

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the May 19, 2006/Vaisakha 29, 1928 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Agriculture; Agro and Rural Industries; Chemicals and Fertilizers;
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Environment and Forests;
Health and Family Welfare; Railways; Small Scale Industries; Steel)**

Total number of questions — 155

Farmers trained by CTRI

3641. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA
RAO: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers trained by
Central Tobacco Research Institute during
the last year;

(b) whether CTRI has given any
importance to training of farmers of Andhra
Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that the CTRI
has not given sufficient importance to
extending the full benefits or research in
tobacco to middle level tobacco farmers in
Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the steps proposed by Government
to assist farmers through the CTRI in
2006-07; and

(e) the reasons for low emphasis on this
matter?

Claim of bonus by workers of Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore

3642. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN
AHAMED: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Tribunal at

Chennai had passed an award on the dispute
relating to claim of bonus by the workers
of the Sugarcane Breeding Institute at
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same
award has covered the demand for
regularization in service of the workforce
of the same institute; and

(c) if so, the action initiated by
Government to implement the said award?

Increasing fertilizer consumption

3643. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per hectare
consumption of chemical fertilizers in the
country is less than 90 kg.;

(b) the reasons for such low rate of
fertilizer consumption;

(c) the steps taken to increase fertilizer
application to increase productivity; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to
promote new farming practices to increase
yield?

Senior official on deep-sea tuna boats

3644. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared proposals to post one senior official on every deep-sea tuna boat operating in our waters in the EEZ;

(b) the purpose of this new rule being considered by Government;

(c) whether Government want to give training and experience to senior officials involved in policy formulation;

(d) the details of such hands-on-training being proposed;

(e) the minimum rank of officials who will go on board for such mandatory training on tuna boats to experience for themselves with the realities of fishing and how to make policy practical; and

(f) the schedule for such activity in the next two months?

Use of pesticides and insecticides in farming

3645. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pesticides and other insecticides are freely used in vegetable farming;

(b) whether human beings and animals consuming such vegetables face grave health hazards;

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

(d) the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to eliminate use of pesticides in vegetable farming?

Assistance for cultivation of Jatropha in Chhattisgarh

3646. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has approved on over Rs. 1200 crores demonstration project for the cultivation of Jatropha;

(b) how much amount has been proposed to be allocated to Chhattisgarh and how much area in this State has been in use for Jatropha plantation; and

(c) what special incentives have been provided to Chhattisgarh by the National Mission on Bio-diesel?

Authority for development of rainfed areas

3647. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up a national authority for sustainable development of rainfed areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had received any recommendations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Assistance to States for establishing agriculture research centres

3648. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to give financial assistance to establish State-level

agriculture research centres to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the name of the scheme and its essential features;

(c) the names of the States who have sought financial and other assistance in this regard; and

(d) the States to whom assistance, if any has been granted?

Bio-diesel production

3649. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether plants/crops have been identified in the country for bio-diesel production;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of targets achieved, upto-date; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to popularize their plantation?

Organic farming

3650. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the kind of encouragement given to the research and spread of knowledge with regard to organic farming;

(b) whether incentives are given to those farmers who have taken up organic farming as a mission; and

(c) the role of agriculture universities in encouraging organic farming?

Popularising local seeds among farmers of Vidarbha

3651. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cotton

farmers of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra are committing suicides because of unsuitable cotton seeds which are imported;

(b) whether there is any attempt made to give preference to the local seeds; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Throwing of onions and tomatoes by farmers

3652. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are no takers for tomatoes and onions, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it has been brought to his notice that at many places in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka at Mysore, Kolar, Bangalore, etc., the farmers are throwing away tomatoes on the roads;

(c) if so, whether Government would take this matter seriously to provide support price and marketing facilities to these hapless farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Suicides by cotton farmers

3653. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cotton growers who have committed suicide in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra during the last three years State-wise;

(b) whether there is gradual increase in the number during these years;

(c) if so, causes for such a situation; and

(d) the details of measures contemplated

by the Union Government to save the lives of cotton growers in the country?

Self sufficiency in the production of bio-fertilizers

†3654. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of production of bio-fertilizers in the country during the last three years, company-wise;

(b) whether India has become self sufficient in the case of bio-fertilizers; and

(c) if not, the measures being taken to enhance production thereof?

Shifting of Small and marginal farmers from agriculture

3655. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers are shifting to other professions due to indebtedness;

(b) if so, whether any survey/study has been conducted to ascertain the reasons and the enormity of such shifting from agriculture; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage farmers to carry on with their farming activity?

Drought in Vidarbha

†3656. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any plan to the

Central Government to tackle the situation of acute drought in Vidarbha region;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to solve the problem of drought there; and

(c) the long term policy being formulated by Government to deal with such situation of frequent droughts?

Package for Second Green Revolution

3657. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the 7 point package for Second Green Revolution that was announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister recently at Hyderabad;

(b) whether any reference has been made to promote integrated rural development to bridge the rural-urban divide;

(c) whether the package included five components suggested by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan of National Commission on Farmers for Agricultural Renewal; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government for improving rural infrastructure and regulation of farm markets?

Epidemiological study on bird flu

3658. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any epidemiological study

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and surveillance has been undertaken by Government to find out whether the outbreak of bird flu was triggered by the migratory birds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is possibility of the virus striking during the winter season again; and

(d) if so, what preventive measures Government propose to take in this respect?

Assistance to Madhya Pradesh for fishery, animal husbandry and poultry farming

†3659. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economic condition of farmers having small land holdings is pitiable;

(b) whether Government are providing economic aid/grant to the farmers for fishery, animal husbandry and poultry farming, etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, particularly in the context of Madhya Pradesh?

