

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Wednesday, the February 19, 2003/Magha 30, 1924 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Coal; Defence; Home Affairs; Mines; Non-Conventional Energy  
Sources; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Power; Rural  
Development; Textiles)

Total number of questions — 80

#### Disinvestment of three units of C.I.L.

† 102. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three units  
of Coal India Ltd. *i.e.* 'Eastern Coal Fields  
Ltd.', 'Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.' and 'Central  
Coal Fields Ltd.' are incurring losses  
continuously for the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of years for which  
each unit is incurring loss;

(c) to what extent these units have  
incurred losses, so far;

(d) whether Government have  
considered any proposal to hand over the  
management of these units to the private  
sector by making disinvestment therein; and

(e) if not, the details thereof?

#### Cost of coal production in India

† 103. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production  
cost of Coal India Limited, a monopoly  
Public Sector Undertaking, is more than  
the cost of production at international level;

(b) if so, the average cost of production  
of coal at international level;

(c) the average cost of production of Coal  
India Ltd. in India;

(d) whether efforts have been made  
during previous years to bring coal  
production industry at par with international  
level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### Strike by Singareni Coal Mine workers

104. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:  
Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to  
state:

(a) whether Singareni Coal Mine  
workers are on warpath and have served  
strike notice against privatisation; and

(b) if so, the action taken to apprise  
workers about their future and job  
protection besides creating confidence  
amongst Trade Unions?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### Closure of ECL Mines

105. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government has not yet taken any specific decision on the closure of 22 mines of the Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government is making efforts to review seriously and find scope to make these viable;

(c) whether the reports published recently about the closure of these mines have been contradicted by the Ministry; and

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

### Mine blast casualties

106. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:  
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED  
KHAN (DURRU):  
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian troops posted along the 1800 mile border between India and Pakistan, while withdrawing from their positions, left behind the mines laid by them along the border;

(b) if so, whether any more casualties due to mine blasts have since taken place along the border;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to remove the mines and to prevent any casualties therefrom?

### Steps to boost the morale of Army Troops

107. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Army is suffering from acute fatigue on account of counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and Operation Parakram; and

(b) the action proposed to ensure health maintenance of Army Troops and boost their morale?

### Non-utilisation of defence funds

108. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA  
SEKAR REDDY:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported in the Economic Times dated the 23rd December, 2002 that Rs. 3,000 crore kept for weapons is lying unutilised, so far;

(b) if so, what were the main reasons for not utilising the fund for purchase of weapons;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, who are responsible for this and action taken against them;

(e) whether the Centre has now taken a final decision to utilise this amount for purchase of weapons during 2003; and

(f) if so, to what extent weapon deals have been finalised by now?

#### **Transparency in defence deals**

† 109. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to bring transparency in defence deals after the revelation of facts in the film made by the tehelka.com on alleged kickoff in the defence deals;

(b) the details of the new policy made to check the kickoffs in defence deals;

(c) to what extent the said new policy has been successful; and

(d) the number of defence deals in which this new policy has been implemented?

#### **Aircraft carrier deal with Russia**

110. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have finalised the deal of aircraft carrier for the Indian Navy;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by what time the agreement is likely to be implemented?

#### **CVC report on defence deals**

111. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CVC has submitted its final report to Government on defence deals; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken on the findings of CVC?

#### **Modernisation of Indian Army, Navy and Air Force**

112. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount totalling to Rs. 3,000 crores for purchase of weapons is lying unutilised;

(b) if so, reasons for not utilising the amount; and

(c) details of the measures taken by Government to modernise Indian Army, Navy and Air Force?

#### **Indo-French Strategic Dialogue**

113. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ninth round of Indo-French Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreements reached?

