

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on

Thursday, the July 18, 2002/Asadha 27, 1924 (Saka)

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; External Affairs; Labour; Parliamentary Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—146

Irregularities and extravagances involving Khadi chief

157. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Khadi chief quits posh Niti Bagh house" which appeared in the Delhi Age dated the 30th May, 2002;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India pointed out irregularities and extravagances involved in the deal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in regard thereto?

Monitoring of Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana

158. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL

INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the nodal authority in respect of Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana;

(b) the progress achieved in this behalf, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India is supposed to monitor the progress; and

(d) if not, under what circumstances, CMs of certain States call upon RBI to take increased interest in PMRY?

KVIC Board

† 159. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that K.V.I.C. Board has been constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the members of K.V.I.C. Board would be nominated?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

PMRY in U.P.

160. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount allocated and released by Government during the last three years under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the amount spent under the scheme during this period; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to allocate more funds to Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year?

Sickness in the agro and rural industries sector

161. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sickness in the agro and rural industries sector;

(b) the number of small-scale units closed down in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the manner in which Government Plan to revive these sick units; and

(d) whether there is any financial package for revival of these units, if so, the amount allocated for this purpose by Government?

Cyber crimes

162. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to set up a cell to check the growing cyber crimes;

(b) if so, whether the online offences have been increased during the past few

months and the steps taken to check such crimes have proved ineffective; and

(c) the extent to which the setting up of cyber crime cell is going to check the growing online offences in the country?

Guidelines of e-readiness

163. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Committee to draft guidelines for preparing a report on the e-readiness of all States, Union Territories and Government Departments;

(b) if so, whether Government would also initiate to exercise, and facilitate the smooth development of e-readiness tools in strategic sectors, departments and regions across the country;

(c) whether Government have pointed out that digital language was an important strategic linkage not only between people but it was a key catalyst in enhancing productivity as well as providing employment opportunities; and

(d) if so, by when this Committee is likely to submit its report?

CLIP facility for Dolphin connections

164. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the applicants for Dolphin connection have to exercise their option for CLIP facility by ticking a box provided for the purpose in the form;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Dolphin subscribers are being charged

@Rs. 50/- P.M. for CLIP facility irrespective of the fact whether they have opted for the service or not, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to bring down CLIP charges as in the case of land/fixed telephones?

Telephone Advisory Committees

165. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reconstitute Telephone Advisory Committees (district level) in near future;

(b) the number of requests received from the Members of Parliament recommending names for such Committees;

(c) whether the requests from MPs received, so far, have since been acceded to; and

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

Irregularities in Department of Telecommunications

166. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Telecommunications has been committing irregularities and extending undue favour to its licencees during the past couple of years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the amount of losses inflicted on the Department in each case; and

(c) whether the officials concerned have been asked to explain the reasons for such irresponsible acts intentional/unintentional

and what action have been taken in each case?

Categorization of commercial users

167. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since categorized some of the telephone subscribers as commercial users;

(b) if so, the name of such categories;

(c) what are the extra levies on them; and

(d) since when these levies are applicable?

Threat posed by China to I.T. industry

168. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that China poses a real threat in Information Technology industry; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

Funds credited to the Society for Electronics Test Engineering

169. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that funds generated by way of services offered in respect of standardization, testing and quality certification used to be credited to the society

for Electronics Test Engineering, an autonomous body;

(b) if so, whether it was in accordance with the rules in respect of receipts of such revenues;

(c) if not, whether, any corrective action have been taken, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how much are the annual receipts and how such receipts are being made use of?

Tariff hike in postal items

170. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately increased the postage fee in respect of post cards and ordinary letter, considerably;

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

(c) the reasons therefor, especially in the regard to the poor man's post-card?

GSM services to J&K and North-Eastern Region

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

(a) whether it is a fact that GSM Services are currently being denied to Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern region on security grounds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have considered communication infrastructure as part of the developmental dimensions which is an important element of the security response; and

(d) if so, whether the current position *vis-a-vis* Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern Region regarding GSM would be revised?

Row over VSNL-TATA

172. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "BJP backs Mahajan on VSNL-TATA row" published in the Hindustan Times dated the 1st June, 2002; and

(b) if so, what is Government's position over the matter of transfer of wealth from a disinvested P.S.U. to a subsidiary of the company?

Outstanding dues of MTNL in Delhi

† 173. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding dues of MTNL on consumers in Delhi and the details of the different categories alongwith the number of persons belonging to each category; and

(b) the decision Government propose to take to recover outstanding dues from the consumers irrespective of their category and take punitive action against non-payment of the outstanding amount?

Stake of Tata in VSNL

174. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the stake (per cent) of Tata Group of Companies in VSNL;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether a company below 26 per cent of share holding in VSNL has got the stake in decision making in VSNL; and

(c) if not, how can Tata Group of Companies be in the Board of Directors and make VSNL's decision to invest Rs. 1200 crore in Tata Group of Companies?

