

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the February 20, 2003/Phalguna 1, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—135

Sending abroad of CBI personnel

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several CBI personnel were sent abroad to extradite the criminals wanted by India during the last three years; and

(b) the number of criminals extradited to India during the above said period?

ARIs in Rajasthan

183. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Agro and Rural Industries in Rajasthan;

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

(c) if so, the new schemes Government propose to introduce in the State; and

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

ARIs in Kashmir Valley

184. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no industry has been set up in Kashmir Valley during the last four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would set up Agro and Rural Industries in the Valley?

Employment generation by KVIC in NER

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

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has decided to generate new employment opportunities in the North Eastern Region during the Tenth Plan period;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Department for Development of North Eastern Region would make any matching grant agree to a higher allocation for the rural employment general scheme of the KVIC; and

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

Setting up of nuclear power plants

186. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to set up a number of Nuclear Power Plants in different parts of the country, including one in Mandla District of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the Plants to be set up, indicating their locations, power generation capacity and the time schedule therefor; and

(c) the progress made on each project and the expected time of their completion?

Links between cell operators and BSNL/MTNL

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

(a) whether public sector telecom players BSNL and MTNL have snapped their links with cell operators; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Difference between basic and mobile telephone tariff

† 188. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the difference in basic as well as mobile telephone tariff being charged in the country and how does it compare with some selected countries?

Mobile facility in N.E. Region

189. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the North Eastern Region where mobile facility has already been provided in the first phase and proposed for the second and third phases;

(b) whether operation of the ban imposed on mobile telephone in most parts of the North Eastern Region has been lifted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when this facility would be made operational in the remaining parts of the North Eastern Region?

Waiting List for telephone connections

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

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the country as on the 30th April, 2002, district-wise/ State-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided during the last three years, till date, district-wise; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided during the year 2002-2003 and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Convergence Bill, 2002

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

(a) whether Government have decided to go slow with regard to the passage of the Convergence Bill, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the contents of the Bill were discussed with all affected interests adequately and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when, the Bill is likely to be placed before Parliament for approval?

Protest by BSNL Officers

† 192. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Officers of BSNL had expressed their protest by observing silence at Rajghat in December, 2002;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Telecom racket

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Telecom racket busted" which

was published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 8th September, 2002;

(b) whether a number of persons have been found indulged in making STD/ISD calls illegally causing loss of crores of rupees; and

(c) if so, the number of persons arrested alongwith the persons against whom action has been taken during the last year and till date?

Communication facilities in NER

194. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that if one wishes to call from Agartala to any part of the country has to do an IDS call instead of STD call;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a pitiable communication facilities existing in the North-Eastern Region; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government to expand its communication network to all the important cities of the North-Eastern States?

Telephones by Telecom Companies

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

(a) the number of connections given by the different Telecom Companies under fixed lines WLL Mobile and cellular Mobile during the last four years, including 2002-03 (up to 31.12.02) year-wise, circle-wise and company-wise;

(b) how many of these connections have been given in rural, semi-urban and urban areas; year-wise and company-wise;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) how much USO levy has been collected company-wise and year-wise; and

(d) how much of these funds, have been deployed to commission new connections in the areas eligible for such funds?

Postal / telephone facility in tribal areas of A.P.

196. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many villages in tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh do not have either post office or village telephone facility;

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

(c) the steps Government have taken to provide postal and telephone facilities in such villages within a time frame?

Crack down on E-crime through cyberpatrol

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

(a) whether Government have plans of cracking down e-crime through Cyberpatrol;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any study before arriving at such a decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Announcement of revised telecom tariff

198. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether the TRAI has announced the revised basic telecom tariff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of basic telephone connections in the country both in rural and urban sectors, State-wise, alongwith the number of connections by both public and private sector providers;

(d) whether the proposed increase in the tariff makes it unaffordable for the lower income sections of the society;

(e) if so, the reasons for this decision; and

(f) whether Government are considering to review their decision?

Chargesheet to district managers of Telecommunication circles

† 199. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Telecom managers of circles in various districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been chargesheeted for having been found guilty during the last six months;

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

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that no stringent action has been taken so far against such corrupt officers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when action would be taken against such corrupt officers and what efforts have been made to stop corruption?

IT Scheme for rural areas

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

(a) whether any scheme has been made for providing benefits of information technology to the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to provide benefits of information technology to these people through Hindi or any other regional language, keeping in view, the fact that more than ninety per cent population of the country cannot read or write English?