Production of cotton, oilseeds and pulses

3660. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of cotton, oilseeds and pulses in Andhra Pradesh has come down drastically from 2000-01;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a drastic reduction;

(c) whether Government have made any analysis in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Containment of stray dog menace

3661. DR. M.S. GILL:
SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to ban on killing of stray dogs provided in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the population of stray dogs in Punjab has gone up menacingly causing threat to public health;

(b) the steps Government have taken under Animal Birth Control Rules for castration of male dogs and spaying of the females; and

(c) whether the matter has been brought to the notice of Government by the State Government and have asked for funds for carrying out the ABC Programme as required and if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

Cold storage in Andhra Pradesh

3662. SHRI C. RAMACHANDR-
AIAH: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from State Governments to set up more cold storages in the States especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Yield of sugarcane

‡3663. SHRI KANJIBHAI MAGAN-BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the provision made in 2006-07 for increasing the yield of sugarcane; and

(b) the details of grant to be provided to the States for this purpose?

Fishery at Hirakund

‡3664. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 140 species of fish have become extinct in the Hirakund dam during the last ten years;

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Hirakund based Indian Fisheries Research Center, being run by the Central Government, has been closed down; and

(d) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated to rehabilitate 4000 families who are earning their livelihood with fisheries and if so, the details thereof?

Cancellation of deep sea fishing permits

3665. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA
RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have cancelled a number of deep sea fishing permits recently;

(b) if so, the reasons for such cancellation of permits;

(c) the details of numbers and names of companies which have returned such letters of permit;

(d) whether it is a fact that some entrepreneurs have expressed serious apprehensions with such frequent revisions in various policies relating to fishing sector; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to review the diverse revisions and changes being thrust upon the entrepreneurs frequently?

Production of oilseeds and pulses in Madhya Pradesh

‡3666. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with a view to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses with Japanese assistance in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh, a proposal of Rs. 108.15 crores has been sent by the Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) by when the sanction is likely to be accorded to the proposal?

Increase in prices of pulses

3667. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1182 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 2006 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that inspite of the imports of pulses made during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, the prices of pulses continued to rise in the open market

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

during the months of January to April, 2006;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in the prices of various kinds of pulses during the period; and

(c) the steps Government propose to ensure adequate availability of pulses at reasonable prices to the consumers before the arrival of kharif 2006 crop of pulses in the market?

Economic viability of Agriculture

3668. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of NSSO survey, stating that Agriculture, since the beginning of the Ninth Five Year Plan has been rendered economically unviable;

(b) if so, the extent to which the per acre yield, crop-wise, has dwindled and land holdings squeezed since the beginning of the Ninth Plan period, as per the survey;

(c) whether Government propose to evolve a New Agriculture Policy; and

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

Proposal of Buffalo-breeding programme submitted by Punjab

3669. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has submitted a Rs. 4.00 crores project proposal for buffalo-breeding and improving the buffalo breed in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Central Government's aid sought therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction and response thereto?

Transferring of funds by NDDB

†3670. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) had transferred Rupees Nine hundred twenty five crores and nineteen lakhs from Oilseed Fund to General Reserve Fund in the year 2003;

(b) if so, whether prior permission of Government was obtained for the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the details thereof?

MSP for millet

†3671. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase support price of millet; and

(b) whether Government have issued any directions to the Food Corporation of India for purchasing millet directly from farmers on support price; if so, the details thereof?

Insecticide contents in fishes

3672. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

scientists have found that popular fish like Rohu, Mangur, Singhi, etc. are showing high quantities of toxic insecticides like aldrin, endosulphan, DDT and DDE;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these insecticides form another dangerous chemical heterochloro hexane;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to save consumers of these fishes from the adverse effects of these insecticides?

Review of the performance of agriculture sector

3673. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce reforms in agriculture sector to improve investments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have reviewed, of late, the overall performance of this sector; and

(d) if so, the major findings of such a review?

New schemes under ARI

3674. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering/implementing any new schemes for Agro and Rural Industries in the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Encouragement of high-income industries in rural India

3675. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any strategic steps to encourage high-income rural industries of wine, textiles, tourism and handicrafts in rural areas across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Repayment of loans under PMRY

†3676. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) in view of the prevailing unsatisfactory situation regarding repayment of loans;

(b) whether any information or guidelines have been received from Reserve Bank of India in this regard; and

(c) the number of applicants proposed to be given loans under the said scheme during the year 2006-07?

Setting up of Rural Industries Federation and rural markets

†3677. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up Rural Industries Federation for extending help in the development of the rural industries in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are getting products of high quality produced with the help of small scale rural industries and self help groups of women in the villages and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are planning to develop rural markets in the other metropolitan cities of the country on the lines of Dilli Haat and if so, the details thereof?

Revival of sick ARI Units

3678. SHRI C. RAMACHANDR-AIAH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large numbers of Agro and Rural Industries set up in Ninth Plan have fallen sick;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly Andhra Pradesh and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any efforts are being made for the revival of these units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ARI in Tamil Nadu

3679. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken on the proposals sent by the Tamil Nadu Government seeking inclusion of a few coir, khadi and village industries clusters in the recently launched scheme for funding for regeneration and upgradation of traditional industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Variation in production cost due to use of different fuels

†3680. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there are differences in cost of production of chemical fertilizers due to use of different fuels in the chemical fertilizer producing units established in the country;

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

(c) the percentage of difference in the cost of production, consequent upon the use of different fuels; and

(d) the assessment made of the prices of fuels in the total cost of production?

Setting up of Mega Chemical Industrial Estates in the country

3681. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether Government propose to set up mega chemical industrial estates in Haldia, West Bengal and Vizag, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a similar zone is also proposed to be set up in the backward Orissa region to improve its economy; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

High prices of medicines produced in tax holiday States

3682. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that retailers all over prefer to sell medicines produced in tax holiday States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that maximum retail prices of drugs produced in non-exempt States are lower than those produced in tax holiday States; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to save the patient's interests?