Hike in FDI cap

175. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering hike in Foreign Direct Investment cap applicable to the telecom sector to 74 per cent from the existing 49 per cent;

(b) if so, whether after discussion with the various Ministries, any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of telephone exchanges

† 176. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number as well as the location of telephone exchanges set up in Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Ghaziabad, Azamgarh and Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh between 1st January, 1998 and 30th June, 2002;

(b) the cost incurred on setting up of each exchange separately;

(c) the number of exchanges out of the exchanges set up upto 30th June, 2002, which have started functioning together with the capacity of each of the exchange; and

(d) the places in the above districts where

exchanges would be set up during the next three years together with the capacity of such exchanges?

Decision to invest in Tata Tele Services

177. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked VSNL to reverse its decision to invest Rs. 1200 crore in Tata Tele Services as reported in the Pioneer dated the 1st June, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government's nominee on the VSNL Board had opposed the investments in Tata Tele Services;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take faster action against VSNL in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Telephone connection from M.P. quota in H.P.

† 178. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending at Jaisinghpur telephone exchange of Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh at present waiting for telephone connection from M.P. priority quota;

(b) the details thereof, the places where the said telephones are to be installed and since when these applications are pending; and

(c) the case-wise reasons for the delay and by when these telephones would be installed?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Dolphin subscribers

179. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the current base of subscribers for Dolphin service of MTNL;

(b) the number of subscribers added as a result of promotion schemes launched during one year; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to add more facilities for these subscribers *vis-a-vis* service rendered by private operators?

Roaming services for Dolphin subscribers

180. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the subscribers for Dolphin Service are not provided with roaming services, till they opt for STD/ISD service, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the denial of roaming services to dolphin subscribers without STD places them at a disadvantage *vis-a-vis* the facilities given by private operators; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

Cut in manpower in Department of Posts and Telegraph

181. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's

directive to every Ministry/Department to undertake a two per cent cut in manpower every year has been resisted by the Department of Posts and Telegraph;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to persuade the Department to fall in line with the other Departments in implementing Government's directive in this regard?

Benefits of I.T. to rural areas

† 182. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide benefits of Information Technology to rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that more than 90 per cent population of the country do not understand English language and therefor, these people can be provided with the benefit of this technology through Hindi and regional languages; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken to develop, propagate and popularise the Information Technology in Hindi language?

Transformation of STD/ISD booths in public internet kiosks

183. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has announced a scheme to transform about 5,000 STD/ISD booths into public internet kiosks in the State by the end of this year;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, what are the features thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government is considering to launch this scheme involving Government, STD/ISD booth operators, banks and technology companies;
- (d) if so, whether any concrete programme of action plan has been initiated; and
- (e) by when the results are likely to be achieved?

Refund for surrendered telephones

184. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that refunds are not received for months together after surrendering telephones in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the reasons for delay in receiving refund from MTNL; and
- (c) whether Government would issue fresh instructions so that refund money is paid within a reasonable time?

Consumer courts functioning in Andhra Pradesh

185. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of consumer courts presently functioning in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;
- (b) the number of cases filed in these courts in the State during the last three years, year-wise and how many of them were decided during the said period and the reasons for pending of others; and
- (c) what steps Government have taken to strengthen infrastructure of the consumer courts in the State?

Road transportation charges

186. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Gujarat has represented to the Central Government for allowing actual road transportation charges in respect of lifting of levy sugar under sugar price equalization fund;
- (b) if so, whether Government are considering the proposal; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of free rice to Andhra Pradesh

187. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether allocation of free of cost rice was made by Government to Andhra Pradesh under Food for Work Programme to contain prevailing drought conditions in the State during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any diversion of such rice to open market has come to Government's notice; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

Allocation of edible oils to Andhra Pradesh for PDS

188. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh is being allocated less quota of edible oils for the PDS than the demand put for by the State;

(b) if so, the details of the demand and allocations made during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State is not lifting even the allocated quota of edible oils and lifting very less quantity;

(d) if so, the reasons cited by the State Governments for this poor lifting; and

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

Dismantling of MSP

189. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering the issue of dismantling the regime of MSP;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and how long it would take to finalise the issue;

(c) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has been or would be taken into confidence; and

(d) whether Government would be introducing some shock absorbers?

Procurement of foodgrains

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a news-item captioned, "Gehoon Ki Sarkari Kharid Band Hone Se Kisan Pareshan", published in the Navbharat Times dated the 20th May, 2002;

(b) if so, the parts of the country from where official procurement of wheat is reported to have been stopped;

(c) whether Government are aware of non-procurement of paddy in West Bengal;

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

(e) the concrete arrangements made by Government to avoid such difficulties to the farmers in future?

Implementation of consolidated food law

191. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of proposing a consolidated food law to be implemented by one Ministry instead of the present eight;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how this new law is going to be implemented; and

(c) whether the said law would be able to ensure that mounting storage of foodgrains does not occur and timely distribution plans are formulated?

Storage of foodgrains

†192. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any alternative arrangement to deal with the problem of storage of foodgrains in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the storage capacity at present in the country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Manipulation of export concessions

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

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

(a) whether some of the sugar factories have manipulated the Centre's export concession to free sale of levy sugar for export;

(b) if so, whether the Cooperative Commission of Pune ordered criminal proceedings against 10 cooperative sugar factories (SSKs) in Western Maharashtra for alleged multi-million sugar scam;

(c) if so, whether more sugar factories were under scrutiny; and

(d) if so, the action taken against those who have misused the export stocks?