Disruption of telephone services

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

(a) whether it is a fact that STD services between Delhi and various places in District Kangra and Mandi in Himachal Pradesh remain disrupted for most of the period during the year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the telephones in the above places remain out of order for most of the period during the year;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have made any efforts to avoid such disruption in future; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Replacement of telephone machines/spares in rural exchanges

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to replace old machines and spares with new ones and provide power back up generators in rural telephone exchanges keeping in view the difficulties being faced by telephone consumers;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to make such arrangement in Telephone exchange-Jangla, located at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, a fully rural and hilly area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Website hacking

203. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) the number of Government websites that were hacked by Pakistani nationals during the past five years;

(b) what action the Cyber Police has taken against those Pakistani nationals who hack into various Government websites as reported in the past; and

(c) the efforts Government are making to prevent hacking of information and vital data from databases of key Indian websites?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Computer/e-mail facilities in Post
Offices of Rajasthan**

204. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-
TIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether basic internet facilities like
computers and e-mail have been made
available in Post Offices of the rural belts of
Rajasthan;

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

(c) if not, what efforts Government are
making to provide these facilities to the rural
belt of Rajasthan?

Dispute over telephone rates

†205. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a dispute over
telephone call rates has come up between
public and private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that
Government are unable to provide cheap
telephone call rates under pressure from
private companies; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

BSNL's cellular mobile service

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

(a) the State-wise details of the scheme
relating to the introduction of cellular mobile
service by BSNL in the country;

(b) the details of the time schedule

prescribed for this alongwith the money
required to be invested;

(c) whether any assistance has been
sought from private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Telecom Regulatory Authority
of India**

207. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will
the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI is truly an
independent body;

(b) if so, how;

(c) whether TRAI is providing genuine
level playing field to the industry players;
and

(d) how does TRAI compare with the
regulators in developed countries?

Rural teledensity

208. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-
TIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rural
teledensity is abysmally low in the villages
as compared to urban teledensity indicating
that most of the villages are still not
connected by telephone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the
private operators have failed to implement
their undertaking to extend their
infrastructure to rural areas in order to
obtain licences; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Expansion and development of
communication sector**

†209. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMA-
TION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been expansion and development in the field of communications in the country as per the fixed targets during the last five years;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of people have got employment through service and industry in the field of communications; and

(d) if so, the number of people who were working in service sector and industry (construction) sector under communications sector till December, 2002 and the number of people employed in private sector, separately?

**Operation of Telecom Department
in Kashmir**

210. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Central Government Departments including Telecom Department stopped operations in Kashmir for some time during the peak years of militancy;

(b) whether Government are aware that all the Central Government Departments started operations in Kashmir since 1996, if not, earlier; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, the reasons as to why the Chief General Manager Telecom operates from Jammu all the year round?

Postal Headquarters at Jabalpur

†211. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in setting up of Postal Headquarters in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Headquarters would be set up at Jabalpur itself; and

(c) if so, by when?

Gramin PCO booth in UP

212. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of educated unemployed youth have applied for Gramin PCO booth at Mau and Azamgarh districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years, year-wise;

(c) the criteria adopted by Government for allotment/installation of PCO booths among these persons;

(d) whether Government are aware that the concerned officials are not allotting the said booths and if so, the reasons for the delay; and;

(e) whether Government would issue any instructions to the authorities for quick disposal of all pending cases?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Shifting of utility service staff to other sections

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

(a) whether DoT in Hyderabad proposes to shift staff from utility service like '197' to other sections;

(b) if so, the reasons for neglecting the public utility service; and

(c) the action taken to update Directory Information and prompt '197' service in view of ever changing numbers?

Financial irregularities in FCI

† 214. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not taking any action against the officers and employees found guilty of financial irregularities to the tune of crores of rupees, in vigilance inquiry, in Food Corporation of India despite the order of High Court;

(b) whether Government intend to settle this matter; and

(c) if not, the steps taken so far by the Government to ensure action against the guilty?

Sale of foodgrains meant for BPL

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of foodgrains meant for BPL families are sold in the open market;

(b) if so, the manner in which Government plan to stop such malpractices;

(c) what punishment Government impose on such traders; and

(d) the number of traders who were punished during the current year, State-wise?

Rejection of consignment from USA

216. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has rejected a large consignment of Soya-Corn blend from the U.S.A.;

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

(c) whether the consignment has been referred to the Genetic Engineering Committee; and

(d) if so, what are the recommendations made by the Committee?

Food stock position

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

(a) whether India's current food stocks position is at the lowest level;

(b) if so, the cause of the declining trend; and

(c) the action proposed to boost exports and replenish food stocks with new procurements?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

BPL families

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

(a) whether Government have ascertained from the drought hit States the number of families living Below Poverty Line there;

(b) the number of Below Poverty Line families there, State-wise; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains given to these States during the last year for the Below Poverty Line families?