#### **Punching of driving licences of traffic violators**

114. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Licences of traffic violators to be punched from January 30," appearing in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 9th January, 2003;

(b) if so, what are the complete details of the scheme to be implemented from 30th January, 2003;

(c) whether Government are aware that Delhi Police is challaning citizens arbitrarily on petty offences like jumping of roads, etc.; and

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, whether Government would punch the licences without giving ample opportunity to the drivers and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Deterioration of Law and Order  
situation in NCT of Delhi**

115. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that law and order situation in the National Capital Territory of Delhi has deteriorated during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of cases of rape, murder, extortion, dacoity etc. reported in various police stations during the above period;

(c) whether it is also a fact that cases of extortion and murder have increased in Malviya Nagar area of South Delhi during the last one year; and

(d) if so, the details of cases reported and what steps Government have taken or propose to take for the safety of residents in and around Malviya Nagar area?

**Assault on an American missionary**

116. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the physical assault on an American missionary, Mr. Joseph Cooper in Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to book the culprits and punish them;

(c) whether it is a fact that Mr. Cooper has been ordered to leave the country for allegedly violating the visa rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken to ensure that foreign citizens abide by the restrictions and do not violate the laws of the country?

**Rules for Pakistani Nationals visiting  
India**

117. SHRI ABANI ROY:  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have recently announced stricter rules for Pakistanis visiting India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of Pakistani visitors have not gone back to their country even on the expiry of visa period in the past few months;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(e) the number of such Pakistani visitors missing in the country and also the number of such persons who came on fake visas; and

(f) the concrete steps taken to search such persons and to deport them to Pakistan?

**Restriction on movement of Pakistani  
Nationals**

118. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to restrict the movement of Pakistani Nationals to three Indian cities only;

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

(c) whether Pakistan has taken any reciprocal step in this direction and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Crimes against women in Delhi**

119. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):  
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capital, Delhi continues to hold the position of the capital of crimes against women particularly rapes and murders combined with rapes; and

(b) if so, the number of rapes and rapes with murders in Delhi, as compared to the Capitals of different States, till November, 2002 and the corresponding figures for 2001 and 2000?

#### **Security arrangements in the country**

120. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:  
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing grave internal security threats;

(b) whether Government have taken a final stock of its efforts to restructure the security arrangements in the country in the wake of attack on Indian Parliament on December 13, 2001;

(c) if so, the results thereof;

(d) whether in Government's perception, there is a definite improvement in the security environment in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken in this regard?

#### **Economic package to the people of Kashmir**

121. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):  
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have taken any decision to grant an economic package to the people of Kashmir by way of generating employment opportunity for the growth, including jobs for the over-aged youths and other means for bringing the misguided youth, who have taken to guns and militancy, into the national mainstream; and

(b) if so, the details of the package and the cost thereof indicating the Central aid to be extended therefor?

#### **Dual citizenship to PIOs**

122. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:  
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:  
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI R.P. GOENKA  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to confer dual citizenship on the People of Indian Origins currently settled in other countries;

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

(c) the specific rights, privileges as benefits which are proposed to be made available to PIOs as a result of grant of dual citizenship;

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to India as a result thereof; and

(e) by when the legislative and administrative framework are likely to be put in place?

**Committee set up for solving problems of PIOs**

123. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Committee for solving the problems of NRIs and People of Indian Origins;

(b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the basic recommendations made by Government including the dual citizenship for NRIs; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for providing the dual citizenship to NRIs who are working for strengthening India's economy?

**Over-crowding in Tihar Jail**

124. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tihar Jail which has a total capacity of 3637 inmates, was having 12,041 prisoners as on 31st December, 2002 and that nearly similar conditions prevail in all the jails in the country;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made in the recent past as to how this over-crowding could be eliminated, either by way of adding more jails or by resorting to speedy trials; and

(c) if so, what effective steps are being taken in this regard?

**Request for UAVs by Andhra Pradesh**

125. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh had requested for assistance for equipping its police force with Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) to check extremist activity; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

**Foreign aids to terrorist activities**

†126. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fund for carrying out terrorist activities in the country and particularly in Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern States comes from abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of countries providing such assistance; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop such assistance to terrorists/terrorist outfits?

**Need for FBI on the lines of America**

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

(a) whether the Central Government have felt a need for an organisation on the lines of Federal Bureau of Investigation of America and if so, what kind of need is being felt for the same;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the State Governments have registered their opposition for the same; and

(c) the scope and likely effect of such an organisation?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Running of Maoist schools in  
Jharkhand**

†128. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Maoists are running Maoistic schools and creating Maoists therefrom;

(b) whether Government have tried to ascertain the facts as to where the Maoists and other terrorists outfits are running schools; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to check the same and to have control over them and by when results are likely to be achieved?

