

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Wednesday, the April 20, 2005/Chaitra 30, 1927 (Saka)*

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**(Ministries : Commerce and Industry; Defence; Home Affairs; Non-  
Conventional Energy Sources; Power; Rural Development;  
Textiles)**

**Total number of questions — 155**

#### **Constitution of MPEDA**

2936. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA  
RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE  
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Marine Products  
Export Development Authority (MPEDA)  
last constituted with new members;

(b) the names of public members on  
MPEDA;

(c) when will their tenure be over;

(d) whether it is a fact that some people  
without any background of fishing or  
marine products industry have been  
nominated to the MPEDA; and

(e) the steps proposed to weed out  
detrimental and harmful people who were  
placed on the MPEDA?

#### **Gold policy**

2937. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the  
Minister of COMMERCE AND  
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Government

is considering to announce a user-friendly  
gold policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is true that the proposed  
policy would facilitate mutual funds to  
invest in gold; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Approvals granted for FDI**

2938. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND  
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of approvals granted for  
Foreign Direct Investment during the last  
three years, State-wise;

(b) the sector-wise break up of FDI  
investment;

(c) the sections which are not preferred  
by foreign investors; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to  
attract investment in such sectors  
particularly in the rural areas?

**Steps for protection and development of tea industry**

2939. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government of India for protection and development of tea industry;

(b) whether Government have studied the recommendations of Government of West Bengal and interacted with the stake holders of tea industry; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome?

**Price subsidy scheme for small tea growers**

2940. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government introduced price subsidy scheme for small tea growers for a period of four months; and

(b) if so, how many growers benefited from the scheme and how much money was spent for this purpose?

**Invoking anti-dumping clause against Chinese silk**

2941. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to invoke the anti-dumping clause against the Chinese silk industry to protect the interests of India's domestic silk Industry;

(b) whether Government have taken up

the issue with the WTO and also on a bilateral basis with the Chinese Government;

(c) if so, what is the response of the Chinese Government; and

(d) what steps Government have taken in this regard?

**Return of Indian chillies from European markets**

†2942. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are media reports about presence of carcinogenic colour in red chillies exported to Britain and other countries of European Union;

(b) whether it is also a fact that news regarding presence of banned Sudan-1 dye in Indian spices and chillies are spreaded in entire Europe;

(c) whether it is also a fact that chillies exported to Britain are being returned;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to get those goods tested again in Indian laboratories; and

(e) the steps proposed by Government to avoid such a situation in future?

**Exit of tea business by Tata Tea**

2943. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Tea Company has decided to exit the Tea Plantation Business in South India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it has submitted any plan to transfer seventeen tea gardens to a new private limited company to be formed by a group of its own employees; and

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

**Liberalisation of norms for concessional duty on crude palm oil**

2944. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has liberalised certain norms for concessional duty on crude palm oil as per media reports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Production and Export of spices**

2945. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity and value of each of the spices produced in the country during the last three years;

(b) what is the quantity of spices consumed locally in the country;

(c) what is the total quantity of spices exported alongwith its value during the last three years with individual breakup of these spices; and

(d) what steps are being taken to boost the exports in the coming years?

**Products having export potential from Bihar**

2946. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the products of Bihar which have export potential;

(b) the exports made of products of Bihar during the last two years and the current year so far;

(c) the total earnings made as a result thereof; and

(d) what are the future plans in this regard?

**Stopping import of inferior quality tea**

2947. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to stop import of tea of inferior quality as this is affecting the image of Indian tea industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to protect the image of quality Indian tea; and

(d) whether Government have proposed to release of Rs. 120 crores collected by Government in the form of additional excise duty as demanded by Indian Tea Association?

**Relaxations provided to Uttaranchal**

†2948. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the relaxation provided to the new State of Uttaranchal on 7th January, 2003 and afterwards by the department of industrial policy and promotion;

(b) the reasons for providing these facilities to the said State;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) out of them the factors relevant *vis-a-vis* the State of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand;

(d) whether these facilities would also be provided to the State of Chhattisgarh;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Steps for healthy growth of exports**

2949. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while Indian owned and domestic companies are allowed to export Limenite, Rutile etc. directly, companies with foreign equity upto 74 per cent are required to set up value added project;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that this discrimination is likely to deter foreign investors; and

(c) whether Government propose to review this policy Resolution and create a level playing field for all the competitors for the healthy growth of export?