Replacing PDS by Targeted PDS

194. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) the number of people in the Above Poverty Line group who purchased rice and wheat during each year from the PDS since the PDS was replaced by the Targeted Public Distribution System in June, 1997; and

(b) what were the offtakes of rice and wheat by BPL and APL groups during the years from 1997-98 to 2001-2002?

Rice procurement in Andhra Pradesh

195. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra

Pradesh has requested the Central Government to increase rice procurement target of the Food Corporation of India in the State from the current 50 per cent to 75 per cent; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

Sugar from PDS for BPL people

196. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people Below Poverty Line in the country who actually get sugar under PDS;

(b) how much subsidy on sugar for the PDS is earmarked for this year; and

(c) what is the outflow of funds for administering the sugar control?

Outcome of Indian efforts to bring back criminals from Pakistan

197. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the outcome of the diplomatic, political and other offensives mounted by India on Pakistan to deliver 20 most wanted Indian criminals in Pakistan?

High level talks with Chinese Government

198. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any high level talks with the Chinese Government in light of the military build-up between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the role China is willing to play in case of the worst;

(c) what is Chinese stand now post Kaluchak massacre; and

(d) what was the motive behind a high level Chinese delegation visiting Islamabad during the military build-up with Pakistan?

Inhuman treatment to Indian High Commission's employees in Pakistan

† 199. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of incidents relating to inhuman treatment meted out to the employees of the Indian High Commission in Pakistan by the ISI of Pakistan is continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents during the year 2002 which have come to Government's notice;

(c) whether Government have taken these incidents seriously; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Delay in issuance of passports

200. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passports are not being issued within stipulated time-frame on account of police verification report; and

(b) if so, the action taken to counter the increasing number of pending passport applications in regional passport offices all over the country?

Violation of commitment by Pakistani President

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

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Pakistani President that he did not promise to close terrorist camps and to stop infiltration across the Line of Control;

(b) if so, whether Government have consulted the countries who had conveyed the promise of Pakistani President to India in the past;

(c) if so, the reaction of those countries; and

(d) the steps Government have now firmly taken to meet the situation in view of his violation of international commitment?

Facilities to Mansarovar pilgrims

† 202. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the number of pilgrims to Mansarovar is on the constant rise every year;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the pilgrims have to come across with a host of inconveniences during the pilgrimage to Mansarovar; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide specific facilities during the pilgrimage by identifying the inconveniences emerging therein?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Closure of Indian embassies

203. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance has recommended to his Ministry for closure of seven Indian embassies;

(b) if so, the names of such embassies; and

(c) the amount etc. likely to be saved from such closure?

American Commission on Gujarat communal violence

†204. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a news-item captioned, "Gujarat Ki Sampradayik Hinsa Par Sunvai Karega Amriki Ayog", published in Rashtriya Sahara dated 7th June, 2002;

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

(c) whether Government have registered its protest with the American Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Softness towards Pakistan despite Musharraf's support to Kashmir

†205. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned, "Musharraf ne Kashmeerion ko samarthan jari rakhne ka bharosa dilaya", published in the Dainik Jagran on 8th June, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the reasons for showing softness

towards Pakistan inspite of the said fact; and

(c) whether this softness would not affect the international scenario created against Pakistan?

US role in Indo-Pak conflict

206. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA is acting as the arbiter in the Indo-Pak conflict;

(b) whether the current US pressure urging restraint through the barrage of visits by US officials, would put pressure on Government influencing its decision; and

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

Foreign personalities' visit to India

†207. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign personalities who visited India since April, 2002, till date;

(b) the subjects on which discussions were held with each of these personalities;

(c) their reaction on the tension at Indo-Pakistan border;

(d) whether any bilateral agreements were also signed with other countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Foreign policy to improve relations with neighbouring countries

208. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign policy adopted

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

by Government and the steps taken by Government have helped to strengthen our relations with neighbouring countries viz. Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan;

(b) if so, in what manner; and

(c) the details of the measures being taken to improve relations with Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka?

List of criminals furnished by Bangladesh

† 209. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bangladesh has forwarded a list of persons residing in India wanted by Bangladesh for committing crimes in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the persons mentioned in the list; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

India's contribution in reconstruction of Afghanistan

† 210. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the India's contribution in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and solution of the problems of people; and

(b) the concrete programme of cooperation formulated by India on humanitarian grounds to help Afghanis who are even compelled to sell their children for grains?

Atrocities against minorities in Pakistan

† 211. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Pakistan main alpsankhyakon kajeena doobhar", published in Rashtriya Sahara dated May 27, 2002; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take at their level to check the atrocities against minorities and help them living normal life?

Efforts to check cross-border terrorism

212. SHRI Sk. Khabir Uddin Ahmed: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the type of diplomatic and military efforts which Government have undertaken to check and tackle the problem of cross-border terrorism in the country?

