

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

Friday, the July 19, 2002/Asadha 28, 1924 (Saka)

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and Forests;
Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development; Ocean Development;
Railways; Science and Technology; Steel; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions—138

Central team to assess drought in A.P.

303. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central team visited Andhra Pradesh in the month of May, 2002, to assess the impact of drought in the State;

(b) if so, which districts the team visited and discussed the problems with concerned officials;

(c) whether the team has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the action taken on the report?

Drought in Andhra Pradesh

304. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of the districts and blocks affected by drought in Andhra Pradesh, during the current year;

(b) whether the State had sought any additional Central assistance in cash and kind in the wake of drought;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken thereon; and

(e) the current status of drought in the State?

Maize production in A.P.

305. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production of Maize in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) how it compares with other major maize growing States of the country; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to increase production of Maize in the State?

Drought in M.P.

† 306. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has sent a memorandum to the Central Government to tackle the prevailing drought situation in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any amount has been sanctioned so far by Government from the National Calamity Relief Fund to the State; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay?

Decline in productivity of major crops

†307. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the decline in productivity of major cash crops during the last three years, including cotton, sugarcane, wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the State-wise per hectare production rate of the said crops during 1998-99 and 2000-2001;

(c) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government to control such situation; and

(d) if no step has been taken the reasons therefor?

Research Bank by ICAR for grains

†308. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has set up a Research Bank, in collaboration with the International Genetic Organisation, to save the species of grains becoming extinct and to maintain their reharvesting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers have not been involved in such kind of researches;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would adopt any policy for providing such information

to the farmers?

Krishi Shiksha Vistar Yojana in Chhattisgarh

†309. SHRI RAMDHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chhattisgarh Government has forwarded a proposal to the Centre, demanding a sum of Rs. 151.5 crore for Krishi Shiksha Vistar Yojana; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken so far in this regard?

Development of aquatic animals in M.P.

†310. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted administrative approval for implementation of continual sanctioned scheme for development of aquatic animals for the year 2001-2002 to Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, by when Centre's share of Rs. 151.826 lakhs would be released, as per the demand of the State?

Invention of sowing equipment

†311. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invented any tractor without engine, to be driven by bullocks rather than diesel to be made available to farmers at cheaper rates, in order to provide state-of-the-art sowing plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Improving the agricultural sector

† 312. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major stress was given by Government in the budget speech 2002-2003 on improvement of the agro sector;

(b) if so, the effective measures taken by Government in this regard, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Impact of India joining UPOV

313. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Move to join UPOV will affect farmers' rights", appearing in the 'Hindu' dated 7th June, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government's decision to join UPOV has been widely criticised by the eminent researchers in the field of agriculture;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider their decision and not join UPOV, in the interest of the farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Utilization certificates for agricultural schemes

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

(a) whether it is compulsory for the State Governments to submit utilization certificates, proposals and project reports, to take benefits of the Centrally sponsored schemes for agricultural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State Governments which have not submitting reports regularly; and

(d) the steps taken by Government against such State Governments?

Export-cost of agricultural products

315. DR. AKHILESH DAS:

SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new strategy has been evolved to reduce export cost of agricultural products, to provide direct assistance to farmers and make their products more competitive;

(b) if so, the details of the new strategy and how it marks an improvement over the earlier agri-exports strategy; and

(c) the improvement in agri-exports registered during the last three months, as compared to corresponding period last year?

Boosting agricultural export

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

(a) whether it is a fact that frequent charges and inconsistency in agri-export policy is hampering the export of agri products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received recommendations from ASSOCHAM for incorporation in agri-export policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

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

(f) the other steps proposed by Government to boost agri-export?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Decontrol of urea sector

317. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to decontrol the urea sector;

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

(c) whether the Fertilizers Association of India (FAI) has opposed this decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

Profit/losses of public sector chemical fertilizer projects

†318. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that chemical fertilizers producing projects in public sector in the country are making losses;

(b) if not, the number of public sector projects which are still doing the production work;

(c) the number of projects making profits and losses, separately; and

(d) the profits and losses, in terms of rupees, made by these projects during 2000-2001?