**Misuse of places of worship**

129. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any survey to identify the places of worship misused for indulging in anti-national activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government against those found responsible for the misuse of religious places for anti-national and disruptive activities?

**Recommendations regarding  
functioning of CRPF**

130. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assigned Group of Ministers which reviewed the functioning of the Central Reserve Police Force had suggested in their report that the CRPF

should become the main force to handle security duties in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the major recommendations contained in the report and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the specific initiatives taken towards modernisation of weaponry and equipment and for counter-insurgency training needs?

**ISI links with NDFB**

131. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that militants of Assam National Democratic Federation of Bodoland have close links with ISI operatives and that 13 NDFB ultras had recently been sent to Pakistan for arms training as reported in LOKMAT of 16th January, 2003;

(b) if so, whether this is localised in Assam only or militants of other North-East States have also similar links with ISI or other foreign disruptive agencies; and

(c) if so, whether adequate precautionary measures both preventive and corrective, are being taken so that security of the nation is not compromised?

**Non-enforcement of POTA in  
Jammu and Kashmir**

132. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jammu and Kashmir Government has decided not to enforce POTA in the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government has released many terrorists involved in terrorist activities and proposes to give amnesty to many others;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reaction of the Central Government in view of the security and integrity of the country as a whole?

#### **Threats by Al-Badr to females**

133. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that terrorist outfit Al-Badr has compelled females in Rajouri (Jammu and Kashmir) to wear Burka and gave ultimatum to them to quit jobs with the State Police by 15th January, 2003;
- (b) if so, the impact of the Al-Badr's threat and ultimatum; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to allay fear of the female members of the area and to eliminate Al-Badr from the State?

#### **Special courts for atrocities against women**

134. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any proposal to set up any special courts for women particularly in the metropolitan cities to try cases relating to atrocities against them; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Domestic sex abuse of women**

135. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that domestic sex abuse of women is rising in the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that domestic

sexual (abuse) violence by fathers, uncles and cousins are not fully reported/complained due to the circumstances;

- (c) the details of the cases of domestic sex abuses reported/registered in the country State-wise for the past three years;
- (d) the steps Government propose to take to prevent domestic sexual abuse; and
- (e) whether Government propose to enact special law for the prevention of domestic sexual abuse, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Increasing criminal assaults on women**

136. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that criminal assaults on women are increasing alarmingly in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported/action taken so far for the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the victims are not coming forward to file complaints due to fear of stigma; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to overcome the victim's reluctance in pursuing the cases?

#### **Talks with Naxalites of PWG**

137. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken steps to initiate talks with Naxalites belonging to People's War Group to bring about peace in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring States on the pattern of talks

now in progress between Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and Sri Lankan Government;

(b) if not, whether this vexed problems will be taken up in near future; and

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

#### **Meeting of PWG with ISI**

138. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of People's War Group (PWG) and Pakistani ISI reportedly met in Nepal/Bihar borders in October, 2002;

(b) the outcome of the meeting as per intelligence report; and

(c) whether extremists violence has been stepped up after that meeting?

#### **Nabbing of Veerappan**

139. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Central and State Governments to nab the forest brigand Veerappan since December, 2002 following the killing of Shri Nagappa;

(b) the success achieved in the mission; and

(c) the reasons for prolonged failure of all efforts made in this direction?

#### **Criteria for conferring Padma Awards**

140. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the criteria for the conferring of Padma Awards;

(b) whether it is a fact that there was a report that persons not recommended by the concerned State Government have been awarded Padma Awards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Losses due to cold wave in Northern India**

141. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the whole of Northern India has been under a severe cold wave in the month of January this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the casualties as a result of the cold wave, State-wise;

(c) whether keeping in view the magnitude of sufferings and loss of life and its devastating effect on rabi crops, the cold wave could be categorised as a national disaster;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what relief measures have been offered/are proposed to be offered for ameliorating the sufferings of affected persons?