Availability of gas as fuels in chemical fertilizer plants

†3683. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the availability of gas as fuel is decreasing in the units producing chemical fertilizers in the country;

(b) the status of the availability of gas separately during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and the first quarter of 2006-07; and

(c) the reasons for shortage in availability of gas?

Use of naphtha as a fuel in chemical fertilizer plants

†3684. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that gas and Naphtha are used as fuel oil and other fuel in the chemical fertilizer producing units in the country;

(b) if so, the names of fuels being used primarily in these units in the country; and

(c) the percentage of each fuel being used in the units established in the country?

Mega industrial parks at Visakhapatnam

3685. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider setting up of Mega Industrial Parks for petrochemical and Allied Industries with Public and Private Partnership model with State involvement at Visakhapatnam as the Government of India has identified Andhra Pradesh as one of the potential State for such projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Drug Prices Liability Review Committee

3686. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Drug Prices Liability Review Committee to settle the cases of Drug Price Equalization Account (DPEA) recovery; and

(b) if so, how many cases have been settled, so far, and the number of pending cases?

Procurement of foodgrains and storage

3687. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to involve private sector in procurement of foodgrains and its storage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether FCI is not equipped to take up the responsibility of its own; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Special securities to FCI

3688. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to provide special securities totalling about Rs. 16,000 crores to the Food Corporation of India for the grain supplied by it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that above securities would take care of its accumulated outstandings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Testing of imported wheat

†3689. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the wheat imported recently from Australian Wheat Board had been tested immediately after the import in India by the Regional Plant Protection and Quarantine Station and the Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore;

(b) if so, the reasons for conducting this test and the number of days within which the report of this test was provided; and

(c) the percentage of weeds and pesticides found in the wheat separately in the test?

Compensation to farmers of Punjab

3690. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state how the Government propose to compensate the farmers of Punjab who have sold wheat to Government or private agencies before Government's delayed announcement to pay bonus on wheat over and above the minimum support price of Rs. 650/- per quintal?

Onions as essential commodities

3691. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pradesh has requested the Union Government to re-consider the matter to declare onions as an essential commodity under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and also to concur to promulgate a control order to check the prices and availability of stocks on onions;

(b) whether Government have taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would consider the feasibility to import onions from China and allot it to Andhra Pradesh at Visakhapatnam Port delivery for release to the consumers at the subsidized rate of Rs. 7/- per kg; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Quota for rice/wheat to BPL/IRDP families

3692. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota for rice/wheat to BPL/IRDP families has been reduced; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Deferment of taxes on sugar Industry

3693. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to waive or defer for the time being, the taxes imposed by the Central and State Governments on the sugar industry which was reeling under heavy financial burden so that sugar could be provided to consumers at an affordable price;

(b) if so, the details worked out, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

CWC Godowns in A.P.

3694. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a demand that the Food Corporation of India partially use the Central Warehousing Corporation godowns in some places in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have any plans to help Hamalis and others dependant on work available at Central Warehousing Corporation godowns;

(c) to what extent FCI can use these low-cost godown space of the CWC and save money; and

(d) the steps proposed to examine this matter and use them in the State particularly in Tadepalligudem area?

BPL families not covered under TPDS in Uttaranchal

3695. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families living under BPL in Uttaranchal which are not covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) whether a large number of bogus BPL ration cards are in existence;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this behalf; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Procurement of wheat

3696. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is low procurement of wheat in Punjab and Haryana compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

CWC godowns in Uttaranchal

3697. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to properly use Central Warehousing Corporation's godowns in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether steps have been taken to view the contracts drawn up with private parties for use of their godowns;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Wheat stock and import

3698. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat production has shown little growth during the last six years;

(b) if so, the details of wheat produced and procured for public stocks during that period, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether wheat procured as on today is sufficient for Public Distribution System

and other welfare programmes for next 12 months;

(d) if not, the details of steps taken to increase wheat production and to procure it more for public stocks as on today; and

(e) the details of wheat proposed to be imported and the step taken to maintain quality of wheat imported for targeted Public Distribution System as on today?

Wheat import by private sector

†3699. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to give license to private sector also besides public sector for importing wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of Government agencies in the country at present which have the right to import wheat?

Production and import of wheat

3700. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of wheat produced since 2001 and that procured by FCI, year-wise;

(b) the estimated quantity of wheat production in the current harvesting of Kharif season;

(c) the quantity of wheat targeted to be procured from farmers by Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

during the current season and at what price and the quantity procured, so far;

(d) the details of buffer stock of wheat estimated to be available with Government month-wise till the next harvest *vis-a-vis* the volume stipulated under food-security norm;

(e) whether large quantity of wheat is contemplated to be imported from overseas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Sugar production capacity

3701. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding sugar mills in the country both public and private sector separately, State-wise;

(b) the details regarding sugar production capacity in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the sugar production capacity in the country has declined during the current year as compared to the previous years; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to overcome the trend?

Wheat allotment to State Governments

3702. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently announced cut in wheat allotment to various State Governments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this decision?

Import of vegetable oils

3703. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount is spent on import of vegetable oils;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the quantity of vegetable oils imported during each of the last three years and the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to increase domestic production of vegetable oils;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements expected to be made in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Export of wheat and rice through Wagah border

3704. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite opening of trade through Wagah border, Government have stopped allocation of wheat and rice for export purposes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have reviewed the question of revival of wheat and rice exports through this border and otherwise, in view of the prospects of good harvest in the ensuing season, if so, the decision taken in this regard?

Starvation deaths in Eastern U.P.

3705. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the families

of 12 Moosahars who died of hunger in the hinterlands of Eastern Uttar Pradesh over a 15 month span have been told by the administration that they could not be called the victims of starvation;

(b) whether it is a fact that almost every household of Moosahar family has a ration card but few have the money, to make use of it and no one has heard of the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take to give justice to victims of starvation?

