

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Thursday, the December 18, 2003/Agrahayana 27, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;  
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food and  
Public Distribution; Development of North  
Eastern Region; Disinvestment; External Affairs; Labour;  
Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale  
Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme  
Implementation)

Total number of questions — 155

#### Probes by CBI

1698. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of Investigation is being assigned probes both by the Centre and the States, beyond its capacity;

(b) whether the CBI's prior consent to accept the probe assignment is normally sought by the Centre and States; and

(c) whether the CBI is equipped to handle a large number of cases without commensurate manpower strength and upgradation of its investigative skills demanded by highly sophisticated economic offences?

#### Cases lying with CBI

1699. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of cases lying with CBI for investigation during the last five years, year-wise?

#### Rural industries in Andhra Pradesh

1700. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural clusters have been identified for developing rural industries in Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States under the National Programme on Rural Industrialization (NPRI);

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

(c) the present status of the projects under National Programme on Rural Industrialization, State-wise and district-wise?

#### Implementation of PMRY in Andhra Pradesh

1701. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evaluated the implementation and success of Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) in Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States;

(b) if so, when the evaluation was done and what were the important findings thereof, State-wise; and

(c) what action Government have taken on these findings?

**Competition between cottage industries and multinational companies**

† 1702. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that our cottage industries are facing tough competition with the multinational companies;

(b) if so, the effective steps Government have taken to protect the traditional cottage industries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Agro and Rural Industries in Chhattisgarh**

1703. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Agro and Rural Industries in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether there are any potentials of developing new Agro and Rural Industries in the State;

(c) if so, what are new schemes that Government are willing to introduce in the State of Chhattisgarh; and

(d) the effect of introducing new cash crops in the State?

**Collection of money by Business Centres**

1704. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Business Centres in Chandrapur (Maharashtra) are collecting huge sum from customers for providing telecommunication services such as telephones with STD facilities and they are neither providing such telephones nor returning the amount collected from the customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether M/s Bhavana Business Centre, Chandrapur cheated huge sum of money from residents of Chandrapur (M.S.); and

(d) if so, whether Government would take any action against the said Business Centre and direct them to refund the money to the customers?

**Penalty on Reliance Company**

† 1705. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether orders have been issued by TRAI against the Reliance Company for payment of licence fee including penalty for not obtaining licence for mobile service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what further action is being taken against the Reliance?

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Illegal withdrawal of money from the saving bank**

1706. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to Government's notice that postal staff in some post offices in Jharkhand have fraudulently withdrawn money from the saving bank and other accounts of the small depositors, maintained in those post offices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a thorough inquiry in the matter has been held;
- (d) if so, the action taken thereon; and
- (e) if no inquiry has so far been held, by when the same would be done?

**Computerized post offices in Maharashtra**

1707. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of post offices being computerized in Maharashtra alongwith the names of cities;
- (b) the number of cities which have the speed post facilities and the places where this facility is being provided during the year 2003-04; and
- (c) the number of post offices where ED employees are working and the number of villages which are not covered by post offices?

**Telephone exchanges in Maharashtra**

1708. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Maharashtra, district-wise;
- (b) the number of exchanges proposed to be set up during the next three years;
- (c) the name of the exchanges modernized and the number of exchanges whose capacities are proposed to be expanded; and
- (d) the income and expenditure statement of MTNL, Mumbai for the year 2002-03?

**WLL in Orissa**

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

- (a) whether WLL is being given to the consumers in the inaccessible areas; and
- (b) if so, the total applications made for getting WLL in Orissa and the time-frame and Government's action plan to supply WLL connections to all of them?

**Telephone Directory**

1710. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:  
SHRIMATI KAMLA  
MANHAR:  
SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

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

- (a) the status of Delhi and Mumbai Telephone Directories which were supposed to be distributed in December, 2003;
- (b) if the directories are delayed, by when these are expected to be distributed to subscribers at the earliest and the reasons for delay thereof;

(c) whether he examined to include the telephone numbers of other telecom service providers in these directories and whether TRAI would make it mandatory for these service providers to include their numbers as the public is put to immense difficulties without the listings; and

(d) whether Government propose to give option to the subscribers to exchange printed directories with that of CD; if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Unified Telecom Licence**

1711. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the proposal for a Unified Telecom Licence and for hike in FDI in basic and cellular services from 49 per cent to 74 per cent;

(b) the manner in which this Unified Licence would help in increasing tele-density and growth of the sector through competition; and

(c) the details thereof?