Strengthening of PDS

†219. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the effective measures being taken by Government for strengthening of Public Distribution System in the country particularly in the rural, remote, hilly and tribal areas;

(b) whether there is any scheme to give foodgrains to Below Poverty Line population; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Sale of rice and wheat by FCI

†220. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and in first ten months of the year 2002-2003 Food

Corporation of India had sold rice and wheat for domestic use as well as for export at the price lower than the economic costs;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat and rice sold for domestic use as well as for export alongwith the sale price during the above period; and

(c) the economic costs of wheat and rice in the Food Corporation of India during the above period?

Paddy farmers in Orissa

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

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the paddy farmers of Jeypore sub-division of Orissa, have been facing harassment at the hands of officials responsible for procurement of paddy and the farmers have been forced to sell their produce at throwaway prices, as reported in the New Indian Express dated the 30th December, 2002; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to direct the FCI officials to procure paddy at the fixed rates?

Harassment of farmers in Orissa

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers in Orissa have been facing hardship as a result of closure of rice mills and freeze on paddy procurement by millers;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether thousands of quintals of paddy are lying without takers as millers are facing harassment at the hands of the officials;

(c) whether this is perennially faced by the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details of the help rendered by the Centre to help beleaguered farmers?

Implementation of Sarvapriya Scheme

223. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether he has written to the Chief Ministers to help implement the Sarvapriya Scheme launched by the National Consumers' Co-operative Federation of India for distribution of commodities at fair prices;

(b) if so, the main contents of the letter;

(c) whether he also proposes to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of sort out the issues;

(d) if so, by when;

(e) what are the other suggestions that have been discussed and agreed upon; and

(f) what is the latest position in respect of its implementation?

Export of foodgrains

†224. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
"LALAN":

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

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains were exported from the country during

2001-2002 and upto the month of December 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat and rice exported during the above periods;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Food Corporation of India had to suffer losses on these export; and

(d) if so, the amount of losses suffered during the above periods?

Reduction in foodgrains stock

†225. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains stock in the country has been reduced to 50 metric tons which is quite low as compared to that of previous two years;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that a huge quantity of foodgrains has been lifted during the current year; and

(d) if so, quantum of foodgrains lifted from Food Corporation of India for domestic consumption during the first ten months of the year 2002-03 as compared to the same period during the previous year?

Procurement of foodgrains

226. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains stock with the Food Corporation of India;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains distributed through Public Distribution System in each State during the last three years, year-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the quantum of foodgrains and the rate of purchase from the farmers in each State during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that the farmers complain of their agricultural produce being non-remunerative; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and the measures initiated by Government to compensate the farmers, particularly in the areas affected by natural calamities?

Subsidy for sugar industry

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

(a) whether Government are thinking of giving Ocean freight subsidy to boost sugar exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also thinking of extending any excise concessions to the sugar industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Procurement by FCI in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

†228. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of paddy purchased by the Food Corporation of India in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh during the current year; and

(b) whether any agency other than the Food Corporation of India is also purchasing paddy in both the States and if

so, the minimum support price being received by the farmers?

Development of NER

†229. PROF. M. M. AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out any ambitious plan for social-economic development of the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many pockets of the North Eastern Region have been lagging behind as far as development is concerned because of having no direct links with national highways; and

(d) if so, the steps Government are taking in this regard?

Construction of bridges and road in NER

230. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from the Government of Assam has been received for construction of a bridge at Daria of Majuli Island and improvement of NLK road;

(b) if so, the total outlay of receipt and date of sanction;

(c) the status of the survey made by NEC on the construction of bridge over Lohit and Khabolu indicating sanctioned amount, expenditure made year-wise and target set to construct the bridge during the Tenth Plan period; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the amount earmarked for implementation of the project?

Disinvestment of State undertakings

231. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments are not pursuing the disinvestment route properly and hidden subsidies of Rs. 7,000 crores annually are being given to the State undertakings as mentioned by the Minister of Commerce and Industry; and

(b) if so, whether Government are issuing any guidelines for effective disinvestment of the State undertakings and how far Government have succeeded to meet the target of Rs. 12,000 disinvestment of the Central PSUs?

Disinvestment of IRE

232. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IRE of Chavara in Kerala stands recommended for disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Prime Minister's announcement to start a project in public sector for mineral sand exploration in Kerala appears to be a contradiction when there is a proposal to disinvest the IRE;

(d) whether Government are aware that privatisation and foreign participation in IRE in Kerala would adversely affect the security aspects of the country since it has been engaging with the strategic mineral "Thorium"; and

(e) whether Government would review the decision to disinvest the IRE?