High mortality rate of animals

3706. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of animals and birds in the prominent wildlife sanctuaries and parks for the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that animals in the various wildlife sanctuaries and parks are not being taken care of properly by the concerned authorities and therefore, there is high mortality rate among them; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in affirmative, in what manner Government propose to tackle this problem?

Cleaning of Yamuna river

3707. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) since when the campaign is going on for cleaning the Yamuna river in NCR;

(b) the details of the funds allocated by Government for cleaning the Yamuna river during the last three years, till date;

(c) how much funds have been utilized, so far, year-wise; and

(d) the present status of Yamuna river as on date?

Eco-city project

3708. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of Eco-city project;

(b) the places which have been taken up under this project, State-wise; and

(c) how much amount has been spent, so far?

Protection of inmates of zoos/wildlife sanctuaries from heat

3709. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many parts of India is going to face more scorching summer in coming days;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure adequate availability of water and power for protection of inmates of various zoos and wildlife sanctuaries in those areas?

Air pollution in Delhi

3710. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a long term study has shown that Delhi has the most polluted air in the country, resulting in maximum number of people suffering from disorders like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic bronchitis and

chromosomal abnormalities that may ultimately lead to cancer, when compared to other parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details with comparative chart for other metros and major cities of India; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to clean up the air in Delhi?

Persons convicted for poaching

3711. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons convicted for poaching under Wild Life Protection Act in different States since the date of enforcement of the Act;

(b) the number of persons acquitted or discharged for the offences of poaching, State-wise; and

(c) the number of persons convicted, for killing protected species, State-wise?

Study regarding increasing pollution in Yamuna

†3712. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pollution Control Research Institute has conducted or propose to conduct a deep study with regard to increasing pollution in the Yamuna river;

(b) if so, the outcomes thereof and the recommendations made in the said study;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the effective steps being taken by Government to check the increasing pollution in the Yamuna river?

Plantation of mangroves along Orissa coast

3713. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that mangroves have proved very effective to control natural disasters along the coastal line of Orissa and at other places in the country and these plants also enhance fisheries and forest production; and

(b) if so, what is the action plan of Government to encourage plantation of mangroves along the Orissa's coastal areas to provide buffer to communities living in the coastal areas from natural disasters apart from protecting shorelines against damage?

Chloride in Yamuna

†3714. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chloride content in the Yamuna water has been found to be high due to which it is being considered very hazardous to health;

(b) if so, the reasons for increase in chloride contents and the extent to which the same has increased;

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government to ensure that the untreated waste from factories is not released into rivers; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to provide clean and hygienic drinking water to the people?

Yamuna Action Plan

3715. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Yamuna Action Plan implementation is far behind schedule;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of plan, and its implementation, phase-wise;

(c) the original cost of the plan and the cost escalation incurred thereon, so far, phase-wise; and

(d) by what time the plan is likely to be completed?

Decline of farm forestry in Punjab

3716. DR. M. S. GILL:
SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Farm Forestry in the State of Punjab has declined considerably in the recent past due to lack of market and remunerative prices for the wood;

(b) whether Government of Punjab has taken up the issue of setting up of a wood based mega project with the Central Government to create demand and proper marketing for wood to ensure remunerative prices; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

Multi-stakeholder partnership for afforestation of degraded land

3717. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have mooted a multi-stakeholder partnership for afforestation of degraded lands in the country with the help of private people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a document has been prepared and discussed the same with industry associations and States in December, 2005, and January, 2006;

(d) if so, the details of the discussion; and

(e) to what extent, this measure would help in bringing the forest cover to one-third of the country's total land?

Unscientific forestation of Vilayati Babool (*Precipus Juliflora*)

†3718. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental balance has been disturbed due to the unscientific afforestation of Vilayati Babool (*Precipus Juliflora*) in Rajasthan;

(b) whether there has been any adverse impact on the habits of wild animals as a result thereof and their numbers are decreasing continuously; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve this situation?

Lack of funds for expansion of forest

†3719. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that target for expansion of the forests in the country is not being achieved and the main hindrance in it is the crunch of funds;

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the requirement of total additional capital assessed for the target regarding the expansion of forests?

Laying of roads using plastic waste

3720. SHRI MANOHAR GAJANAN JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an experiment has been made to lay road using plastic waste;

(b) whether his Ministry has given green signal for laying of roads using plastic waste;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up with Ministry of Road Transport for using plastic waste for laying roads; and

(d) if so, the reaction thereto?

Development of forest villages in Uttar Pradesh

3721. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the State Governments particularly, Uttar Pradesh for the development of forest villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds provided to the State Governments during the last one year, particularly to Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the number of villages that have been developed/under development, so far, State-wise?

World Bank report on opportunities for people dependant on forests

3722. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank report has pointed out that India is unlocking opportunities for forest-dependant-people with greater community control over forest management, income from forests could rise from estimated \$ 222 million in 2004 to approx. \$ 2 billion per annum in 2020;

(b) whether reports indicate that community based joint forest management programme that covers 27% of the national forest areas across the country, encompassing the 85000 village communities, offers vast potential for poverty reduction and rural economic growth;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered this report; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the suggestions?

Classification of industrial and construction projects

3723. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government under environmental impact assessment codifications, classified various industrial and construction projects into A/B and B categories;

(b) if so, the scientific and technical basis for this classification;

(c) whether provisions have been made for the relaxation of public hearing procedure under the said notification, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the time limit for holding the public hearing has been reduced from 210 days to 60-90 days, if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government have come across any misuse of the said guidelines by State Governments and local authorities when the situation is not conducive to them; and

(f) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to rectify this?