#### **Registration of Madrassas**

142. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work in regard to registration of Madrassas in the country, particularly in the border areas has been taken up;

(b) if so, the number of Madrassas that have been registered so far; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

#### **Missing Pakistani citizens**

143. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani citizens who came to India on valid passports/visas and are in Andhra Pradesh and have overstayed or went missing;

(b) whether efforts have been made to trace them and the result thereof; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

#### **Steps for speedy prosecution under POTA**

144. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of arrests made under POTA so far;

(b) how many of those arrested have been prosecuted so far; and

(c) the steps taken for speedy prosecution under POTA?

#### **Infiltration of militants**

145. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether infiltration of militants, mostly of foreign origin, continues unabated;

(b) if so, whether Government have any information that Pakistan has not taken any steps to dismantle the infrastructure supporting terrorism on its territory;

(c) whether there was any increase in the number of terrorist strikes in 2002 as compared to 2001; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Special cell to deal naxalite menace**

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

(a) whether Government propose to set up a special cell to deal with naxalite menace in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how intelligence sharing by the affected States and the Centre would be coordinated?

#### **Fight against terrorism**

147. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently visited France and Qatar and held discussions with counterparts there;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether France and Qatar have extended help to India to fight war against terrorism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Violation of flag code**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that at some places on the Republic Day *i.e.* 26th January, 2003 there were incidents of violation of flag code;

(b) if so, whether any complaints have been received in the Ministry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the complaints received in the Ministry; and

(d) the action contemplated by Government against the errants?

**Mineral exploration of A.P.  
Government**

149. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the details of proposals of the Andhra Pradesh Government for mineral exploration cleared by the Union Government during the current year?

**Implementation of solar energy  
programme in Andhra Pradesh**

150. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any solar energy programmes are being implemented in Andhra Pradesh with Central assistance/grants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds released for these programmes during the last three years to the State, year-wise; and

(d) the results achieved in the State so far?

**Purchase of coal for power generation  
from Coal India Ltd. by NTPC**

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

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Thermal Power Corporation purchases coal for power generation from Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the average quantity of coal purchased annually alongwith the annual cost of the coal purchased during the year 2001-2002;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ash content

is also present in the coal purchased from Coal India Ltd.; and

(d) if so, the percentage of ash occurred in this coal?

**Collapse of Northern grid**

152. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that throughout the month of January this year, there was complete breakdown of the Northern grid, and Delhi and neighbouring States went without power;

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

(c) the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such large scale power failure which takes place both in severe winter and summer with unfailing regularity?

**Production of power in Madhya  
Pradesh**

† 153. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of power in Madhya Pradesh at present and the quantity of production being carried out by the public sector companies and other companies;

(b) the total requirement of power in Madhya Pradesh and measures taken to meet the same;

(c) the number of MoUs signed by Government of Madhya Pradesh to increase the production of power and their present status; and

(d) the increase in the production of

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

power in Madhya Pradesh (divided) during last three years?

**Direct investment in power projects in A.P.**

154. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any direct investment in power projects located in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and the amount of investment during the last three years; and

(c) the share of State Government in these power projects?

**Mega power policy**

155. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Power has sent a proposal to the Ministry of Finance for its consideration to expand mega power policy and provide fiscal sops to some of the projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed policy covers all the thermal power projects of 1000 MW and above; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Additional allocation of power from Central pool to A.P.**

156. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Central Government for supply of more electricity from Central pool;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the

quantum of electricity demanded in megawatts by the State Government; and

(c) the action Government have taken or propose to take on the request of State Government of Andhra Pradesh?

**Roads for tribal villages in Orissa under PMGSY**

157. SHRI B.J. PANDA:  
SHRI RAMACHANDRA  
KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there are no roads even after 53 years of Independence for certain tribal villages in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether there is no road, no electricity, no phone, no transport facility and the like for tribals of Ekul, Kandara, Sekul, Kourt and other nearby villages of the State, as reported in the New Delhi Express, Bhubaneswar dated 3rd January, 2003; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to construct such roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), as demanded by the villagers; and if so, the details thereof?