Shares of BPCL and HPCL for domestic and international market

†233. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed the percentage of shares of BPCL and HPCL to be issued in domestic and international market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Differences on disinvestment

234. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government continue to be divided on the policy on disinvestment with a strong lobby objecting to the disinvestment of profit making PSUs;

(b) whether sick PSUs' only asset is the real estate on which they are located and these factors should be given the maximum weightage in the evaluation; and

(c) if so, Government's views in this regard?

Slow disinvestment process

235. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have scaled down the number of transactions it hopes to complete during the current fiscal years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even though Government expect to close the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

transaction of 13 companies by March 2003, some major PSUs like Maruti Udyog Ltd. National Fertilizers Ltd and Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. have still a long way to go; and

(c) if so, the actual position on the disinvestment plan for this financial year?

Interest of SCs/STs in disinvested PSUs

236. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether disinvested PSUs no longer feel obliged to fill up posts reserved for SCs and STs; and

(b) if so, in what way Government propose to protect their interest while privatising Public Sector Undertakings?

Disinvestment Policy

237. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized disinvestment policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

Disinvestment of sick PSUs

238. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of enterprises in the public sector which have become sick;

(b) the employment in these enterprises;

(c) whether Government propose to wind up these enterprises or sell them at whatever price market can offer; and

(d) the manner in which the consequent unemployment is proposed to be tackled?

Differences over disinvestment of oil companies

‡239. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that differences have cropped up over disinvestment of the oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is an apprehension of exploitation of consumers due to the monopoly of private companies on oil companies; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by Government to retain control on these companies?

Utilisation of proceeds received from disinvestment of PSUs

240. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are specific guidelines as to how the proceeds received from the sale and disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings should be utilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these guidelines have been adhered to in respect of the sale proceeds received from the Public Sector Undertakings disinvested so far; and

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

Disinvestment of Indian Airlines and Air India

241. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to reverse the scheme of disinvesting the Indian Airlines and Air India which had been a priority item with Government, so far;

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

(c) whether Government are aware that prolonged uncertainty and dithering in the matter is likely to adversely affect developmental programmes of the two airlines; and

(d) if so, whether Government would take a final and firm decision in the matter expeditiously?

Disinvestment of BPCL and HPCL

242. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment has cleared the proposal of disinvesting BPCL and HPCL;

(b) if so, the reasons for disinvesting these profit making companies;

(c) the impact of the decision on other oil companies where BPCL and HPCL are holding equity shares;

(d) whether Government are not allowing the other PSUs, like ONGC to bid for the above oil companies;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there have been suggestions from any quarter that PSUs should be allowed to bid for these oil companies; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Extension of disinvestment process

243. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to extend disinvestment process to more areas;

(b) if so, the PSUs proposed to be disinvested during 2003-04; and

(c) the target set therefor?

Relations with neighbouring countries

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

(a) whether India's relationship is fast declining with her neighbours in the sub-continent;

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

(c) whether Government propose to take effective steps to improve Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangla ties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Sympathy for Al-Qaida in Pakistani nuclear programme

†245. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that famous American magazine 'New Yorker' has termed Pakistan as the most dangerous country of the world;

(b) whether this magazine has given indications of a lot of sympathy for Al-Qaida in Pakistani nuclear programme;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government's reaction on exchange of nuclear programme between Pakistan and Al-Qaida has been conveyed to America; and

(d) the details of the steps assured by America in this regard?

Boats and fishermen captured by Pakistan

246. SHRIBACHANILEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of boats and Indian fishermen captured by Pakistan Marine Security Agency;

(b) the period during which these fishermen were captured; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to get these fishermen released?

Trilateral meeting between India, Iran and Afghanistan

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

(a) whether a trilateral meeting between India, Iran and Afghanistan was held in first week of January, 2003 to discuss alternative transit route to Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at the meeting?

Indo-US talks on Missile Defence Plan

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

(a) whether US Principal Deputy Secretary of Defence held talks with senior officials of his Ministry and informed about US Missile Defence Plans in New Delhi in January, 2003;

(b) if so, whether US has held such talks with other countries also;

(c) if so, the names of the countries; and

(d) India's response in this talk?

Visit of Iranian President

249. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether President of Iran visited India during the last week of January;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed during his visit and the details of the agreements reached between the two countries; and

(c) whether any follow-up action has been initiated on any of these matters?

America's preparation for war against Iraq

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the developments culminating in US's preparations for war against Iraq; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to dissuade the US from taking the extreme step and for dispensing of the war-clouds?