Shrinking of forests

†3724. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) the extent to which the forest area is shrinking each year in the country alongwith the details of area deforested during last five years, State-wise;

(b) the area of land on which plantation has been made to extend forest cover during each year of last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to check the environmental imbalance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Environmental Appellate Authority

3725. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Environmental Appellate Authority is functioning without any Chairman for the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that many cases and other developmental projects are pending before the Appellate Authority; and

(d) whether Government are aware that due to this situation the projects are getting delayed and getting difficult to implement?

Death of tigresses in Corbett National Park

†3726. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four tigresses died mysteriously in the Corbett National Park and forest division of Rampur during last three-four months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on 9th January, 2006 one tigress in Aam Danda Beat of Bijarni Range and between February, 2006 to 7th March, 2006 two tigresses in buffer zone were found dead in suspicious conditions;

(c) whether it is also a fact that both dead tigresses were of younger age and proper investigation through any reliable agency has not been made, so far, for their suspicious death; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Ganga Action Plan

3727. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first phase of the Ganga Action Plan is already 18 years behind schedule, if so, what are the details thereof indicating the original and the revised schedule thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of the items of work, so far, completed under the Plan, and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the cost escalation, so far, incurred by the Plan projects, item-wise?

Sambhar Lake of Rajasthan

3728. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Sambhar Lake of Rajasthan is the biggest salt producing lake of the country, which has been included in World Heritage, listed as 'Ramsar site';

(b) whether Government are also aware that this historical lake which also has famous Devyani-Tirth, is shrinking day by day on account of silting and encroachments;

(c) whether a proposal sent by the Rajasthan Government for saving this lake from further degradation and shallowing, is pending for consideration with the Central Government, for past nine months; and

(d) if so, what action and by when, is proposed to be taken to save this legendary lake from dying slow death?

Increase in investment for forest production

†3729. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the investment is made from Government and

private sector to increase the production from forests in the country;

(b) if so, the average annual investment made during the last three years;

(c) the details of this investment made by the public and private sector; and

(d) the increase in the rate of annual production assessed due to investment?

Supply of unpolluted water to towns

3730. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water of holy river Ganges is not only used for religious purposes, recreational uses such as bathing, boating and fishing but also serves as the source of water supply to many towns and cities; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to supply unpolluted water to towns and cities?

Poaching in Andhra Pradesh

3731. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across any incident of poaching in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure such incidents do not recur; and

(c) whether any separate cell has been set up to catch hold of those who indulge in poaching?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Clearance of schemes

3732. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes pending for clearance with Government, as on date, State-wise;

(b) what is the time-frame by which projects are generally cleared by Government; and

(c) the details of projects for which permission has been refused/withheld, State-wise indicating reasons for each?

Forest cover

†3733. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 22 per cent of total geographical land in the country is in the form of forests;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the average annual production from these forests is upto two billion dollars, which is 2 per cent of the total domestic production;

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

(e) the percentage of people in the country who are earning their livelihood through the production in the above said forests?

Wildlife protection in the Eastern Ghats

3734. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

have distanced itself from wildlife protection in the Eastern Ghats;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are not interested in preserving wildlife in the Eastern Ghats;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for this change of attitude of Government in the last two years towards wildlife in the Eastern Ghats;

(d) the names of wildlife sanctuaries in the Eastern Ghats; and

(e) the steps proposed to send officers to visit such sanctuaries?

Flexible complementary scheme

3735. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3401 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd December, 2005 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are number of scientists in G.B. Pant Institute for Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora, Uttaranchal who are continuously denied the benefit of flexible complementary scheme for scientists for last five years;

(b) whether Government are also aware that due to this the research work in the said institute is being badly affected as the said scientists are highly demoralized; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take serious view of this situation in the institute and take appropriate action in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Backlog vacancies

3736. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backlog vacancies as on 31st March, 2004 in his Ministry and various Departments under his Ministry;

(b) whether special drive was carried out to fill in the above backlog vacancies;

(c) if so, the number of vacancies filled in during the last two years, department-wise; and

(d) what are the backlog vacancies as on 31st March, 2006?

Number of medical colleges in the country

3737. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of medical colleges/universities, in the country, both Government and private offering M.B.B.S. course, indicating total number of seats in each institution;

(b) the number of seats available to each self financing/private institutes under management quota; and

(c) the details of colleges/universities that have been allowed to increase intake of M.B.B.S. students during the last two years?

Computerization of medical records in CGHS

3738. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far planned the computerization of records/

medicine stocks and services provided by CGHS to its beneficiaries in Delhi and other places;

(b) if so, the present status of its progress and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether such a move would improve the efficiency and help a closer monitoring of the activities in the dispensaries and medicine stocks?

Health awareness programmes

3739. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of health care units and the number of staff working in these units at the grass root level as a policy of the Central Government and also as the policy of WHO;

(b) what sorts of awareness campaign programmes were organized during the year 2005-06, in the areas where people belonging to SC and ST live in the highest proportions, by both Central and State Governments;

(c) the number of people participating in all these programmes; and

(d) the results derived from these programmes?

Bringing co-operation among medical education sector

3740. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical colleges in both Government and private sector, State-wise;

(b) what steps Government are taking to bring about great cooperation and understanding between it and the medical education sector; and

(c) the steps proposed in this regard?

Rating scheme for hospitals

3741. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to launch the scheme of hospital ratings in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme along with the parameters on which the hospitals are being rated;

(c) whether the scheme will be made compulsory for all hospitals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

HIV infection

†3742. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 196 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 2006 and state:

(a) whether the parents of Rashmi are HIV positive;

(b) if not, and if she has been given the right blood, how she has been found to be HIV positive; and

(c) whether the HIV virus can enter into the body of the girl through any other route?

Free treatment for the disabled persons

3743. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the infant mortality rate, the life expectancy, the percentage of the physically challenged persons and the percentage of the mentally challenged persons in 1991 census and in 2001 and in the year 2005-06;

(b) whether Government are contemplating all free medical treatment and care upto the age of 6 years and whether necessary funds will be placed under the disposal of the State Governments; and

(c) the steps to be taken to improve the status of the health indicators to the maximum extent?