#### **Focus on agriculture at WTO meet**

2950. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture became the point of focus at meeting of some member States of WTO in Paris in the month of July, 2004;

(b) the role of USA and EU in the meeting;

(c) the role of India; and

(d) the resultant agreement, if any?

#### **Amendments in Foreign Trade Policy**

2951. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amendments to the Foreign Trade Policy were expected to be announced on March 31, 2005 and whether this deadline has been extended further;

(b) whether Government is feeling the crunch on account of commitments made in the Common Minimum Programme, leaving little room to accommodate fresh export incentives; and

(c) whether Government is considering curtailment or closure of the existing incentive schemes to accommodate new incentives?

#### **Transition from the DEPS to Duty Drawback Regime**

2952. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is seriously considering a smooth transition from the Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme (DEPS) to a Duty Drawback Regime free of bureaucratic hassles;

(b) whether Government is working on the recommendations of the Saumitra Chaudhury Committee to expand coverage of duty drawbacks in order to ensure compliance with the WTO regulations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

### **Revival of sick industries**

2953. SHRI N. R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of major, medium and Small Scale Industries which have been closed down due to sickness for the last two years; and

(b) the effective steps being taken to revive these industries in national interest?

### **Product specific economic zone for I.T. industries in Mangalore**

2954. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Special Economic Zone Scheme contained in the Foreign Trade Policy, 2004-09;

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has sought the approval of the Centre for establishing a 'Product Specific Economic Zone for I.T. Industries' at Mangalore; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard with Centre's reaction thereto?

### **Problems of coffee growers**

2955. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coffee growers in the country and more particularly in Southern States are facing a lot of problems due to lower prices of coffee and resultant low investment in this sector;

(b) if so, whether the coffee growers have been demanding relief from the Central Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

### **Russian investment in Indian economic infrastructure**

2956. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has expressed keenness to invest in India's economic infrastructure particularly in energy, steel, bio-technology and other knowledge based industries including IT and Software;

(b) if so, whether India accepted the proposals in this regard;

(c) if so, whether any agreement has been signed with Russia;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the steps being taken to implement them?

### **Tax holiday for export oriented units**

2957. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export oriented units are given tax holiday for foreign exchange earned through exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such tax holiday/exemption is provided to export of services to foreign concern;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether export of services by software industries and computer-based small units are also given this benefit?

### **Establishment of new industries**

2958. SHRI N. R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government formulated any specific policy for establishing new industries in various States during the Tenth Plan under the liberalisation policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the amount allotted/sanctioned by Government in these States for setting up of industries?

### **Industrially backward districts of Bihar**

2959. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Bihar which are industrially backward;

(b) the schemes made for industrial development of those districts;

(c) the amounts spent so far in each case; and

(d) what are the future plans in this regard?

### **Export potential of Indian chillies**

2960. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Spices Board made any sustained study on the potential for export of Indian chillies;

(b) if so, the details of the potential of export of chillies;

(c) which are the varieties of chillies for

which foreign demand has been identified by the Spices Board;

(d) whether the Spices Board organised any export orders for Andhra chillies; and

(e) if so, the details of any promotional activity undertaken by the Spices Board for export of chillies from Andhra Pradesh in the current fiscal year?

### **Export of Soyabean**

2961. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has harvested 7 million tonnes of soyabean crop but export of soyameal has not picked up due to low global prices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that South East Asian countries are buying Indian soyameal at prices above Argentina for their urgent needs owing to quick delivery schedule; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to boost export of soyameal at competitive rates?

