regulatory Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for setting up such a Regulatory Authority; and

(d) the main objectives thereof?

Railway line from Kalka to Darlaghat

1978. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in laying/ investigation of the Railway Line from Kalka to Darlaghat in Himachal Pradesh as provided in Railway Budget 2004-05; and

(b) the total amount provided for the purpose?

Incomplete work at Turbe-Thane Section

1979. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN
PANY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after spending a sum of over Rs. 109 crores on the Turbe-Thane Section of the Central Railway the work remains incomplete and is going on at snails pace;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in handling the work and the slow pace of implementation; and

(c) the original cost of the project and the cost escalation incurred so far?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Amenities at Bidhannagore Railway Station

1980. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of daily commuters who use Bidhannagore Railway Station under Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is no toilet, drinking water and adequate lighting arrangements in the platform; and

(c) if so, the action taken, so far, to provide passenger amenities?

New reservation rules

†1981. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new reservation rules of Railways have aggravated the problems of passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to avoid the problem of passengers travelling on waitlisted tickets in reserved coaches?

Indian Railways Land Development Authority

†1982. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to commercialise the vacant railway land;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to constitute the Indian Railway Land Authority for this purpose; and

(c) if so, by when the same would be constituted and when the same would start functioning?

Railway zones and their earnings

1983. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway zones in the country;

(b) the earnings of railways, zone-wise; and

(c) the details thereof?

Wagons for iron ore

1984. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Eastern Railway, a major freight loading zonal railway, has cut down allocation of wagons for movement of iron ore for export;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this would not hit hard the exporters; and

(d) if so, the action plan of Government to redress the grievances of the exporters?

Shortage of wagons

1985. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways is facing acute shortage of wagons, to the extent of 20 per cent of the total requirement of wagons;

(b) whether because of shortage of wagons, Railways has altered the 'condemnation criteria' for unserviceable

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

wagons and are pressing back into service wagons condemned already; and

(c) whether the Railways has stopped import of wheel sets causing stoppage of wagon manufacture; and, if so, the reasons therefor?

Interim report of UC banerjee Committee

1986. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UC Banerjee Commission in its report pointed out the failure of the Railway Administration to preserve crucial clues of the Godhra Train incident;

(b) whether it is a fact that the damaged portion of the coach S-7 has been disposed off;

(c) if so, whether this action caused destruction of the evidences; and

(d) whether any enquiry has been initiated to ascertain the role of the authorities concerned in this regard?

Enquiry into the Godhra train incident

1987. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no statutory enquiry was conducted by the Railway Administration into the Godhra train incident;

(b) if so, whether it was in violation of the Railway Act, Accident Manual of the Zonal Railways; and

(c) the response of Government thereto?

Sampark Kranti Express from Madurai

1988. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to convert the Sampark Kranti Express from Madurai into Daily Express, in view of overwhelming response therefor; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Incidence of thefts in Railway yards

1989. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidence of thefts has gone up in Railway yards during the last two years;

(b) if so, the value of goods pilfered, year-wise and zone-wise;

(c) the persons held responsible and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to check the theft?

Facilities of passengers

1990. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for providing facilities to the passengers by the Railways during the year 2004-05 together with the amount likely to be spent during 2005-06;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the facilities to the IInd Class passengers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

Number of workers in ICF

1991. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to cut down the number of workers in Integral Coach Factory; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Private sector partnership in Railways

1992. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study on private sector's partnership in Railways;

(b) if so, the areas identified for such partnership;

(c) Government's commercial objectives from such a partnership;

(d) the response of private sector; and

(e) to what extent Government's objectives are being met?

Passengers' facilities at narrow gauge in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Orissa

†1993. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any improvement in the facilities for passengers at narrow gauge operated in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Orissa during the last three years;

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

(c) the names of the railway divisions

where these facilities have been provided; and

(d) the details of the pending projects for providing more facilities at narrow gauge of Chhattisgarh and for improving facilities of passengers?

Railways' operating assets

1994. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over-utilisation caused significant depreciation and erosion of operating assets;

(b) if so, whether it adversely affect the required safety standards; and

(c) the measures being taken to ease the pressure on railways operating assets?

Mumbai Urban Transport Project

1995. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government and the State Government of Maharashtra have taken up the Mumbai Urban Transport Project on 50:50 sharing basis;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra have formulated some road projects and asked Government to share the cost on 50:50 basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Loss due to flouting norms for tender

1996. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have lost Rs. 200.00 crores between 1997 to 2003 due to flouting norms for tender allotment;
- (b) if so, the details of the probe made in the matter; and
- (c) the action taken against those errant officials responsible for railway losses?

Headless railway zones

1997. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that about seven railway zones are headless for a long time;
- (b) if so, the names of those zones and the reasons for remaining headless;
- (c) whether Government have taken steps to fill the vacancies without any further delay; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Replacement of old rail tracks

†1998. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to immediately replace the old rail tracks;
- (b) if so, whether the old tracks have been identified; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Security of women passengers

†1999. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures Government are taking for the security of women passengers in the context of report (October, 2004) related to public hearing of women train passengers by the National Commission for Women;
- (b) the percentage of trains which have arrangements of separate railway coaches for women passengers;
- (c) whether Government are considering to appoint women ticket checkers; and
- (d) by when Railways is going to appoint women constables in Railway Protection Force?

Port Link Track

†2000. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways has introduced any special scheme named as Port Link Track for fast and time bound transportation of goods related to import-export;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of the ports for which the said scheme has been introduced, so far;
- (d) to what extent it would boost the import and export; and
- (e) to what extent Railways would get benefit from this scheme?

Cargo and passenger service targets

2001. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the last 10 months of the fiscal year, Railways has

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

exceeded the cargo and passenger service targets;

(b) if so, the reasons that helped Railways to achieve the target; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rail accidents caused by human errors

†2002. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail accidents being caused by human errors could not be checked due to ignorance of recommendation of Justice H.R. Khanna Committee constituted for suggesting safety measures of Railways;

(b) the details of rail accidents caused by human errors during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for not implementing all the recommendations of Khanna Committee by Government?

Steel production

2003. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the steel production in the country from Eighth Five Year Plan to Tenth Five Year Plan and till date, Plan-wise;

(b) the per capita availability of steel in each Plan; and

(c) the demand/supply gap in each Plan?

Steel plants

2004. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steel plants functioning, at present, in the country;

(b) the names of the steel plants being modernized;

(c) the details of production of steel by all the plants during the last three years; and

(d) the details of domestic and international demand of steel?

Raw material supply to steel companies

2005. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel companies, hit by rising cost and supply constraints of critical inputs like iron ore and coking coal, may get some support from Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated package for the steel manufactures, with a view to make sufficient quantity of raw materials available to them at remunerative prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof and to what extent this has been helpful; and

(d) whether this package has been incorporated in the revised national steel policy?

NEW DELHI;
The 12th March, 2005
Phalgun 21, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	: 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1874,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889,
Environment and Forests	: 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914,
Food Processing Industries	: 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918,
Health and Family Welfare	: 1873, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965,
Railways	: 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002,
Steel	: 2003, 2004, 2005.