**Guidelines to States for development and distribution of wastelands**

158. SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued general guidelines to States and UTs for development of wastelands and its distribution to rural landless poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise with particular reference to Gujarat and Chhattisgarh (district-wise); and

(c) the quantum of funds allocated and the progress made in the distribution of surplus/wastelands to poor during the last three years and in the current year, State-wise?

**Provision of drinking water under Swajal Dhara in Orissa**

159. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa has geared up to provide drinking water for all under the Centrally sponsored scheme "Swajal Dhara", as reported in the New Indian Express dated the 30th November, 2002;

(b) if so, the share of Centre and that of the State for the project and the present status of the project; and

(c) districts adopted by the Centre earlier for provision of water, allocation earmarked and progress made in this direction?

**Financial assistance to Orissa under Land Reforms Assistance**

160. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the last three years, Central Government has not given financial assistance to the State Government of Orissa under Land Reforms Assistance; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and further plans to provide such assistance?

**Conference of State Ministers of Rural Development Panchayati Raj and Public Works**

161. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day Conference of the State Ministers of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Public Works was held recently in New Delhi to take stock of the various development programmes being implemented by this Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions took place and conclusions arrived at;

(c) whether some State Ministers had complained of indifferent attitude of the Nationalised banks in sanctioning of the loans to the applicants particularly under the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SJGSY); and

(d) if so, the details and what remedial action has been taken by Government?

**Involvement of Panchayats in water management**

162. DR. ABRAR AHMED:  
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently started Water Management plans for villages involving Panchayats; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Deplorable condition of landless rural people**

163. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of

the deplorable condition of landless rural people;

(b) if so, whether more land reforms work would be taken up for redistribution of land among the landless and dalits; and

(c) the other steps taken to improve the rural economy?

#### **Review of anti-poverty programmes**

† 164. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made in respect of the implementation of the various poverty alleviation programmes introduced in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have worked out any new poverty alleviation programmes in various States during the Tenth Five Year Plan; if so, the details of the allotments made therefor for the ongoing financial year?

#### **Cultivation of barren-land**

† 165. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of vast areas of barren-land in the country which could be made cultivable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take any time-bound steps to make such area of land cultivable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Land to BPL families for housing**

166. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to identify rural landless families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) for the allotment of land on priority basis for housing;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the rural landless families identified; and

(c) the total amount of fund earmarked alongwith the proposed allotment to the States?

#### **Sanctioning of funds for Andhra Pradesh by British Prime Minister**

167. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Prime Minister sanctioned Rs. 2000 crores more funds for developmental programmes in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether these funds were related to health, education and improving the energy efficiency;

(c) whether these projects would be funded through the United Kingdom's Department for International Fund;

(d) if so, whether this was in addition to already agreed projects involving Rs. 420 crores to support the State structural adjustment programmes during 2001;

(e) if so, what is the total amount received; and

(f) how much has been utilised by the State Government so far?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Implementation of EAS in Assam**

168. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) is under implementation in Assam;

(b) if so, the mandays created in the State during the last two years, year-wise and district-wise alongwith the number of persons benefited;

(c) whether any complaint has been received regarding shortcomings in the Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and remedial action taken thereon?

### **Implementation of IAY in Uttar Pradesh**

† 169. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent district-wise/year-wise under Indira Awaas Yojana in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) district-wise number of poor people of the State who were benefited out of the above Yojana during the said period; and

(c) steps taken so far by Government for providing basic amenities in houses being constructed under Indira Awaas Yojana?

### **Construction of safe bridge over river Mathred**

† 170. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 204 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th November, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the bridge that was constructed by State Government in March 2002 with the cost of Rs. 69681 and which links Nandla and other villages on Mathred river is completely unsafe;

(b) whether Government would instruct State Government to construct pucca bridge under "Employment Assurance Scheme" so that 6-7 villages could be benefited by this bridge; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

### **Proposals of H.P. Government for construction of road under PMGSY**

171. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 40 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th November, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Himachal Pradesh Government have sent any proposal to Central Government for the financial year 2002-2003 regarding construction of road under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana; and

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned and approved for Himachal Pradesh by the Central Government under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana during the financial year 2002-2003 together with the names of the roads and the amount sanctioned for each road?