### **Effect of WTO on small and big industries**

†2962. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all small and big industries of the country will be economically affected with the inclusion of India in World Trade Organisation (WTO); and

(b) if so, the details of measures Government are taking to make indigenous industries competitive?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Export of flowers**

†2963. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of flowers exported during the last two years alongwith the value thereof;

(b) the countries to whom flowers were exported; and

(c) the further efforts being made by Government to promote such exports?

### **Prospects of export to China**

†2964. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the FICCI has stated in its survey report, "Diversifying India's Export to China" that there is a huge possibility of export to China;

(b) if so, the main points of this report togetherwith the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to boost the exports?

### **Demand for tea in gulf countries**

†2965. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demand of tea has increased in the gulf countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Governments of these countries have offered several concessions/facilities to encourage the Indian tea companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not showing any interest in the scheme relating to auction centre to be established in the said countries specially in Dubai?

### **Social security payment by Indians in America**

2966. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian professionals in America have to pay tax, called social security payment, from the moment they get their first pay cheque;

(b) whether this amount is paid back to them with interest as pension, when they come home after retirement or layoffs;

(c) whether these professionals qualify for pension only if they live and work in America for 10 years while their H-1B visas expire after six years; and

(d) whether Government propose to take up the matter with the US administration to reduce the stipulated condition of stay in US from 10 years to qualify for pension?

### **Dumping of electronic and other waste in India by developed countries**

2967. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that developed countries are using India as dumping ground for their electronic and other garbages; if so, the details of such items dumped in India in last two years;

(b) whether Government has made any study of the impact of such waste product on the environment; if so, details thereof; if not, and the reasons therefor;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what steps have been taken so far to prevent it?

**Call for ending farmers subsidies by developed countries**

2968. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA:  
SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in his address to the G-20 meeting held recently the Minister of Commerce and Industry called for an end to the trade subsidies provided by the developed countries to their farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the other members in G-20 meeting to the proposal; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to carry the proposal to its logical conclusion and put pressure on the developed countries to remove the distortions against the farmers of the developing countries?

**Industries set up in NER**

2969. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of percentage of industries set up in the States of North Eastern Region (NER) as compared to other States of the country;

(b) the total number of industries set up in the North Eastern Region during the last three years under liberalization policy, State-wise; and

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

**Report of committee on restructuring the cadre of officers**

2970. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-powered committee set up to examine the issue of restructuring the cadre of officers in the wake of Kargil operations has submitted its findings to the Government;

(b) whether a number of recommendations aimed at avoiding stagnation in different ranks are under consideration of the Government;

(c) whether the recommendations include deployment of senior army officers in Central Police Organisations like BSF, CRPF and CISF; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Acquisition of F-16 fighter aircraft**

2971. DR. KARAN SINGH:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:  
SHRI LALIT SURI:  
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has agreed to provide F-16 aircrafts to both India and Pakistan;

(b) whether this was also discussed during Foreign Secretary's visit to India;

(c) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been reached;

(d) what are total F-16 that has offered to India and whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?



**Absorbing BGML employees by EML**

2972. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:  
SHRI LALIT SURI:  
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA  
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) would absorb employees of closed Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) in Kolar Gold Fields (Karnataka);

(b) how many employees are being absorbed by the BEML and is there any proposal to appoint children of retired employees of BGML on humanitarian grounds;

(c) how many units of BGML were taken over by the BEML and what was the extent of land acquired; and

(d) what are the industrial activities BEML planned to carry out at the premises of BGML?

**Poor condition of border road connecting Nepal**

2973. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the border roads connecting Nepal are in a bad shape, and the road at Raxaul, the last Indian point on the India-Nepal border is a case in point;

(b) whether Government is aware that all these roads require upgradation and better maintenance for promotion of transportation and better trade with Nepal;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to bring the construction and maintenance of these under the control of National Highway Authority of India; and

(d) if so, action plan thereof?