#### **Reduction in call timings**

1712. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether local call has been reduced to 90 seconds and that of calling mobile number to 60 seconds; if so, what is the basis for such a step, which has affected everyone, especially poor people; and

(b) whether Government would reverse its decision?

#### **Postal facilities in Himachal Pradesh**

†1713. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Gram Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh are devoid of post offices;

(b) if so, the number thereof; and

(c) by when Government plan to set up post offices in these Gram Panchayats?

#### **Telephones in Gram Sabhas**

1714. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Sabhas in the country where telephones are functioning and the number of Gram Sabhas which have applied for the telephones, State-wise;

(b) whether any target has been fixed by the Department to connect all Gram Panchayats of the country with telephones; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Benefit to private operators under V P T system**

1715. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under Village Public Telephone System, private operators were given undue benefit amounting to Rs. 719 crore;

(b) whether the Department spent more than Rs. 90 crore to provide VPTs on behalf of the private operators; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### Telephone rental in Gautam Budh Nagar

†1716. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for recovery of Rs. 220/- as rental on telephones installed in 123 villages of District Gautam Budh Nagar in spite of announcement made by G.M., Telephones, Noida that such rent should be to the tune of Rs. 110/-;

(b) the reasons for *suo motu* increase and decrease in the rental by G.M., Telephones, Noida from time to time;

(c) the reasons for non-compliance of prescribed rules and rentals issued through the communiques by G.M., Telephones, Noida; and

(d) the reasons for charging different rentals in different exchanges falling under the same SDCA?

### Telephones by private telecom operators

1717. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private telecom operators do not generally come forward to lay telephone lines and provide mobile or land-line telephone facilities in rural areas in remote and backward districts and are subjected to penalties for avoiding villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have issued directions to private telecom operators to cover the villages which are, so far, devoid of telephone facilities; if so, the number of such villages as on September 1, 2003 and the details of the orders issued?

### Rural telephony obligations

1718. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to make it mandatory for basic telecom service operators to roll out their rural telephony obligations;

(b) if so, the response of the operators for ensuring their rural obligations; and

(c) the stringent penalty proposed for those violating the rural obligation targets?

### Dependency of Indian IT companies on USA

†1719. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Indian IT companies are dependent on USA for business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that IT companies have discussed above issue with Germany and Japan to deal with the proposition relating to outsourcing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### Issuance of stamps on Sachin Tendulkar and Lata Mangeskar

1720. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a suggestion has been made

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to Government that stamps should be issued on Sachin Tendulkar and Lata Mangeshkar, the living legends, for their grand contribution in respective fields; and

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

#### **Mobile rates of MTNL**

†1721. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates of mobile phones of the MTNL are equivalent to the rates of the mobile phones of other private companies;

(b) the details regarding status of the use of the services of MTNL *vis-a-vis* other private companies; and

(c) the details thereof?

#### **Official procedure for blocking of websites**

1722. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have outlined an official procedure for blocking websites;

(b) if so, under which section of the IT Act Government have issued such procedure; and

(c) whether this official procedure does not mean censoring the websites?

#### **Tele-density**

1723. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the tele-density achieved during the last 5 years, year-wise, urban and rural area-wise;

(b) the contribution of different companies, year-wise and urban-rural areas break up-wise, during each year; and

(c) whether the present pattern of enhancing tele-density is throwing up any concern in terms of imbalances of urban-rural divide?

#### **Reduction in ISD rates**

1724. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had earlier reduced ISD rates for some countries by 70 per cent for only one month;

(b) what was the amount of communication traffic during this period on account of reduced rates; and

(c) whether Government propose to continue the reduced rates?

#### **National Spectrum Policy, 1999**

1725. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new 'unified license' regime to which Government are migrating is in consonance with the National Spectrum Policy, 1999; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; if not, whether a revised policy should precede the proposed migration?

#### **Import duty on mobile phones**

1726. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether TRAI propose to cut import duty on mobile phones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Profit of MTNL**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that profits of MTNL services in Delhi and Mumbai have dipped by 33 per cent;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to control the loss?