Honour to NRIs

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

(a) whether a number of NRIs and the persons of Indian origin abroad have been

honoured by Government on the 'Bharatiya Pravasi Diwas' on January 9, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the norms and criteria adopted for the purpose; and

(c) the recommendations of the Diaspora Committee headed by Dr. L.M. Singhvi in this regard?

Review of nuclear defence policy

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

(a) whether Government have reviewed its nuclear defence policy and strategy of no-first use of nuclear weapons in the light of Pak-President's New Year Eve (2003) outbursts threatening use of atomic weapons as a counter to conventional war by India, including any violation of the Line of Control in Kashmir by Indian forces; and

(b) if so, Government's decision in the matter?

Evacuation of Indians during US-Iraq war

253. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have instructed its Missions to make necessary emergency arrangements to evacuate Indian nationals from Iraq and its neighbouring countries in case of US-Iraq war; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Global panel of terrorism hit countries

254. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recently proposed setting up of a global panel of countries most affected by terrorism for sharing and devising methods to tackle the menace at a meeting of Interpol officials from various countries based in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Foreign Students Registration System in USA

255. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian students, who wish to go to USA after January 30, 2003, have to go through the new Foreign Students Registration System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System Registration is going to become mandatory for the Indians going to USA for study; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Differences over infiltration from Bangladesh

256. SHRINILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that difference of opinion has arisen between Government and the Government of Bangladesh over the question of illegal infiltration:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up this with the Government of Bangladesh at their diplomatic/ political level; and

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

Extradition treaty with France

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

- (a) whether Government have entered into an extradition treaty with France;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government propose to sign such treaties with other countries also; and
- (d) how the extradition treaties are helping in solving the problem of terrorism in the country?

Extradition treaties

†258. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the countries with which India has extradition-treaty;
- (b) the number of accused handed over to India under the said treaty, so far; and
- (c) the countries with which India propose to sign extradition treaty?

Indo-Bangla relations

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that of late India's relations with Bangladesh are fast deteriorating;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to stem the tide in the worsening Indo-Bangla relations?

Urging Indian Diaspore to help the country

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

- (a) the action taken to urge the Indian Diaspore to help the country in getting key technology from abroad and in marketing Indian defence products and technology abroad; and
- (b) the response/assurance received in this regard?

Permanent venue for SAARC

261. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Sri Lanka has proposed that Kathmandu be made a permanent venue for SAARC summits;
- (b) whether this proposal has Government's acceptance;
- (c) whether merely holding of summit meetings would make all countries comply with the agreements arrived at; and
- (d) whether Government would like to place greater emphasis on bilateral arrangements?

Continuation of terrorism by Pakistan

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

- (a) whether there is no sign of Pakistan moving away from terrorism despite presence of Indian Army on the borders for a year; and
- (b) if so, the new approach proposed for a new foreign policy?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Withdrawal of North Korea from NPT

263. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the developments leading to the decision of North Korea to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); and

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

Evacuation notice to Keralites in UAE

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

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the ultimatum issued by the UAE Government to thousands of expatriate Keralites to leave the country by April 2003;

(b) if so, the number of people likely to be affected thereby and the extent of its economic impact on the State;

(c) the steps being taken by Government for their safe return and to get their wage arrears and other benefits;

(d) whether Government have taken up this matter with the UAE;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Transportation of equipment for nuclear weapons from Pakistan to North Korea

265. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Korea has secretly transported equipments for its nuclear arms programme from Pakistan in 1998 by hiding it in the coffin of the murdered wife of a North Korean diplomat to Islamabad;

(b) if so, whether the equipment included a sample gas centrifuge used to enrich uranium necessary for producing nuclear weapons;

(c) if so, whether Government have examined these reports and to what extent they have been found true;

(d) whether North Korea has become one of the dangerous countries for India; and

(e) if so, the stand India has taken against the North Korean nuclear arms programme?

Non-extradition pact with United States

266. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recently signed a non-extradition pact with the United States;

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

(c) whether the Indo-US treaty would not weaken foundation of the International Criminal Court created under the Rome Statute of 1998 which is a multi-national body to try international crimes?

Harassment of ethnic minorities in the USA

267. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the FBI is harassing ethnic minorities in the USA,

especially Indians who are taking part in the American political process;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any representation or are aware of harassment of the Indians in the USA;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action contemplated by Government in this regard?