**New Army Doctrine**

2974. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the aims and objectives of the new Army Doctrine approved by the Army Headquarters;

(b) what basic approach the Army Doctrine provides with regard to various aspects relating to war;

(c) whether similar war Doctrines have been developed by the Air Force and Navy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Funds issued to States for N.C.C. activities**

†2975. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds issued to various States especially to Chhattisgarh for the purposes of N.C.C. activities;

(b) whether Government have launched new schemes/programmes for the qualitative improvement of the efficiency of N.C.C. cadets for improving the defence preparedness of the country keeping in view the changes brought about recently in the weaponry and warfare technique;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of the programmes to be launched by Government especially in respect of I.T. related defence system for the N.C.C. cadets?

#### **US assistance for augmenting Indian naval strength**

2976. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief of the Indian Navy recently paid a visit to the US for seeking aid for augmenting Indian Naval strength and capacity; and

(b) whether he sought support for PC-3 Orion maritime reconnaissance aircraft; if so, the details of US-assistance sought and the outcome thereof?

#### **Anomaly in promotion policy**

2977. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's promotion policy has created discontent among Navy and IAF officers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the two services of Indian Defence are not getting the prompt promotions as is the case with Army officers; and

(d) what steps are taken to remove the anomaly?

#### **Gallantry awards**

†2978. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gallantry awards are given to the soldiers for gallantry;

(b) whether this gallantry award is also given to the dependents of soldiers who took part in first and second world wars and in the wars fought afterwards; and

(c) if so, the amount given per month as the gallantry award?

#### **Reservation for women in elections to Cantonment Boards**

2979. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would conduct elections to Cantonment Boards in India;

(b) if so, when;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would provide women reservations in all Cantonment Boards before conducting the elections to all Cantonment Boards in India;

(e) whether Government would nominate peoples' representative to all Cantonment Boards in India, pending elections;

(f) whether Government would increase the number of ward members under every Cantonment Board, based on the latest census figures;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Financial aid by MoD for gauge conversion in Bihar**

†2980. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of financial assistance to be provided by the Ministry of Defence for gauge conversion of Sakari-Jhanjharpur-

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Nirmali and Jhanjharpur-Lokha railway track in Madhubani district of Bihar;

(b) whether the then Defence Minister had announced this during the foundation stone ceremony in Jhanjharpur before Lok Sabha election;

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

(d) the action taken by the Government in this direction?

**Development of hi-tech weapon system with US co-operation**

2981. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has offered co-operation in joint development of hi-tech weapon system, including missile defence shield;

(b) whether it is true that US offered to India F-18s and other nuclear technology as compensation to its sale of F-16s to Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Replacement of Cheetah and Chetak helicopters**

2982. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Cheetah and Chetak helicopters have become obsolete and are not able to address the surveillance system in high altitude regions;

(b) if so, whether Army has initiated any action to replace the aged Cheetah and Chetak helicopters; and

(c) to what extent Army has succeeded to configure Dhruv helicopter to high altitude requirements?

**Indo-France naval exercises**

2983. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and France have begun naval exercises off Kochi port;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether Government signed any MoU with any other countries to begin naval exercises for the next 3 years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Demining of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus route**

2984. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Army has demined the stretch from weak Bridge to wood Bridge on a bus route of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad, but the left and right banks are still strewn with antipersonnel mines; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that vehicles on this route do not skid in area filled with mines?

**Harassment of women cadets at IAF Training Academy, Andhra Pradesh**

2985. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the incidents of harassment of women cadets at the IAF Training Academy in Dindigul in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details of the incident and related harassment of women cadets;

(c) whether senior officers had turned a blind eye to such happenings; and

(d) to what extent had the commandant of the Academy acted to take punitive measures against the guilty persons alongwith details thereof?

#### **Throwing of passengers from running train by army personnel**

†2986. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the incident wherein some army personnel threw some persons out of the running train;

(b) the number of other similar incidents which have been brought to the notice of the Government;

(c) the action taken against the culprits of such incidents; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to stop the recurrence of such incidents?

#### **Committee for examination of defence acquisition policy**

2987. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Government has constituted a committee to examine the current procedure and the necessary changes required in order to modify acquisition process of equipment by the armed forces;

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

(c) what are the recommendations made by the committee; and

(d) what efforts Government are making to simplify the Defence production procedure to provide a level-playing field for private players?