#### **New I.T. Scheme**

1728. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have introduced a new I.T. Scheme to provide jobs to at least 3.5 crore persons; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Encouragement to telecom equipment manufacturing industry**

1729. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in spite of rapid growth in telecommunications, the telecom equipment manufacturing industry has not been properly encouraged;
- (b) if so, whether Government have taken or propose to take any drastic steps to encourage indigeneous telecom manufacturing units in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Arrears of BSNL**

†1730. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether telephone bills to the tune of crores of rupees are outstanding against some subscribers of BSNL, Ghaziabad;
- (b) if so, the amount involved therein; and
- (c) whether any steps are being taken by Government for recovery of this balance?

#### **Telephone facilities in Lakshadweep Island**

1731. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all the tribal and backward villages of Lakshadweep Island have been

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

provided with telephone facilities including STD/ISD/FAX etc.;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Blocking of WLL calls**

1732. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) have justified to Government for their action of blocking WLL calls during January-March, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the CMSPs have also urged Government to withdraw criminal proceedings against them in lieu of restoring WLL calls and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

#### **Mobile and internet users**

1733. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tele-density during the last two years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of mobile and internet users during the last two years, State-wise?

#### **Stock reduction in FCI godowns**

1734. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various measures taken

so far as on date by his Ministry towards fast stock reduction in FCI godowns, controlled and managed by FCI and private traders;

(b) the various measures taken so far towards the fast disposal of old and relaxed inferiority quality stocks of FCI godowns; and

(c) the details of quantity of rice and wheat disposed under that category during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03?

#### **Death due to starvation**

1735. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some people died or committed suicide in certain States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa due to starvation;

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

(c) whether Government have identified through District Administration, the families and persons who are not in a position to earn livelihood for their subsistence;

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

(e) in what manner Government are meeting their subsistence requirement?

#### **Norms for drinking water**

1736. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to implement EU norms for bottled drinking water and mineral water from January 1, 2004;



(b) if so, whether the national agency for quality norms and certification, Bureau of Indian Standards has written to all licencees of bottled drinking water and mineral water to implement its amended standards formulated in October, 2003 in respect of permissible pesticide residues; and

(c) if so, what were the main reasons for accepting the EU norms?

#### **Cases pending in consumer courts**

†1737. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases registered and pending in various consumer courts;

(b) the reasons for the delay in disposal of the cases;

(c) whether any decision has been taken by the commission to constitute more benches in order to dispose off the consumer cases rapidly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Procurement of paddy in Uttar Pradesh**

†1738. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has passed any order on the 29th August, 2003 regarding procurement of paddy in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the State Government is implementing the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in procurement of paddy; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Assistance to cane-growers**

1739. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had approved a Rs. 678.06 crore one time assistance package for sugarcane growers;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, indicating nature and extent of assistance given to cane-growers and its *modus operandi*; and

(c) whether the aid is confined to Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Punjab and Bihar, if so, the reasons for discrimination against cane-growers of other States, including Maharashtra which contributes around 35 per cent to the country's sugar yield?

#### **Financial loss to FCI**

†1740. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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 had to face financial loss due to storage of more foodgrains than required buffer stock during the last few years;

(b) if so, the requirement of the foodgrains for buffer stock during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 alongwith the quantum of actual buffer stock of foodgrains; and

(c) the additional amount which Food Corporation of India had to bear during each of the above year due to it?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **New Foodgrain Export Policy**

1741. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has sent a new foodgrain Export Policy proposal to the Ministry of Commerce for its approval;

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

(c) the total foodgrains exported during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the revenue earned during the last five years, year-wise?

### **Foodgrain production**

1742. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains produced during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and current year upto 31st October, 2003;

(b) the target of production of foodgrains for the year 2003-04 and the target achieved so far;

(c) the rate of increase or decrease of production of foodgrains during the last three years;

(d) the status of procurement drive by FCI during the last three years; and

(e) the present position of the Central Godown of foodgrains?

### **Functioning of voluntary consumer organisations**

1743. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of voluntary consumer organizations working in the country and details of financial assistance received by them from Centre for 1999-00 to 2000-01 and 2001-02, State-wise;

(b) the total financial assistance provided to each of these organizations in Andhra Pradesh by the Centre for 1999-00, 2000-01 and 2001-02;

(c) the details of mandatory rules under which these consumer organizations receiving funds from the Centre, are supposed to function; and

(d) the names of organizations, engaged in consumer protection activities, found misutilising the Central Government, funds during 1999-00, 2000-01 and 2001-02 and the details of action taken against them, State-wise?