### **Assistance to Gujarat for rural development schemes**

172. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sought additional Central assistance and external assistance for various rural development projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the Union Government have been urged to approve the external aid for development of non-forest wastelands in the State; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Central Government?

#### **Catalytic Development Programme**

173. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Catalytic Development Programme;

(b) the budget allocated to the above programme since its inception, year-wise;

(c) the silk production in the country during the last five years, year-wise and producing-State-wise; and

(d) the total allocation for Catalytic Development Programme in the Tenth Plan?

#### **Loan for modernisation of textiles units**

† 174. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that applications seeking loan for modernisation of textile production units were forwarded to the Government during last three years;

(b) if so, the number of such applications received during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 so far;

(c) the number of applications approved or disapproved, year-wise; and

(d) the amount of loan sanctioned on the basis of approved applications and actual amount received by the applicants?

#### **N.K. Singh Committee on textile sector**

175. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the N.K. Singh Committee on textile sector has suggested creation of an Asset Reconstruction Fund with a corpus of Rs. 3,000 crore;

(b) if so, what are the other recommendations made;

(c) whether this will enable the textile industry to deal with the massive non-performing portfolio built up over the last 10-15 years;

(d) to what extent the Committee's recommendation will help to remove the sick textile units in the country; and

(e) by when impact of implementation of the recommendations will be known or felt?

#### **Credit facilities to handloom sector**

176. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to ensure the availability of credit facilities to handloom sector of the country to desirable level through the commercial banks and other financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has decided to enhance the Tenth Plan Outlay for various schemes in the handloom sector;

(d) if so, the details alongwith the funds earmarked to each State; and

(e) the export performance of the handloom sector during the last three years and the new measures Government have taken in order to boost handloom export?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Supply of hank yarn to handloom sector**

177. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has cut mandatory hank yarn obligation for spinning mills from 50 per cent to 40 per cent in the third week of January, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry is planning to introduce any alternative mechanism for supplying hank yarn to handloom sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme for handloom weavers in A.P.**

178. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme for handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the funds released under the scheme to the State during the last three years, year-wise and worksheds constructed therefrom in the said period; and

(c) the number of handloom weavers benefited under the scheme in the State during the last five years, year-wise and district-wise?

**Lower import tariffs on textiles products**

179. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India cotton textiles industry, especially the spinning segments, is seeking improved market access before it concedes to pressures for lower import tariffs on textiles products;

(b) if so, whether industry representatives were involved in the high level meetings of the groups formed to suggest steps relating to market access negotiations with respect to textile items;

(c) whether the Union Government has accepted the suggestions of the industry representatives which seeks greater market access; and

(d) if so, the steps and assistance being provided to the textile industry?

**Export of textiles to U.S.**

180. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a jump of 9 per cent in the textiles exports to U.S. in April-July, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is higher than the previous year during the same period;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) the steps Government proposes to take to improve the textile exports to U.S. during 2003?

**Abolishing Export Promotion Scheme EPCG**

† 181. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile exporters are requesting the Government to continue the various export promotion schemes;

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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| <p>(b) if so, what is Government's view and policy in this regard;</p> <p>(c) whether it is also a fact that Ministry of Textiles has requested the Ministry of</p> | <p>Finance to abolish Export Promotion Scheme EPCG; and</p> <p>(d) if so, the reasons therefor and its effect on export?</p> |
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NEW DELHI;  
The 13th February, 2003  
*Magha 24, 1924 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

**INDEX**  
**(Ministry-wise)**

<b>Coal</b>	: 102, 103, 104, 105,
<b>Defence</b>	: 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113,
<b>Home Affairs</b>	: 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148,
<b>Mines`</b>	: 149,
<b>Non-Conventional Energy Sources</b>	: 150,
<b>Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</b>	: —
<b>Power</b>	: 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156,
<b>Rural Development</b>	: 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172,
<b>Textiles</b>	: 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181.