#### **Closure of Srinagar and Avantipur airfields due to snowfall**

2988. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent heavy snowfall in J&K made our Srinagar and Avantipur airfields non-operational for five days;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take so that such a situation does not recur especially in IAF airfields which are strategically located surrounded by hostile environmental hazards; and

(c) whether we have developed any contingencies plans for meeting such a situation?

#### **Regrouping of separatist/terrorist groups in North-Eastern States**

†2989. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have got reports to this effect that certain terrorist and separatist organisations have reorganised themselves in the North-Eastern border States;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, names of those organisations alongwith the strength of each organisation and sources from which these organisations get the assistance etc.; and

(c) the locations of activities of each organisation?

**Loss of lives and properties due to Tsunami**

†2990. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 214 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd March, 2005 and state:

(a) whether there is any loss of life and property by Tsunami to the Indian citizens working in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details including the measures taken to rehabilitate the above citizens/families, if any?

**Encroachment on Kirti Nagar Furniture Market, Delhi**

2991. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire took place recently in Kirti Nagar, Delhi killing seven firemen;

(b) whether encroachments have been blamed as major hurdle in controlling the fire;

(c) whether it is a fact that encroachments from the roads in Kirti Nagar Furniture Market were removed many times but the same again took place because

of the police not taking effective action to check encroachments; and

(d) if so, what action does Government propose to take against Delhi Police for not stopping encroachments?

**Permission to investigators of UK Charities Commission**

2992. SHRI R.K. ANAND:  
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would permit the investigators of the UK Charities Commission, which has filed a formal investigation into allegations made by Britain's Channel 4 about the channeling of funds from British Charities Seva International and Hindu Swamyamsevak Sabha (HSS) into sectarian violence in India;

(b) if so, whether the findings of the investigation shall determine the course of action in proscribing such funding from being received and misutilized; and

(c) what are Government's strategies to monitor implementation of this?

**Separate development board for Konkan region**

2993. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:  
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:  
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of backwardness of the Konkan region, Government of Maharashtra has been persistently pressing

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for constitution of a separate development board for the Konkan region;

(b) whether Konkan is considered as backward as Vidharbha and Marathwada; and

(c) whether Planning Commission has submitted a draft report for constitution of such a board for Konkan in the light of the experience of the existing three Development Boards in Maharashtra, and if so, what decision has since been taken for constitution of the Konkan Board in the light of the Planning Commission study?

#### **Special Task Force to contain naxalism**

2994. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a joint special task force among States to overcome the problem of State boundaries interfering with anti-Naxalite operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project would be funded by the Centre and forces would be operated under Central command to iron out any kind of differences among the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Dialogue with terrorist outfits**

†2995. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:  
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to have dialogue with the terrorists outfits;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the progress made in this regard so far;

(d) whether it is a fact that intensity of the naxalite movement has decreased in some States; and

(e) if so, the State-wise details thereof?

#### **Cases sent by National Human Rights Commission to Chhattisgarh**

†2996. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:  
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates and details of cases sent for action by National Human Rights Commission to Government of Chhattisgarh till 31st January, 2005; and

(b) the details of cases on which action has been taken together with the details of cases on which action has not been taken?

#### **Killing of Delhi Police Sub-inspector**

2997. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:  
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Sub-inspector of Delhi Police was shot dead in Police Colony in Janakpuri, New Delhi on 12th March, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the culprit has been apprehended and motive of murder ascertained; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Fictitious pensioners**

†2998. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise and district-wise details of the fictitious freedom fighters pensioners against whom the Ministry is carrying out enquiry;

(b) whether payment of pension to these pensioners is being stopped with immediate effect;

(c) the main reason for taking action against these pensioners; and

(d) the time schedule fixed for completion of enquiry and action that would be taken by Government after the enquiry?

### **Deaths in Durgapur Steel Plant**

2999. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in December, 2004 three persons succumbed to death were buried under stags in Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) whether C.I.S.F. has lodged formal complaint with State Police regarding the unnatural deaths;

(c) whether post-mortem was conducted and bodies were duly handed over to their relatives thereafter; and

(d) how the dead bodies were disposed off?