Control on urea production industry

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

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

(a) whether Government are considering

a proposal to lift all Government controls on urea fertilizer production industry;

(b) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Madhya Pradesh proposal for gas victims

†320. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has sent to the Central Government for approval a proposal involving Rs. 22 crores, for continuously running various rehabilitation programmes formulated under the present action plan for gas victims; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

Schemes for gas victims

†321. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 75 per cent share of the Central Government and 25 per cent share of Madhya Pradesh Government respectively has been fixed in respect of the schemes being run for the victims of gas tragedy;

(b) whether 75 per cent amount is also due against the Central Government for recurring expenditure; and

(c) if so, whether the amount for the schemes being run for the gas victims, particularly for treatment, rehabilitation, is being provided to the State Government, as per the said agreement?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Vacation of stay orders against drug companies

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

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

(a) whether Government are considering to move Supreme Court to seek quashing *enmasse* a flurry of stay orders, the leading multinational and domestic drug companies obtained over the past few years on notices served on them, for crediting estimated overcharged funds to a Drug Price Equalisation Account;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome of Government's move in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the Supreme Court has given its verdict?

Preference to fertilizer factories in price fixation policy

† 323. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that preference has been given by Government and the members of the Committee, in price fixation policy for urea factories, to owners of factories than to the interests of farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the benefits of money spent by Government, with a view to help farmers, actually reach the big industrial houses instead of the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details of steps being taken in the interests of farmers?

New rules for subsidy on urea

† 324. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to frame new rules for providing subsidy on urea;

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

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

Sale of FACT Ltd.

325. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to disinvest or to make strategic sale of the FACT Ltd.;

(b) what is the subscribed share capital of FACT;

(c) what is the asset value of the company;

(d) what is the price at which Government would sell the company; and

(e) what are the compelling reasons for effecting disinvestment or strategic sale of FACT?

Environmental concerns about exploitation of natural resources

326. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether eminent environmentalists have expressed concern over excessive and unscientific exploitation of natural resources in the country;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have announced some programmes recently on the World Environment Day to protect the depleting greens in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what other steps Government propose to take to protect the natural resources, which are depleting fastly in the country?

Poaching in Chilka Lake

327. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale killing of birds by poachers around Chilka Lake in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of poachers apprehended during the last three years near the lake, year-wise; and

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed by Government to wean away poachers from killing of birds around Chilka Lake?

Yamuna Action Plan

328. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Yamuna Action Plan;

(b) whether there is proper co-ordination among all the authorities concerned; if so, which are these; and

(c) whether there is any co-ordination committee to monitor the progress; if not, who does the monitoring job?

Water fowl in Chilka Lake

329. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the decline in the number of water fowl in Nalabana Island in Chilka Lake in Orissa, the area earmarked as a wild life sanctuary; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the figures of water fowl during the last five years, both inside and outside the wild life sanctuary area in Chilka Lake?

Action plans for cleaning rivers

330. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started action plans for cleaning of rivers of the country, apart from the Ganga and Yamuna;

(b) if so, the rivers in respect of which such cleaning plans have been initiated;

(c) whether any time-frame has been chalked out in this regard; and

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

Impact of pollution on heart disease

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

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

(a) whether a new study has pointed out that air pollution has a significant impact on heart disease;

(b) if so, whether, according to the study, nearly 40,000 people die of air pollution every year in Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Kanpur and Nagpur;

(c) whether the study found a rise in coronary events within 24 to 48 hours after pollution increase in Delhi; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

National parks and sanctuaries in Chhattisgarh

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

(a) the funds earmarked for Chhattisgarh for development of national parks and sanctuaries;

(b) the amount sanctioned and allocated out of the above, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for this delay and by when the State would get these funds?

Pollution by thermal power Stations

† 333. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has addressed a letter to Minister of Power recently, regarding non-installation of pollution control equipments by many thermal power stations in the country;

(b) if so, the names of thermal power stations to which the Central Pollution Control Board had issued notices during the last five years, and had intimated the Ministry of Power; and

(c) the number of thermal power stations in the country, the names of those which have installed pollution control equipments, of those where equipments are out of order and of those which have not installed such equipments, so far?

Polluting industries in U.P.

† 334. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of polluting industrial units is increasing in Ghaziabad, Sahibabad, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Bhadohi and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for not taking action by Government against the polluting units; and

(d) by when Government would take action against such polluting units?

Starvation deaths of Zoo animals

† 335. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Sariska Abhayaranya mein bhookh-pyase mar rahe hain vanya prani", which appeared in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 14th May, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto and the steps being taken by Government to protect the wild animals dying from starvation and thirst in various areas and zoos in the country?