Expulsion of Indian High Commission Staff by Pakistan

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

(a) whether Pakistan had expelled four Indian Mission Staff, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Sharing of Indus water

269. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sharing of water of the Indus river between India and Pakistan is regulated by any bilateral legislation or any treaty or agreement between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the legislation or agreement, as the case may be, puts some obligations to be fulfilled by the two countries and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that in recent years, Pakistan is lagging behind in fulfilling its treaty obligations and if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

Harassment of Indian High Commission Officials at Islamabad

270. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

SHRIMATI SAVITA

SHARDA:

SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistani Intelligence Agencies have been harassing the Indian High Commission Officials at Islamabad;

(b) if so, the details of such violations of basic norms of diplomatic behaviours that came to Government's notice during the past few months;

(c) whether Government have forwarded any letter of protest to Pakistan Government in this regard and drawn attention of the international community towards such incidents;

(d) if so, reaction of the Pakistani Government as well as the international community in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure that such violations are not repeated in future?

Haj pilgrims

271. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Haj pilgrims from India who visited Mecca this year (2003) and the comparative figures for 2002 and 2001; and

(b) the facilities provided by Government for their travel to and fro and the expenditure incurred thereon?

**Outcome of Pravasi Bharatiya
Sammelan**

272. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the recent conference organised as part of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas get together held in New Delhi; and

(b) the assurances, if any, received from the Indian Diaspora to help in getting foreign technology in Defence and Internal Security Research and Development?

**Placing India in CIA list of Nuclear
Villains**

273. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government protested against India being put on CIA list of Nuclear Villains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that such reports are generally engineered by the people within the US security agencies; and

(d) if so, whether it has been pointed out that India and Pakistan cannot be put in the same basket?

**US assurance to press Pakistan to end
terrorism**

274. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 7th January, 2003 that Richard Haass, Director, Policy

Planning Staff in Bush Administration promised that the US would press Pakistan for an end to cross border terrorism; and

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

**Cooperation between India and South
Korea in the defence sector**

275. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and South Korea have agreed to intensify contacts in the defence sector;

(b) if so, whether both the countries have also agreed to initiate consultations on combating international terrorism in multilateral fora;

(c) whether any agreement between the two countries has been signed during his recent visit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Pakistani pledge to cooperate US forces

276. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports that the Musharraf Government has told the US military not to enter its territory without permission;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that Pakistan has pledged continuing co-operation with American forces in fighting global terrorism and also in the effort to apprehend fleeing Al-Qaida and Taliban fugitives in Eastern Afghanistan; and

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

Indian policy towards gulf war

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

(a) Government's policy with regard to Iraq keeping in view the threat of war looming large on Iraq;

(b) whether Government are to change their earlier policy which was prevalent during the last gulf war; and

(c) whether America has also discussed with India in this regard while atmosphere is being created by America against Iraq?

Government's role during US-Iraq war

278. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the role Government are willing to play in the recent chain of event following the UN weapons inspection in Iraq;

(b) whether Government are willing to support the Americans or the Iraqis;

(c) if the former, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if the latter, whether it would not jeopardize our cause to fight against terrorism in the UN Security Council?

Apprehension of war against Iraq

279. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are apprehensive that there is going to be a war between USA and its allies and Iraq;

(b) Government's stand on the issue of America's war threats to Iraq and whether

the same has been communicated to USA and UK;

(c) what would be the economic impact of war on India; and

(d) the steps taken to overcome the possible adverse economic impacts?

Functioning of E.S.I. Scheme

280. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Review Committee constituted to study functioning of the ESI scheme has recommended for increasing the ceiling from the existing Rs. 6,500 to Rs. 9,000 for availing ESI scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the criteria adopted by Government so as to enable the employees to avail ESI scheme; and

(d) the number of employees covered under this scheme, State-wise?

Commission for social dimension of globalization

281. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that International Labour Organization (ILO) has decided to set up a Commission to consider the social dimension of globalization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country would also be represented on the Commission and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether recommendations of the proposed Commission would be binding on the member countries of the ILO; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi. (e) if not, the practical utility of the report?

Eradication of child labour

282. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise allocation for eradication of child labour during the current plan to \$1000 million as against \$50 million in the previous plan;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has agreed to provide more allocations;

(c) if so, the allocation made for eradication of child labour during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) whether Government are hopeful for eliminating child labour during this Plan period?

Loss of employment due to closure/sickness of companies

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

(a) the number of sick and closed industrial units, companies during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and

(b) the number of workers and employers who lost their jobs as a result thereof?

Child labour

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

(a) whether SNS Foundation, Gurgaon has reported in a survey that ten thousand child labour exist in the district of Gurgaon, Haryana;

(b) whether Government substantiate these figures;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study to find out the number of child labour in the country; if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) what are the measures Government plan to adopt to rehabilitate the child labour?