Indo-China relations

† 213. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the area of Indian land under Chinese occupation;

(b) whether Government assume that relations with China are improving despite clandestine Chinese military aid to Pakistan; if so, the basis of the same; and

(c) whether Government propose to pressurise China to stop military aid being provided to Pakistan continuously as a result of which there is an increase in violence in Kashmir?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Indo-US military cooperation to de-escalate Indo-Pak tension

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

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as part of a plan to de-escalate tension between India and Pakistan along the LoC, Washington has suggested a proposal for the ambit of Indo-US military cooperation to be expanded to allow US special forces to operate in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether officials of both the countries have been seriously evaluating this proposal;

(c) whether this proposal was also discussed during US Defence Secretary's visit to India in the month of June, 2002; and

(d) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken?

Closure of training camps in PoK

215. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the issue of closure of Training Camps in PoK with the American officials; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to make sure that the build up to the elections in Jammu and Kashmir goes down peacefully?

Steps taken by Pakistan to create conducive atmosphere for dialogue

216. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) apart from Pakistan deciding to stop

cross border infiltration, what other steps have been taken to create conducive atmosphere for future dialogue; and

(b) how does Pakistan expect that tension between the two countries would be eased when it still has not allowed the use of its air space to India?

International support to combat terrorism

217. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the constructive effort to gather International support for India to combat terrorism after the incident of 13th December, 2001;

(b) the names of the countries who support India's stand on International Cross Border Terrorism; and

(c) the level of support these countries are willing to extend to India on the issue?

Visit of US representatives to defuse Indo-Pak tension

218. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the month of May, 2002 US had sent a number of representatives to defuse Indo-Pak tension;

(b) if so, whether due to the sense of urgency in US, a number of steps were taken to reduce the tension between India and Pakistan;

(c) if so, what were the steps taken by the US to urge the Pakistan to restraint;

(d) whether activities of Pakistan had been on increase; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government to meet the threat?

Intelligence sharing by India, US and UK on cross-border terrorism

219. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, US and the UK are taking steps for intelligence sharing;

(b) if so, whether all the three countries have an assessment of Pakistan's pledges on cross-border terrorism;

(c) whether the Indian Army has pointed out that US sensors won't plug infiltration;

(d) if so, whether according to the Army, forces infiltration would continue in a highly sophisticated and undiscernible manner; and

(e) if so, whether in view of this CCS has taken a decision that no more peace moves would be taken until and unless Pakistan fully implement the pledge of ending cross-border infiltration?

Funding to militants by UK mosques

220. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "UK Mosques fund Jammu and Kashmir Militants" published in the Hindustan Times dated the 10th June, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the mosques in U.K. are funding to militants in Jammu and Kashmir valley;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the U.K. Government to check such funding to militants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the other steps Government propose to take to prevent such funding to militants?

Proposals for mediation to ease Indo-Pak tension

† 221. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from various countries for mediation to ease the tension between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Departure of foreign citizens due to Indo-Pak tension

† 222. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of America, Britain, Japan and other countries had issued instructions to their citizens to leave India keeping in view of the tension at Indo-Pak border during May-June, 2002;

(b) if so, the number of citizens of different countries who have left India for their respective countries since then;

(c) whether Government had taken up this issue with the respective Governments;

(d) if so, the response received from each of the countries in this regard; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

Bilateral agreements signed with Kazakhstan during Almaty Summit

223. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of interest shown by in India Kazakhstan during the visit of our

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Prime Minister to attend the CICA conference at Almaty as reported in the Times of India dated 4th June, 2002;

(b) the details of the bilateral agreements signed with Kazakhstan;

(c) the areas where India would make major investment;

(d) the mutual understanding for economic cooperation in IT and pharma and whether a Technology Park has been developed in Kazakhstan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Report card on assurances and promises made by Musharraf

224. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a report card on the various assurances and promises made by President Parvez Musharraf from time to time to reduce cross-border terrorism for the last one year together with follow-up steps taken by him to implement those assurances;

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

(c) the trend of the positive action taken by him to contain terrorist activities and whether the record, so far, reflects his sincerity of purpose in this regard?

Discussion on terrorism with Bangladesh Foreign Minister

225. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue of terrorism from across the border was discussed with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister during his recent visit;

(b) if so, what was the outcome;

(c) whether the Foreign Minister is alleged to have said that the innocents have been killed because of highhandedness of the border police on both sides; and

(d) whether any remedial steps are being taken?

Demand made by Jammu and Kashmir to revoke Indus Water Treaty

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

(a) whether the Jammu and Kashmir has urged the Central Government to revoke or revise the India-Pakistan Indus Water Treaty;

(b) whether the State is suffering great loss due to this treaty;

(c) if so, the details of the loss being sustained by the State on account of this treaty; and

(d) Government's response thereto?

Discussion on Maoist threat with King Gyanendra

227. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the visit of his Excellency King Gyanendra to India, the Maoist threat was discussed and India has offered both military aid and moral support to Nepal; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement, if any, finalised in this regard?

Policies to counter maligning campaigns by a neighbouring country

228. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India have concrete

programmes and policies to counter maligning by one of the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, how the funds earmarked remained underutilized in 2000-2001 during Kargil crisis; and

(c) the action proposed to enhance publicity and advertisement to counter anti India propaganda globally?

Influence of touts in regional passport offices

†229. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that influence of touts is increasing day by day in regional passport offices and even officers posted in these offices are helpless;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that officers and employees posted in these passport offices have been complaining about this but no concrete steps have been taken so far;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take any effective step to get rid of the touts and to check prevailing irregularities in passport offices; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when?