Punctuality of doctors in CGHS dispensaries

†3744. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doctors and other staff are not punctual in the allopathic dispensaries of the Central Government Health Scheme in the Central Zone of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this would be corrected;

(c) whether "Bhagidari" meetings are regularly held with the representatives of the Residents Welfare Associations in these dispensaries;

(d) whether both the Chairmen and Secretaries of these associations are invited to these meetings; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if not, by when it is proposed to be done?

Shifting of CGHS dispensary No. 53 to Tagore Garden, Delhi

3745. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CGHS dispensary No. 53 serving the people of Rajouri Garden and adjoining areas of Delhi is running in Hari Nagar, Delhi as a temporary basis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this dispensary has to be shifted in newly constructed building of its own at Tagore Garden, Delhi;

(c) the reasons for delay in shifting the said dispensary at Tagore Garden despite the fact that new building has already been constructed; and

(d) by when the said dispensary would be shifted to the new building?

Adulterated milk in Delhi

3746. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a large quantity of adulterated and impure milk, mostly synthetic milk, is daily brought in the National Capital Territory of Delhi by the producers from the adjoining States like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan;

(b) whether maximum quantity of such milk is openly sold in Trans Yamuna area and west zone specially in Khayala Village, Tilak Nagar, Rajouri Garden, etc., and sold in the market at the rate of Rs. 12 Kg.;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the supplier of such milk which is causing several diseases to the consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the number of vendors prosecuted so far during the last six months?

Supply of Substandard laproscopes

3747. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has since completed its investigation about the award of contract of Delhi based company which supplied substandard laproscopes to the various hospitals and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether C.B.I. had also conducted raids at the premises of certain officials/ doctors and if so, the details of the incriminating documents seized as a result thereof; and

(c) whether these officers have since been chargesheeted and if not, the reasons therefor and by when they are likely to be chargesheeted?

Satellite interlinking to combat diseases in Orissa

3748. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to combat communicable diseases through satellites by interlinking cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far will this help to address the medical crisis in rural areas, especially in the backward regions of Orissa?

Deficiency of staff in CGHS ayurvedic dispensary

3749. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2031 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th March, 2006 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of clerk is lying vacant in the ayurvedic dispensary of North Avenue for past many months, because the clerk of the dispensary was transferred without providing any substitute;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of beneficiaries of this dispensary is much more than the number of beneficiaries of any allopathic dispensary and the present staff strength is not adequate enough for the smooth functioning of the ayurvedic dispensary; and

(c) if so, what action Government would propose to take to fill the vacancies so that there is no adverse impact on the working of the said dispensary?

Complaints against CGHS staff

3750. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received against the doctors and paramedical staff (Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic) from the CGHS beneficiaries residing in Delhi from June, 2005 to April, 2006;

(b) the details and nature of complaints received, dispensary-wise and zone-wise, separately; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government against each complaint and if so, the details thereof?

Paediatric super speciality hospitals in Maharashtra

3751. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how much of cost has been borne by the Central Government and Delhi Government for setting up an exclusive Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, Children's Super Speciality Hospital, Geeta Colony, Delhi and the details of such children's hospitals running in the country;

(b) whether Government are considering to set up such hospitals in other parts of the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Identification of virus route of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

3752. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the source and virus route of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) or bird flu of the year 2006 have been identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the preventive measures taken against HPAI and the virus H5N1, as on today;

(d) the existing facilities and steps taken to increase the facilities for identifying and controlling HPAI in various States, State-wise and category-wise as on today; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent the outbreak of Avian Influenza in humans?

Spreading of Chikungunya disease in various States

3753. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a dengue like fever-Chikungunya has again surfaced in some parts of the country namely Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra during the period December, 2005 to February, 2006;

(b) if so, the number of persons reported to have been affected by the disease so far, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Central and the respective State Governments to provide effective treatments to those who have suffered; and

(d) the Central assistance in term of medicines and know-how made available to the State Governments?

Female foeticide under IPC Section 302

†3754. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring female foeticide under Section 302 of Indian Penal Code as it is also equivalent to murder;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Flouride in ground water

3755. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 60 million

Indians rely on ground water alone which is contaminated with fluoride content exceeding WHO norms leading to bone deformities and other health hazards;

(b) whether it is also a fact that South Asian Regions (particularly in India) accounts for 34 per cent of diarrhoeal deaths and 64 per cent of Dengue deaths and around 400-500 millions are already at a risk of soil-transmitted worm infection; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps are Government proposes to take in this regard?

Grants for construction of buildings

†3756. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has demanded financial grants for construction of buildings for health institutions;

(b) if so, the details of amount sanctioned by Government so far ; and

(c) the amount provided under this item of building construction in rural areas during the last two years?

Payment of arrears to junior technicians of PGIMER

3757. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are denying to pay arrears to the junior technicians of Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that arrears

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

under Part B of 5th Pay Commission are due to the junior technicians for the period 1st January, 1996 to 11th December, 2002; and

(c) if so, the reasons for non payment thereto?

Accredited pathological labs in the country

3758. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that only 60 out of estimated 14,000 labs in the private sector across the country are accredited and in Delhi alone only 10 out of 2000 labs are accredited;

(b) whether it is a fact that most pathological labs do not have any qualified pathologists, trained phlebotomists and technicians, etc., to ensure that there is no contamination of collected samples; and

(c) whether in the absence of any regulatory authority, Government propose to undertake survey of pathological labs and allow functioning of only such labs which are issued clearance certificates by proper agency?