### **Procurement of foodgrains in Assam**

1744. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the support price granted for procurement of rice and other products in Assam for providing relief to the farmers;

(b) the agencies entrusted and fund allocated in the State of Assam for 2003-04 commodity-wise;

(c) the stock maintained against total allocation of wheat, rice and sugar in Assam, month-wise, during 2003 location-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that FCI has not maintained the minimum stock of these products for PDS in Assam;

- (e) if so, reasons therefor; and  
 (f) if not, the target in that behalf ?

#### **Separating the activities of BIS**

1745. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to separate activities of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) so that they would only issue the standards whereas the implementation and checking authorities would be different like in many other developed countries;

(b) if so, by when it would come into effect; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **FCIs base depots and Issue Centres in Uttar Pradesh**

† 1746. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the base depots or issue Centres of Food Corporation of India exist in each district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of the districts that are devoid of a base depot or issue Centre?

#### **Sale of underweighed item**

† 1747. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the sale of underweighed items has become order of the day;

(b) if so, whether Government have launched any campaign to stop this;

(c) the action taken at present against the persons/companies resorting to underweighing; and

(d) whether such actions are adequate to deter them from committing such crime?

#### **Pesticides in mineral water**

1748. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any licences of Mineral Water Companies were cancelled after pesticides were found in bottled mineral water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government found it fit to cancel all old licences of mineral water companies and asked them to apply for fresh licences after formulation of fresh standards;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Functioning of PDS**

1749. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government to improve the functioning of PDS in terms of quality of items supplied, prices, etc.; and

(b) the details of the items distributed through the PDS, State-wise?

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**MSP to farmers of Orissa**

1750. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops is now paid to the farmers of Orissa who have almost lost their livelihood as a result of consecutive natural calamities;

(b) if not, the crops for which the MSP is paid; and

(c) whether in addition to paddy, other crops are also collected by the FCI in the State?

(a) the edible oil production in the country during last three years from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 and what are estimates current year, State-wise;

(b) the share of Gujarat in edible oil production in the country and its contribution to meet needs of State, other than Gujarat;

(c) what is the per capita consumption of edible oil in the country during last five years from 1998-99 to 2002-03, State-wise; and

(d) whether it is a fact that per capita edible oil availability has decreased during last three years?

**Introduction of TPDS**

1753. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:  
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been introduced recently to limit the coverage of public distribution to those below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the present number of families covered under TPDS, State-wise, category-wise;

(c) if so, the number of families cover under Public Distribution System (PDS) and the foodgrain allotted and distributed during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise;

(d) whether off take of foodgrains are reduced;

(e) whether steps would be taken to protect the food security of the poor people of Kerala, a State deficit in foodgrains;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

**BIS standards for mineral water**

1751. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether BIS gave licences to Mineral Water companies in accordance to the standards formulated by it;

(b) if so, on what basis did the BIS originally formulated these standards;

(c) whether the standards formulated by BIS was either approved or in accordance to world standards of U.S., FDA, PUWHO;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Edible oil production**

1752. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:  
SHRIMATI SAVITA  
SHARDA:

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

### **Standards for potable water**

1754. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are no set standards for drinking water; and
- (b) if so, the action taken to enforce, standards for potable water?

### **Decentralization of foodgrain procurement, storage and distribution**

1755. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology has made study of decentralization procurement, storage and distribution of grains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the recommendations of the study; and
- (d) the reaction of Government thereon?

### **Agreement between FCI and Warehousing Corporation in Andhra Pradesh**

1756. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any request has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to direct the Food Corporation of India to enter into an agreement with Andhra Pradesh warehousing corporation with regard to balance 1.60 lakhs metric tonnes of storage space of the total 20 lakh M.T. storage capacity;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested to release the subsidy component of Rs. 1,83,62,000 in this connection; and

- (d) if so, what action the Ministry has taken in this regard?

### **Complaints filed in consumer courts**

1757. SHRISWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of complaints/petitions filed before the Consumer Courts in each State;
- (b) the number of complaints/petitions in which relief has been given to the consumers; and
- (c) the number of complaints/petitions dismissed?