Joint meeting of Permanent Indus Commission

230. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) constituted under the Indus Waters Treaty Act, 1960 was held in New Delhi, recently;

(b) if so, the issues taken up and the decision arrived at in the aforesaid meeting;

(c) whether there was any pressure exercised on Government from any quarter including the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to abrogate the provisions of Indus Waters Treaty Act in view of Pakistan's continued refusal to curb cross border terrorism against India; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty

231. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty signed between the US and Russia, to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and

(b) if so, the terms of the treaty and Government's assessment about its effectiveness to prevent such proliferation and eliminating the risk to global peace and security?

Outcome of CICA summit

232. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR. AKHILESH DAS:
DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister attended the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in the beginning of June this year;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions/ outcome thereof alongwith decisions taken therein for establishing peace and confidence building in Asia;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any talks were held between Indian and Pakistani representatives on the sidelines of the said Conference to defuse tension between India and Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the talks?

India's suggestion to US to cut off aid to Pakistan

233. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had asked the US to cut off aid to Pakistan in order to put pressure on it for resolving the conflict with India on the issue of continuing infiltration by terrorists and allied matters; and

(b) if so, the US Government's response thereto and Government's information about the nature and extent of arms and other aid given by US to Pakistan?

Simplification of issuance of Visas

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

(a) whether under a fresh arrangement between India and the U.S.A., the U.S. has simplified the process of issue of Visas to Indians; and

(b) if so, what are the new Visa-regulations and how far the issue of Visas has been made easier and simpler?

Reports of annual strategic survey conducted by London based institute

235. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the Annual Strategic Survey conducted by the London based International Institute for Strategic Studies underlining the 'Promise and Peril' faced by India, Pakistan and the United States as they try to unravel the diplomatic tangle wrought in South Asia aftermath of September 11, 2001 in the context of US led war on terrorism; and

(b) if so, how far Government agree that this would result in a deadlock in Indo-Pak relations through 2003 and hamper India's political and military relationship with the US?

American delegations to New Delhi

236. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the past nine months as many as around sixty or so American high officials and politicians have visited New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether this shows a definite improvement in Indo-US relations, especially in the context of cooperation in fighting international terrorism; and

(c) the details of these official visits and delegations and the outcome thereof?

Dismantling of a shopping complex on 'no man land' between India and Myanmar

237. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have requested the Myanmar authorities to dismantle a

shopping complex on stretch of land adjacent to Moreh that falls within the "no man land" between India and Myanmar:

(b) if so, whether construction of the above complex is causing tension between the two countries; and

(c) what has been the response of Myanmar authorities in this regard?

Surrender of wanted terrorists sheltered in Pakistan

238. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Pakistan has refused to surrender the wanted terrorists sheltered in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether this matter has been brought to the notice of the visiting USA officials who had discussions with the leaders of Indian Government in the recent past;

(c) if so, the American stand on the same; and

(d) whether Pakistan Government has sent any formal reply to Government's demand?

US official's visit to India

239. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last six weeks a number of USA officials have visited India and Pakistan and have advised both the countries to de-escalate tension on the border:

(b) the outcome of the dialogue between USA officials and Government;

(c) whether it has reduced the number of incidents of infiltration and exfiltration in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) whether it has also helped de-escalation of tension on Indo-Pak Border?

Long lasting relationship with Afghanistan

240. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Afghanistan has sought long lasting relationship with India in the sectors of education, health and aviation:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Governments response in this regard?

Joint US-British military monitoring force for Kashmir

241. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for a joint US-British military monitoring force for Kashmir;

(b) if so, the agencies behind it;

(c) whether the proposed 500 strong verification force would suffice the 740 Km Line of Control; and

(d) if not, Government's reaction thereto?

US foreign policy

242. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN
AHMED:
SHRI PRASANTA
CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the root cause of terrorism world-wide is the US foreign policy that encouraged terrorism through "war and genocide" it had waged in different parts of the world; and

(b) if so, the rationale behind India seeking in US help since the US has always tilted towards Pakistan?

Building and construction workers in A.P.

243. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey about the number of workers in Andhra Pradesh who are engaged in building and construction works in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Building and other construction workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act is strictly being implemented in the State; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures being taken by Government to enforce the Act in the State?

Labour reforms

244. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in

the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 29th May, 2002 under the caption "panel questions labour reforms";

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

(c) whether Government would have a second look before embarking upon sweeping labour reforms and amend the decade's old Industrial Dispute Act and Contract Labour Act in the light of the objections raised by the panel appointed by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission?

Unemployed educated youth in country

245. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey of the number of unemployed educated youth in the country;

(b) if so, how many have registered their names in Employment Exchanges since 1998 State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) approximately how many jobs have been created through Government/Semi-Government and private agencies since 1998?

Incentive for child labourers in Hyderabad

246. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has launched a campaign in Hyderabad under which the number of child labourers would be counted and they would be motivated to go to schools by providing them incentives in the form of fancy school bags, books, pair of uniforms etc.;

(b) whether this campaign would be extended to other places also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Schemes to contain child labour

247. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority has initiated any scheme to contain the Child Labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the grants allotted and utilised during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the number of child labourers recorded during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) whether any project is initiated/proposed, in accordance with the decision by the International Labour Organisation to observe first World Day against Child Labour?