Job assurance

285. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was assured to create one million jobs per year;

(b) if so, the number of jobs created per year during the last three years; and

(c) the number of registered unemployed persons as on the 31st March, 1999 and 31st March, 2002?

Re-inventing EPF-India

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has recently launched a project called 'Re-inventing Employees Provident Fund-India' and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of its implementation?

Exploitation of Labour

287. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to check economic exploitation of labour in the country;

- (b) the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the industries against which necessary action is being taken for violation of labour laws during the last one year; and
- (d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect interest of labour in the country?

Labour Management relationship

288. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have finalised a draft law for regulation of Labour Management relationship in industries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any consultation with the Trade Unions and Labour leaders were held before finalising the draft law;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether recommendations of the Second Labour Commission were taken into account in this context and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) by when the law is likely to be put in place?

Unemployed youth

†289. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
"LALAN":

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have conducted any survey about the number of uneducated, educated, trained unemployed youth

including the youth having special qualifications at the end of Ninth Five Year Plan;

- (b) if so, the number of unemployed youth in the country in each of the above category on the basis on this survey; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for not conducting such a survey?

Bonded child labour in Indian Silk Industry

†290. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that children as old as five years are being employed in Indian Silk Industry as bonded labour; and
- (b) if so, what effective steps Government are going to take to stop exploitation of child labourers?

E.P.F. arrears of textile mills workers

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

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether huge arrears of payment of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) dues remain to be paid to former workers of textile-mills closed down years back;
- (b) if so, the State-wise break up of such dues, specifically with respect to closed textile mills of Solapur Division, such as Laxmi Vishnu Textile Mills, indicating the EPF arrears cleared since their closure; and
- (c) the steps being taken to expedite clearance of EPF dues of former textile workers, particularly those of Laxmi Vishnu Textile Mills, Solapur, and the reasons for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

such unusual, inhuman and anti-labour delay?

Funds for development of NER

292. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds sanctioned for the North Eastern Region for development of the region during the Tenth Five Year Plan period in comparison to the Ninth Five Year Plan, head-wise;

(b) the details of the funds allocated and actually utilized during the Ninth Plan for development of the region; and

(c) what are the reasons for not utilizing cent per cent funds granted by Government?

Central Plan outlay for Ninth Plan

293. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Plan outlay for the Ninth Plan has fallen short of the target by Rs. 82,786 crore;

(b) if so, what was the actual realisation during the plan period;

(c) to what extent it fell short of the projected outlay;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) what are the steps being taken to formulate the Tenth Plan in view of the experience gained during the Ninth Plan; and

(f) what steps are being considered during the Tenth Plan to fully meet the targets?

Economic growth rate

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

(a) the likely growth rate of the economy in 2002-03 which happens to be the first year of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) how does it compare with the target growth rate of 8 per cent; and

(c) what effective measures are in place to achieve the target growth rate of 8 per cent?

PM's package for Kerala's agricultural sector

295. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his stay at Kumarakam in Kerala in 2001 had announced a package of Rs. 1000 crore for projects pertaining to the benefit of the State's agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the number of projects initiated for utilisation of this fund;

(c) the amount released so far to each of the projects including the Technology Mission on Coconut; and

(d) the present status of each project?

Private agencies in Government Departments

296. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to authorise various Ministries/Departments to engage private professional agencies to work out the "Impact Assessment" of big budgeted Centrally sponsored schemes in all the States/Union Territories;

(b) if so, whether it would not hinder the process of cutting administrative expenditure and absolve the responsibility of the nodal Ministries/Departments; and

(c) what are the reasons for not strengthening the Department of Programme Implementation and Planning to undertake the job in a more efficient way?

Development plan for Orissa

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are preparing State-specific development plans to ensure improvement in social and economic quality of life as reported in the Indian Express dated the 25th January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the blue print proposed to be prepared for development of Orissa?

Direct funding of Centrally sponsored schemes

298. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to lay down the norms for direct funding of Centrally sponsored schemes by-passing the various States/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Development Council (NDC) has also worked out the modalities for the same to minimise cost and time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Funding of Centrally sponsored schemes

299. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government for direct funding of Centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the details of the modalities thereof;

(c) the details of amount released on Central Schemes separately through the consolidated funds of the States and also the amounts released to the implementing agencies directly by the Centre; year-wise for the last three years;

(d) the spending percentage of each fund, the details separately; and

(e) whether the percentage of spending by the implementing agencies directly funded by Centre was less than the funds released through the States?