Air pollution in major cities

336. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Air pollution goes to the heart", as reported in the 'Times of India', dated the 17th June, 2002;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether, according to the World Bank Study, nearly forty thousand people die every year in India in some big cities only, due to air pollution;

(c) if so, whether the CPCB has since undertaken any concrete plans to check air pollution in major cities of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Monitoring Committee for forest conservation works

‡337. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a Central Empowerment Committee, to monitor the forest conservation works;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Tiger population

338. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any latest census on the number of tigers in the country has been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tiger population in the country is going down at an alarming rate, as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 15th June, 2002;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to increase their population in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

NFAP in Gujarat

339. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the composition and objectives of the National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP);

(b) the land earmarked for implementation of the programme in Gujarat; and

(c) the details of land earmarked for each main and sub-programmes under the main components?

World Congress on Environment Management

340. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three-day Fourth World Congress on Environment Management was held in mid June, 2002, in order to protect the fragile eco-system of the Himalayas, so as to safeguard the environment;

(b) if so, what were the recommendations of Palampur declaration; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to get them implemented?

Tiger population in Rajasthan

341. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

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

(a) what is the present population of Tigers in Ranthambhore National Park in Rajasthan;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether some cubs have recently been spotted in the Park; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the tiger population in National parks like Sariska and Ranthambhore in Rajasthan has gone down at an alarming rate;

(d) if so, what is the latest figure, in comparison to the past three years; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to increase the population of tigers, especially when tigers in National Parks have been a major tourist attraction for several years?

Noise pollution at IGI airport

342. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a noise pollution monitoring exercise was undertaken at the IGI Airport, New Delhi by the Central Pollution Control Board, which revealed that the decibel level at the airport exceeded the permissible limits by a wide margin; and

(b) whether the noise pollution so generated adversely affects the residents of the camps of para-military forces and other residential colonies, located in the adjoining areas?

IAEP in Andhra Pradesh

343. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project (IAEP) in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the results achieved thereunder in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether IAEP targets for the State have been fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Basic facilities at Delhi Zoo

344. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in "The Asia Age" dated the 6th June, 2002, highlighting the paucity of basic facilities of cold drinking water, cafeterias, guides and transport to move about, in the Delhi Zoo;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve the situation; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

Project Elephant Reserves

345. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Project Elephant Reserves have been set up in Orissa and elsewhere in the country giving the details separately;

(b) the number of Project Elephant Reserves proposed to be set up in 2002-2003, alongwith their locations; and

(c) the amount sanctioned to Orissa for Elephant Project during the last five years and the amount released and unspent?

Allocation for Wildlife Management

346. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the forest cover in different States of the country, State-wise, as per the

latest satellite imagery reports, and the ratio of forest cover thereof;

(b) what has been the quantum of fiscal allocation to the different States during last three financial years for Wildlife management, fire protection, demarcation, fuel and fodder scheme, eco-development, Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commissions, NTFP and Bio-diversity, construction, etc. and the year-wise ratio of financial allocation therefor; and

(c) whether the financial allocation to Madhya Pradesh commensurate with the ratio of forest cover of the State?

Encroachment of forest lands

347. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made so far by the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and other States in clearing the forest land encroachments, in compliance with Supreme Court's directive of February 19, 2002, to clear all forest areas from encroachments, and the number of dwelling units destroyed in the process;

(b) how much of the forest land still remains under occupation of encroachers and what percentage of the forest land does it constitute, in each State; and

(c) the steps taken to rehabilitate the evictees?

Death of fishes in Yamuna in Agra

348. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some time back, thousands of fish were found dead in a short of stretch of the Yamuna river in Agra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made to find out the reasons for this incident;

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

(e) the steps taken to ensure that untreated sewage and industrial effluents are not dumped indiscriminately into the river by the industries?

PM's intervention in imports of genetically modified foods

349. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has sought Prime Minister's intervention to make imports of genetically modified foods transparent;

(b) if so, whether in the absence of an appropriate frame-work, GM foods were entering the country;

(c) whether there have been reports that India was importing huge quantities of Soya oils, extracted from GM seeds;

(d) whether the Ministry of Agriculture had also written to his Ministry to issue necessary notification under the Environment Protection Act, 1986; and

(e) if so, what has been the Prime Minister's response on this issue?

Environment Action Plan for Bangalore

350. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka Government had forwarded an Environment