National wage policy for Beedi labourers

248. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would make a National Wage Policy for Beedi Labourers so that they may get equal wages all over the country;

(b) whether Government would take necessary steps to ensure that the Beedi magnates do not shift their Beedi manufacturing units to the States having lower wages for beedi making thereby rendering lakhs of beedi labourers without employment and on the verge of starvation in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) how much allocation was made available in 2001-2002 to construct residential accommodation for the beedi labourers in Madhya Pradesh?

Irregularities in ITIs

†249. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a lot of irregularities are being committed at the time of admissions being made in various trades in I.T.Is. in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the students have to make payment of an additional amount to the touts while seeking three year apprentice course in the said institutions;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the name of various companies appears on the papers only at the time of admission in the said course of the institutions; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to enquire into the said episode keeping in view the career of the students?

Setting up of workers' board

250. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second National Labour Commission in its report submitted to Government recently has suggested setting up of workers' board at grass root level for the unorganised sector to ensure minimum wages, legal protection and social security to workers;

(b) if so, what are the other salient features of the report; and

(c) by when Government are likely to examine the report?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Creation of new jobs during Tenth
Five Year Plan period**

†251. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have laid down a target for creating 10 million additional jobs annually during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Committee appointed by Government have opined it an impossible task;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

**New employment opportunities in
organised industrial sector**

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

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decline has been noticed with regard to creation of new employment opportunities in the organised industrial sector of the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the annual employment generation rate in this sector during 1990-91, 1995-96 and 1999-2000; and

(c) the assessment made by Government with regard to non-generation or low generation of new employment opportunities?

Retrenchment of labourers

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

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retrenchment of labourers is continuously being done in recent years in the public and private sector industries of the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of labourers retrenched from public and private sector industries during each year from 1998 to 2000; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

Visually handicapped job seekers

254. DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of visually handicapped (blind) job seekers on the live register of the employment exchanges in Andhra Pradesh, gender-wise;

(b) the number of those who were provided with jobs through the employment exchanges during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure that blind job seekers in the State get employment within a time frame?

Abuse of core labour standards

255. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) has alleged India for abuse of all core labour standards;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether as per its report 50 million children are at work out of whom 50 per cent are engaged in dangerous professions and 10 per cent of the 8 lakh workers in diamond industry are below 14 years who work for 12 hours a day;

(c) whether the Indian Trade Union Congress has also not opposed the ICFTU's report; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Report of the Second Labour Commission

256. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since received the recommendations of the Second Labour Commission;

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations;

(c) whether the contract labour system is also prevalent in communist countries like China and Malaysia; and

(d) if so, what is Government's decision on adoption of the contract labour system in India?

Unorganised workers

257. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has more than 370 million workers in the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, whether Government intend to introduce any social security net for their welfare;

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

(d) the time-frame of its implementation?

ASSOCHAM's study on labour productivity

258. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent study conducted by the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry as reported in 'The Business Standard' dated the 28th May, 2002 that "India is at the lowest (49th position) in the world in terms of labour productivity per person" and that there is an urgent need to change labour laws and also to undertake other suitable measures to improve the present situation; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Purchase of medical equipments by M.P. Government

† 259. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to the proposals submitted by the Department of Labour for the purchase of sophisticated medical equipments by the Government of Madhya Pradesh under the Madhya Pradesh State Employees Insurance Services; and

(b) the number of proposals sanctioned and by when the rest of the proposals out of the total proposals sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh are likely to be sanctioned for the welfare of labourers?

Elimination of child labour

† 260. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not taking proper steps

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to safeguard interest of the child labour in hazardous industries by Government even after enactment of law; and

(b) the number of cases of child labour which have come to light during the survey conducted in 2001-2002, State-wise and the number of cases of exploitation of child labours engaged in various tasks including industrial zones mines etc. have been registered and the number of cases where legal action has been taken?

Recommendation of the National Labour Commission

261. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Labour has submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, whether the Commission had received reports of all the study groups that had been set up to go into the details of labour market;

(c) whether the recommendations of the study groups have been incorporated in the main report and salient features of the main recommendations;

(d) by when Government are likely to take a final decision thereon; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for early implementation of the recommendations of the Commission and to issue digital identity cards to the workers in unorganised sector?

New Social Security cover

262. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some proposals of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority to provide new social security cover to 28 crore employees and workers in the unorganised sector are under consideration; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposals and the present status of their consideration?

Interest rate on P.F. deposit

263. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposal from the Finance Ministry to reduce the interest rate on P.F. deposit as decided by the Board of Trustees of the PF organisations;

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

(c) the funds available with the P.F. organisations and the amount of funds that would flow from PF beneficiaries to the consolidated fund if the proposals of the Finance Ministry is acceded to?

Labour productivity

264. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country ranked lowest in labour productivity in comparison to overall productivity in the world during 2001;

(b) what is the value of our labour productivity per person per hour and the highest labour productivity per person per hour; and

(c) what are the reasons behind this downfall and what steps have been taken to control this downward trend and achieve better results?