NGOs in Punjab and Maharashtra receiving funds from Government

3759. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) under his Ministry are in receipt of Central funds particularly in Maharashtra and Punjab States;

(b) whether these NGOs are regularly

submitting to Government the required utilization certificates with regard to use of such funds; and

(c) if not, what action Government are contemplating to take against such defaulting NGOs during the period 2005-06, till date, and the details thereof, NGO-wise and State-wise?

Adulterated milk from Mother Dairy and DMS

3760. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that milk from sealed poly packs of certain well known companies like Mother Dairy, Delhi Milk Scheme, etc. have been found to be adulterated during the recent raid in the Capital;

(b) if so, what are the names of such companies whose milk have been found to be adulterated; and

(c) what action has been taken against these companies?

Liver transplantation in the country

†3761. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is far behind to other developed countries in case of liver transplantation, despite remarkable progress made in different fields of medicine;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering any special action plan for facilitating liver transplantation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Ensuring the quality of medicines

‡3762. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the provision of regulation of quality of medicines manufactured in the country;

(b) the number of cases of violation of this provision found during the last three years;

(c) the names of the manufacturers of medicines who have been found guilty and the actions taken against them; and

(d) the details of success of the arrangement made to ensure the provision of regulation of medicine quality and its constant monitoring?

India-USA joint venture to curb AIDS

3763. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA
BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

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

(a) whether India and USA signed an agreement during U.S. President's visit to India to jointly work to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS by exploring all possible avenues including expanding drug approval process at the US FDA and strengthening bilateral cooperation to fight disease globally;

(b) if so, whether both countries agreed that participation by the corporate sector would help combating the disease;

(c) if so, whether a joint Indo-US Corporate Fund was set up;

(d) whether latest figures show that 5.21 million adults in India are living with HIV which was 5.13 million in 2004; and

(e) the steps taken to implement the agreement?

Raising the standard of medical education

3764. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India, State Medical Councils and Nursing Council of India are facing problems in regulating the profession as well as raising the standard of medical education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the standard of medical education in the country?

Pamphlets against Pulse Polio Programme

3765. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the
Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Muslim organizations in the country, particularly in Maharashtra State have distributed pamphlets in Urdu against the Pulse-polio vaccination campaign, stating that polio drops contain dangerous germs of AIDS, Cancer, etc.;

(b) what action his Ministry proposes to take action against certain elements that mislead and give wrong information about the health campaign sponsored by Government; and

(c) how many incidents of polio were detected in the country, particularly in Maharashtra State during the last two years?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pending proposals from Chhattisgarh

‡3766. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the Government of Chhattisgarh which are pending with his Ministry for approval alongwith the details thereof;

(b) since when these proposals are pending;

(c) the reasons for delay in approving them; and

(d) by when the pending proposals would be approved?

Foreign aid to various health programmes

3767. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of international aid for health programmes in the country received during the last three years ending 31st March, 2006, year-wise and foreign source-wise;

(b) the nature of the health programmes on which the foreign assistance received and utilized during each year; and

(c) whether the entire assistance were utilized and if not, the reasons therefor?

China model population control

3768. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present population of the country, State-wise;

(b) the time by when the country is expected to surpass China in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to use both the stick and carrot policies to control population explosion;

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

(e) whether Government propose to adopt the methods adopted by China to control population; and

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

Increase of cardiac, diabetes and cancer patients in the country

‡3769. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of patients of heart, diabetes and cancer in the country is increasing day by day;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the sale of medicines of heart, diabetes and cancer diseases has increased 15 per cent, 13 per cent and 11 per cent respectively in the country on an annual basis;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the survey of ORG-IMS it has been revealed that in comparison to the medicines of the above three diseases, the sale percentage of antibiotic medicines and vitamin medicines has decreased; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Committee to examine the adverse effect of aerated drinks

3770. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

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

(a) whether Government have set up an expert committee to examine the adverse effects of aerated drinks with additives on public health;

(b) what are the terms and reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has since submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the finding thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

Increase of pre-natal sex determination cases

†3771. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of pre-natal sex determination test in the country are constantly on the rise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government's efforts for banning such sex determination tests have ended in failure;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are formulating any scheme with the help of State Governments for strict implementation of Pre-Natal (Diagnostic Techniques Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Upgradation of Guwahati Medical College

3772. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to upgrade the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital to the status of AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of financial assistance from the Central Government for upgradation of Medical College and Hospital; and

(d) the extent of assistance being provided by the State Government in this regard alongwith the details thereof?

Insurance scheme for cancer care

3773. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that around 7 lakhs cancer cases are detected every year in the country;

(b) if so, what are the steps Government are taking for the cure of these patients;

(c) whether Government are planning to launch any special insurance scheme for the coverage of this disease like other diseases; and

(d) if so, how much time it will take?

Essential drugs concept for price control

†3774. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) since when the concept of essential

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

drugs for controlling the prices of drugs is in place and names of drugs it covers;

(b) the reasons for not applying the same concept to the substitute drugs, similar to essential ones used in treatment of a particular disease;

(c) whether there is any scientific basis for drug declared as essential; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

AIDS testing centres across the country

3775. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National AIDS Control Organization has decided to open more testing centres across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the annual sentinel surveillance conducted in 706 sites across the country has shown 5.2 million people living with HIV, an increase of 72,000 against the previous year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Financial upgradation under ACP scheme

3776. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ACP scheme is being implemented in all departments/institutions under the administrative control of his ministry;

(b) whether there have been cases of discrimination in respect of the Hindi Officers working in Central Research Institute, Kasauli who have been denied financial upgradation under the ACP scheme;

(c) if so, whether the responsibility will be fixed for the inordinate delay of more than three years in granting this upgradation;

(d) by when ACP will be given to the Hindi Officers of CRI;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Qualification for a ayurvedic practitioner

3777. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the qualifications for a practitioner of Ayurvedic or any Indian Systems of Medicines and Homoeopathy;

(b) whether an AYUSH practitioner can prescribe allopathic medicines or *vice-versa*;

(c) if not, the penalty for such transgression;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the name of ayurvedic medicines, mostly allopathic drugs are dispensed;

(e) if so, the details and cases of such nature detected;

(f) whether Government are considering to lay down guidelines for ISMs medicines, both classical and patent and proprietary medicines; and

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

Freight corridor purpose vehicle

3778. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government purpose to create railway freight corridor purpose vehicle (SPV);

- (b) if so, what would be its structure;
- (c) by when it is likely to start functioning;
- (d) whether it would be under his Ministry or an independent organization;
- (e) what would be the share of his Ministry in this new set up; and
- (f) what would be the area of operation?