Identifying priority sectors for development work

†300. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the priority sectors for completing the development work for the financial year 2003-2004;

(b) if so, the priority-wise serial number of these sectors;

(c) the targets for these sectors for the whole year; and

(d) the norms fixed for the selection of these priority sectors?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Manufacturing of high security number plates

†301. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give contract for manufacture of high security number plates to one company and as a result of which people will have to face great difficulties and exploitation;

(b) if so, whether Government would give this contract to other companies also for convenience of the people;

(c) if so, by when necessary action would be taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Roads in West Bengal

302. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned to West Bengal for development of National Highways in the State during 2002-03;

(b) whether frequent deterioration of National Highways in the flood affected States are kept in mind at the time of allocation; and

(c) the number of culverts on National Highways damaged in the State?

Bridges and culverts in NER

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

(a) whether Government have undertaken any exercise for identifying weak and narrow bridges and culverts on the National Highways in the North East Region in general and Assam in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when reconstruction work of the bridges and culverts identified for the purpose would commence and finish?

Coastal highways in Gujarat

304. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though Gujarat has 25 per cent of the country's coast line with many ports but the coastal highway along this coast has not been upgraded to National Highway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government plan to correct this anomaly and if so, the likely period in which its upgradation is planned?

Roads in Orissa

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

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the report captioned 'Cyclone-ravaged roads bumpy in Orissa' which appeared in The New India Express dated the 16th December, 2002;

(b) what is the position of different stretches ravaged in the devastating cyclone of 1999 and floods of 2001, awaiting repairs; and

(c) whether Centre is over-seeing the repair works and helping the State for expeditious completion of the projects?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Four lanning of National Highways

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

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned 'India finally set to move into the fast lane' which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 23rd December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of National Highways which have been four-lanned and others which are yet to be four-lanned by 2007, with outlay involved;

(c) the details of those passing through Orissa; and

(d) the details of the employment generated till the end of 2002, and that which would be generated on completion by 2007?

Roads in Delhi

307. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGAT RAM
MANHAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that condition of roads in Union Territory of Delhi is pathetic and has become a nightmare of motorists; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to assist the Government of Delhi or concerned civic bodies for laying of roads of international standard during the current year?

Road accidents

308. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the deaths and casualties are alarmingly increasing in the country due to road accidents;

(b) whether 30 per cent of the vehicles are not insured and victims of the accidents are not getting compensation from the owners as they have no means; and

(c) if so, the details of steps Government propose to take to provide compensation / relief to the persons who meet with an accident with an uninsured vehicle?

Road linking of Arawal, Jahanabad and Bihar Sharif

†309. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether road linking the three districts namely Arawal, Jahanabad and Bihar Sharif (Nalanda) is planned to be taken up under National highway;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Road connection between Raipur and Bhubaneswar

310. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to connect Bhubaneswar, the capital of Orissa with Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh by National Highway;

(b) whether the proposal to upgrade the State Road from Berhampur in Orissa upto Raipur in Chhattisgarh *via* Karaput is proposed to be considered in order to implement the above proposal;

(c) if so, the steps taken in the matter; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) what are the other State Roads in Orissa and Chhattisgarh which are proposed to be upgraded to provide better communication between these two States?

SSIs in Assam

311. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the integrated infrastructure development works for small scale industries, in rural areas of Assam; and

(b) the effective steps proposed to be taken by Government for effective implementation of the plan formulated for small scale industries in the State?

Hurdles faced by SSIs

312. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the small and medium industries in the country are facing heavy burden of untenable constraints and hurdles in promoting their business;

(b) whether the interest rates offered is more for small industry than the housing loans; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps Government propose to take to promote the small scale industries in the country?

Postponement of 'Mission to Moon' programme

†313. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to postpone the space programme 'Mission to Moon'; if not, by when the project would be completed and the amount likely to be spent thereon;

(b) whether this project has been taken up to maintain parity with the neighbouring countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Meteorological Satellite

314. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the second week of September, 2002, ISRO successfully launched METSAT;

(b) with the launch of the meteorological satellite how the meteorological services presently being provided by INSAT would improve;

(c) whether the METSAT has been commissioned into service? and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Demand of fee for using transponders

315. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Space is now demanding Rs. 500 crores as fee from Prasar Bharati for using its transponders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the justification thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Progress of ongoing projects

† 316. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were a number of ongoing projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the number of such projects out of the above which were to be completed during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether the ongoing projects of the Ninth Five Year Plan have been included in Tenth Five Year Plan, if so, the number thereof; and

(d) the number of such projects out of the above which were to be completed during the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

NEW DELHI;
The 14th February, 2003
Magha 25, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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