Gap between supply and demand of jobs

265. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is simmering discontentment among the unemployed youth because of ever widening gap between job opportunities and its demand; and

(b) whether any Committee or Commission has been appointed by Government to look into this and it has submitted its report, if so the salient recommendations thereof?

Problems of migrant workers

266. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of the Inter-State migrant workers who are normally paid lesser than minimum wages and made to work under hazardous conditions for longer hours;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the existing law the Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979 is not being enforced in any State due to the inherent lacunae in the Act; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take urgent steps for enumeration of inter-state migrant workers and also to make appropriate amendments to the existing law to make it more effective and enforceable?

Unorganised workers

267. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of workers in unorganised sector in the country, State-wise details for the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that 12 per cent of the wages of the casual labourers, contract labourers and daily wages workers are deducted as EPF; and

(c) if so, whether there is any provision to disburse the EPF contribution of the poor workers in time to stop their harassment?

Welfare of unorganised labourers

268. SHRI AKARAPU SUDARSHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government for the welfare of unorganised labourers particularly in agriculture sector during the last three years;

(b) whether the number of unorganised labourers in different States has been compiled to determine the number of labourers in the country; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

Increase in child labourers

269. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of child labourers in the country has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of child labourers during the last three years;

(c) what added incentives are being provided to child labourers at present; and

(d) what has been the allocation of funds for child labourers during the last three years, year-wise?

NGO's help to check child labour

270. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken to check the child labour in the country;

(b) whether help from the Non-Government Organisations has also been sought for this work;

(c) whether a survey has been conducted in the country to assess the enormity of the problem; and

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

Establishment of I.T.Is. in North Eastern States

271. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Centrally Sponsored Schemes for North Eastern Region for establishment of Industrial Training Institutes in North-Eastern States and Sikkim has started;

(b) if so, the number of I.T.Is. set up in each of the States; and

(c) the number of apprentices to be trained in each States?

Change in investment norms of EPFO

272. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request from Employees Provided Fund

Organisation to change investment norms of the fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Dave Committee has made any recommendations in its report in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction on recent request of EPFO?

Requirement of fund for good governance

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the facts published in the survey viz. "State of India's public Services" conducted by the Public Affairs Centre of Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that as per the said survey more funds are not essential for good governance; and

(c) if not, Government's reaction in this regard?

CBI raids on Government officials

274. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has conducted nation-wide-raids on Government officials and recovered cash investments and properties worth crores of rupees as reported in all the newspapers dated 12th June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of persons on whom raids were conducted and the unearthed disproportionate assets etc; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the further action Government propose to take against the involved Government officials who have earned disproportionate assets to their known sources of income?

Amendment of CAT Act

275. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Central Administrative Tribunal Act 1985 during the Monsoon Session of Parliament;

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

(c) whether any alternative machinery is being evolved for redressal of the grievances of Government employees; and

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

Restoration of commuted pension after 12 years

276. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended in unequivocal terms that the commuted portion of the pension of the retired Government servants be restored after 12 years instead of 15 years as at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that similar recommendation was also made by the Supreme Court in a judgement relating to the case of pensioners;

(c) if so, whether Government would take a fresh look into the demand which has also been repeatedly put forward by the Pensioners' Associations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Funds to Gujarat under Gokul Gram Yojana

277. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by Government to Gujarat during the last two years for Gokul Gram Yojana;

(b) the funds utilised, year-wise;

(c) the number of villages covered during the said period; and

(d) the additional funds proposed to be allocated for 2002-2003?

Special group for creation of employment opportunities

†278. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any special group to create employment opportunities in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said special group has made any recommendations regarding creation of employment opportunities in the country; and

(d) if so, what effective steps are being taken by Government to implement those recommendations?

Contribution of women labour in national development

279. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated contribution of women labour in national development social, educational, agricultural and other areas of development;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that due recognition is not given to women labour in policy making, planning, allocation of resources, provision of support services and information; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to give due recognition to women labour?

Tenth Plan outlay for the States

280. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Tenth Plan outlay for the States, State-wise; and

(b) the additional assistance to States, State-wise?

Five-Year Plans

281. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the average rate of growth of the economy during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) how does it compare with the growth rate achieved during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) how realistic is the targeted growth rate for the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Report on employment situation

282. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has prepared two separate reports on the employment situation during the last year;

(b) if so, the major differences between the two reports regarding the extent of unemployment in the country and strategies for dealing with them; and

(c) what concrete measures have been taken by the Planning Commission to implement the recommendations contained in these two reports?

Employment opportunities *vis-a-vis* setting up of industries

283. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to create job opportunities for unemployed educated youths by setting up of industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Failure of organised sector in creating jobs

284. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for which the organized sector has failed to create jobs despite being liberated from the shackles of licensing and control over imports, foreign investments, technology and credit;

(b) whether the failure to create jobs has gone contrary to the concept of liberalization; and

(c) how far the concept of liberalization has benefited some at the cost of others ?