Increasing freight earnings of railways

3779. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aiming to increase the freight earnings of railways and cut load on road traffic;
- (b) if so, the details worked out, so far; and
- (c) the steps taken in this direction?

Railway land in Delhi

†3780. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a vast area of railway land is available around old Delhi, New Delhi and Nizamuddin railway stations in the capital city Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken or propose to be taken by Government for proper utilization of this railway land available around the said railway stations; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Proposal for New railway lines

†3781. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals for new railway lines included in the railway budget for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 for carrying out a survey for the same;
- (b) the time-limit fixed for completing the said survey work of these new railway lines;
- (c) the norms fixed for approval of new railway lines after completion of the said survey work; and
- (d) the figures regarding railway network of the country, and position of Rajasthan regarding railway network *vis-a-vis* other States and the details thereof, State-wise?

Discontinuing the I and II class A.C.

†3782. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any intention to discontinue the I class A.C. and II class A.C. in the trains;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether any action plan or time-limit has been fixed in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

Development of rail network in Orissa

3783. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Orissa State is entering into

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

an era of industrial resurgence which needs development of adequate railway network in the State;

(b) whether this backward region has all along been a victim of callous negligence at the Centre in regard to development of the rail infrastructure;

(c) whether a request has been made by the Chief Minister of Orissa and others for adequate allotment of funds during the current budget and also introduction of new trains; and

(d) if so, the status thereof, indicating the action plan of the Centre to develop this sector in the State?

New rail line between Mehsana-Ambaji

†3784. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any action to conduct survey of new railway line between Mehsana-Ambaji *via* Taranga;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rail fares

3785. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has announced that rail fares would not be raised, but indirectly the railways are taxing the passengers by way of increase in cancellation of reservation charges, charging additional fares on recently named super-fast trains, increase in the reservation charges, etc.;

(b) whether a passenger is not issued a

ticket for any en-route station if the train does not stop there, as against the earlier practice of issuing such tickets up-to main halts en-route;

(c) whether the above new measures are resulting in convenience to the genuine passengers, specially the military personnel; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address the above issues?

Electrification and gauge conversion in Punjab and Maharashtra

3786. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current policy of his Ministry regarding electrification of railway tracks/gauge conversion;

(b) how many proposals for electrification of railway tracks/gauge conversion were received from the Governments of Punjab and Maharashtra during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07, till date;

(c) how many proposals of gauge conversion/electrification of rail tracks were taken up during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(d) if so, what budgetary provisions made for on going above mentioned projects State-wise, Year-wise and Project-wise, till date?

Gauge conversion of Bilimora-Vaghai rail line

†3787. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the planning for laying new tracks

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

upto Nasik in Maharashtra by converting narrow gauge line into a broad gauge one from Bilimora to Vaghai in Gujarat; and

(b) the provision made in the budget estimate for constructing this railway line?

Proposal for survey of rail lines in Rajasthan

†3788. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for survey of new rail lines in Rajasthan submitted during last three years;

(b) whether such survey of all the proposed new rail lines has been completed and the details thereof; proposal-wise; and

(c) the outcome of the survey, proposal-wise?

Container train services by private parties

3789. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced scheme for running container train services by private parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of responses to the scheme received, so far, indicating the details of parties applied for operation licence and those who have been granted;

(d) whether Government are seized of the concern of the industry sources that container service would be facing hurdles

due to shortage of train wheels and axles in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps contemplated, if any, to address this concern?

Survey of projects

3790. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken survey in respect of the projects ie. Miaj-Latur (*via* Jat Sangli), Guhagar (Chiplum) Lonand, Pune-Miraj-Kohlapur (Doubling), Konkan Railway Connection to Kolhapur *via* Nandgaon, Jalna-Washim and Shegaon-Jalna;

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(c) if answered to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

Rail Neer Plants

3791. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two Rail Neer Plants located at Nangloi, Delhi and Danapur, Bihar are sufficient to cater to needs of entire railway network;

(b) whether Government are considering any agreements to set up such units in other parts of the country; and

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

Recruitment in North Frontier Railway

3792. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to Unstarred Question 2526, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 2006 and state:

(a) what is the number of employees recruited to various posts by North Frontier Railway on the recommendations of Railway Recruitment Board, Guwahati during the last two years;

(b) what is the State/domicile-wise distribution of these candidates indicating the name of posts, number of employees recruited and their State of domicile and name of the relevant examination;

(c) what was the number of applications received from the candidates State-wise; and

(d) what are the yardsticks fixed by the Recruitment Board for selecting candidates against these posts?

Technology banks for SSIs

3793. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to plan or create technology banks for small and medium enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 13th May, 2006
Vaisakha 23, 1928 (Saka)

Restructuring of ship breaking yard at Alang in Gujarat

†3794. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Asia's largest ship breaking yard at Alang in Gujarat is in the state of desolation and about 40,000 workers engaged in manual ship breaking have deserted Alang and returned to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any initiative to ascertain the reasons for the said circumstances; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any step to restore its earlier status and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Committee on Iron-ore and its export

3795. SHRI MANOHAR GAJANAN JOSHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a committee to look into various aspects of iron-ore and its export; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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