### **Increased prices of essential commodities**

1758. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the prices of essential commodities which have recorded increase of more than 50 per cent during the last two years; and
- (b) the steps taken by Government to keep the prices of essential commodities under check?

### **Review of disinvestment policy**

† 1759. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

been drawn towards the lecture delivered by the Vice-Chairman of Planning Commission regarding disinvestment in the conference organised jointly by the Indian Council of social Science Research and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development;

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

(c) whether Government have taken a decision to review the disinvestment policy?

#### **Disinvestment target**

1760. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is going to be a serious shortfall in the disinvestment target;

(b) if so, the targets fixed for the current year and the achievement made, so far; and

(c) what steps are being taken to compensate the shortfall in the disinvestment target?

#### **Disinvestment of Air India and Indian Airlines**

† 1761. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made with regard to the disinvestment in Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) the time frame fixed by Government to complete the process; and

(c) the expected profit Government going to make out of the said process?

#### **Disinvestment of Metal Scrap Trade Corporation**

1762. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to disinvest the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the MSTC is a profit making PSU;

(d) if so, the details of the profit made by the Company during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the reasons for the disinvestment of a profit making PSU?

#### **Sale of Numaligarh Refinery**

1763. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to sell shares of Numaligarh Refinery to Oil India Ltd; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

#### **Visit of Pakistanis to Jammu and Kashmir**

1764. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir has urged Government to allow selected groups of Pakistani nationals to visit the State as a counter to Pakistan's propaganda of human rights violations in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Palestinian Foreign Minister's  
visit to India**

1765. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Palestinian Foreign Minister visited India prior to the visit of Ariel Sharon;

(b) whether any joint public statement by the Palestinian Minister and the concerned Indian authority was issued during his visit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Relations with Arab countries**

1766. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report prohibiting the ignoring of the Arab World;

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

(c) what steps Government have taken or proposed to be taken for developing friendly ties and peace initiative with our neighbouring countries particularly Arab World while keeping relations with Israel?

**Uranium mining**

1767. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to hand over the operations of uranium mining to Multi-national Companies instead of indigenous companies;

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

(c) whether Government are aware that the proposed step, if taken, would adversely affect the interests of mining labour; and

(d) if so, whether Government would have the decision reviewed?

**Inquiry of missing of Indian  
student in Ukrain**

1768. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2170 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the Deputy Director CBI who was deputed to Ukrain from 10th April to 4th May, 2001 has submitted the investigation report;

(b) whether the said investigation report would be made available to the parents of missing son; if so, by when;

(c) whether Government have constituted a team of CBI officials to pursue the matter with the Interim Ministry of Ukrain;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be constituted?

**Transit visa for Indians**

1769. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made in discussion with Bangladesh on issuance of transit visa for journey from Tripura to Kolkata via Bangladesh; and

(b) the attitude of Bangladesh Government in issuing transit visa?

### **Recognition to Iraqi Governing Council by India**

1770. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recognized Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) as the legitimate governing body of Iraq;

(b) if so, the reasons for Government's objection to sending Indian troops to Iraq as requested by IGC; and

(c) the details of proposals that Government have agreed for the reconstruction of Iraq in post war scenario?

### **Discussion on economic issues between USA and Indian private sector**

1771. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any breakthrough has been achieved or is expected to be achieved to expand un-official discussions on economic issues between the USA and Indian private sectors;

(b) whether negotiations were/are being held with USA for a bilateral trade agreement as services and military to military cooperations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

### **Letters of Indian prisoners in Pakistani jail**

1772. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 401 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st August, 2003 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a teenager of Jammu and Kashmir, who strayed into Pakistan a couple of years ago and has

recently been released by the Pak authorities has brought letters from a number of Indian prisoners in Pak jails;

(b) if so, the number and the main contents thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to secure the release of Indians in Pak jails, particularly those categorized as Security Prisoners by Pakistan?

### **Durable partnership with Syria**

1773. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India have agreed for durable partnership with Syria;

(b) if so, in which areas the economic opportunities with Syria would be exploited;

(c) to what extent the trade between the two countries would generate;

(d) whether any agreement has also been signed in the field of hydrogen fuel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

### **Agreements with UAE**

† 1774. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the economic, political and commercial agreements made between India and UAE during the State visit of President of India to that country;

(b) whether any agreement on matters of extradition treaty and information technology has also been signed between the two countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.