Report of Special Group on employment opportunities

285. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Group constituted in September, 2001 has prepared a report "A package for creation of 10 million employment opportunities per annum over the Tenth Plan 2002—2007";

(b) whether the said report alerts and says that employment generating capacity of the economy and especially the organized sector *vis-a-vis* the GDP growth is indicating decline from 1983 to 2000; and

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

**Number of unemployed/
underemployed in States**

286. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of unemployed/underemployed persons, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to promote labour intensive industries and schemes; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to generate employment opportunities in backward areas of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh?

**Construction of road overbridges in
Delhi**

287. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing road overbridges being constructed in NCT, Delhi;

(b) what was the estimated cost, present cost, and revised estimated cost, bridge-wise;

(c) what are the reasons for non-completion of these bridges in time and the steps taken to fix the responsibility; and

(d) by when Dwarka is likely to be connected with an overbridge?

**Expansion of National Highways in
Karnataka under PM Golden
Quadrilateral Project**

288. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the National Highways in Karnataka which are taken up for expansion under PM Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) how many kilometres has been covered and how many kilometres would be covered by March, 2003; and

(c) the progress of the new highways proposed to pass through Karnataka?

Hike in freight charges

†289. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that truck-owners have increased the freight charges from 4.5 per cent to 6 per cent due to price hike of diesel in the country in the month of June;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that this hike in freight charges would adversely affect the road transport industry; and

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

**Shifting of petrol pumps away from
National Highways**

290. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

SHRI ABANI ROY:

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

(a) whether the NHAI has asked oil

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

companies to move petrol-pumps away from the National Highways to tackle the problem of road accidents;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines and time frame in this regard;

(c) the oil companies response thereto;

(d) whether the causes of accidents on National Highways have been assessed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which shifting of petrol pumps from NHs, is going to tackle the problem of road accidents?

National Highways in M.P.

† 291. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the additional stretch of roads which are likely to be declared as National Highway in Madhya Pradesh by the year 2002-2003;

(b) the details regarding the roads which were recommended by the National Transport Committee to be declared as National Highway in 1984 in Madhya Pradesh and the number of roads which have been declared as Highways so far; and

(c) the number of proposals pending with Government for construction of roads of inter-State importance and by when sanction is likely to be accorded in this regard?

Rest Houses on National Highways

† 292. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to construct rest houses on National Highways;

(b) if so, whether construction of the same is also being considered on the highways crossing Gujarat;

(c) if so, the number of the Rest houses likely to be constructed during the current year alongwith the locations thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Four lane road between Durg and Raipur

† 293. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time frame fixed for completion of four lane road between Durg and Raipur at National Highways No. 6 togetherwith the cost likely to be incurred thereon;

(b) whether the ban on cutting of trees in this area has been removed;

(c) if so, the number of trees identified for felling to finalise this work; and

(d) whether there is any plan to move a campaign for replantation?

Construction of road in Pauri Gharwal, Uttaranchal

294. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a road linking Satpuli-Vyaschatti with Allasu and near by villages in Kaljikhil block, Pauri Gharwal, Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made so far;

(c) whether Government have received any representation for change in the proposed road plan which would cover Allasu, Bhatkoti, the district of Pauri Gharwal, Uttaranchal; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto, including the details of the action taken and by when this road would be completed?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Stopping of buses along Metro Rail tracks

295. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 11th June, 2002 under the caption "Metro Rail wants to stop buses along its tracks";

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

(c) whether it is proposed to accept the suggestion made by Metro Rail, and if so, the reasons therefor?

Repair of National Highway No. 21 between Murree and Rohtang

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

(a) when the last repairs were undertaken by the BRO on 17 Kilometres stretch of National Highway No. 21 between Murree and Rohtang;

(b) whether Government are aware that the road stretch referred to above is in bad shape and heavily used by buses, other transport operators and tourist vehicles thus causing inconvenience to users and damage to vehicles; and

(c) if so, by when the road is likely to be resurfaced/repaired?

List of items reserved for SSI

† 297. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently removed some products from the list of items reserved for the SSI;

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

(c) the rules framed by Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government are contemplating to remove some more products from the above list; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

New Scheme to promote SSI and cottage industry

298. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new scheme to promote small scale and cottage industries in the country during the current financial year;

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

(c) whether the above scheme is being implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Sick SSI's in the country

† 299. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards consistent increase in the number of sick small scale industries in various States, during the last three years;

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

(c) whether Government have received any representations from some organisations to review guidelines for

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

revival of these units and also to include standards and definition for fixing feasibility criteria in these guidelines; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Dereservation of SSI sector

300. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the items dereserved for the SSI sector; and

(b) what has been the impact of dereservation on this sector?

Freezing of Public Sector Infrastructure Projects

301. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 34 Public Sector Infrastructure Projects have been abandoned or frozen recently after initial investments were made in those causing an estimated loss of Rs. 1047 crores;

(b) if so, the sector-wise details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh guidelines issued to fine-tune the monitoring system for project implementation to avoid/minimise recurrence of such losses?

Delay in Mega-Projects

302. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the top 25 Mega-Projects are behind their completion schedule as on date;

(b) what has been the cost and time overrun in each of the case and what action has been taken to ensure that these projects are completed without any further delay;

(c) whether Government are contemplating an element of fixing responsibility in such cases of delays; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 12th July, 2002

Asadha 21, 1924 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

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