### **Revamping of civil defence set up**

3000. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in the process of revamping the existing Civil

Defence set-up into disaster management taskforce in the wake of Tsunami calamity;

(b) if so, how soon the new task force is expected to be operational; and

(c) whether Government would also consider issuance of a Conscription Proclamation to be effective during national calamities?

### **Law to contain communal riots**

†3001. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring a Bill to tackle the communal riots effectively; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

### **Replacing IPC with Cr. PC**

†3002. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IPC and Cr. PC framed by British are still existing;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to replace Cr.PC and IPC *in toto* in the changing scenario;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Status of Bangladesh border fencing**

3003. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of border fencing in the Assam part of Indo-Bangladesh Border;

(b) the total expenditure already

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

incurred and estimated amount of cost required to complete the works;

(c) whether there is unnecessary delay in work progress; and

(d) if so, the reason therefor?

#### **Terrorists in different parts of the country**

†3004. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of terrorists have sneaked in different parts of the country as a part of their strategy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that terrorists have threatened to target Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir and other States and the Union Ministers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Usefulness of International Charter during Tsunami disaster**

3005. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Charter Space and Major Disasters of which India is a signatory was invoked during the recent Tsunami disaster;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the Charter was useful in supporting the mitigation and relief related activities?

#### **Practice of branding women as witches**

3006. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported recommendations voicing concern about continuing practice of branding women as witches and the insufficiency and inadequacy of the penalty provisions of law to prevent such crimes;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

#### **Incidents of religious conversions**

3007. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to growing incidents of religious conversion being organized especially among the poor citizens in backward regions of our country demonstrating close link between the proselytizers and Western Churches;

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

(c) whether Government are contemplating to take any special measures to facilitate rapid socio-economic developments in the backward regions especially with a view to creating an environment that would pre-empt allurements/inducement of the poor to convert;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals through Indo-Nepal Border**

†3008. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals through Indo-Nepal border; and

(b) the measures being taken to check the same?

**Involvement of Bangladeshis in crimes**

3009. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladeshis residing illegally in Delhi are involved in anti-national activities and are also involved in heinous crimes like murder, dacoity, fake currency etc.;

(b) how many Bangladeshis were found involved in anti-national activities and heinous crimes during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken to check their activities; and

(d) what are the reasons for not deporting them back to Bangladesh?

**Establishment of Delhi Police Housing Society**

†3010. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received any proposal for the establishment of Delhi Police Housing Society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be accepted by Government?

**CBI raids at the premises of MCD Officials/Contractor**

3011. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that C.B.I. has recently raided the premises of certain officials and contractor of Municipal Corporation of Delhi and unearthed disproportionate assets running into several crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of officials/contractor found involved; and

(c) whether similar raids were also conducted earlier on the premises of food and civil supplies officials in Delhi Administration whose diary mentioned the names of two Ministers and if so, what are the names of such Ministers and what are the allegations against them?

**Showing of obscene films in Delhi**

†3012. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that obscene Blue-films are being screened by the Cinemas in Morning show in Delhi and the concerned officials are not paying any heed;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking effective steps by Government in this regard; and

(c) the names of the cinemas where the raids were conducted for showing blue films during 2004-2005 and the number of people arrested and prosecuted for the same?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Disbursement of money recovered from the Pvt. Company**

3013. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the Crime Branch, Delhi in the case pertaining M/s Perutek Services Limited which is being investigated by them since 1998;

(b) the amount of money so far recovered from the said company;

(c) whether any directions are sought to disburse the money so far recovered from the company to those depositors, who were cheated by the company on priority basis; and

(d) if not, by when the same would be done and the steps being taken to speed up the recovery process and to disburse the money to the depositors?

**Core-group to co-ordinate the construction work in Tsunami hit areas**

3014. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a Core Group to coordinate the construction work in Tsunami-hit areas and also to explore the areas where external assistance is desirable;

(b) when the operation of the Core Group is expected to start; and

(c) what is the fund allocation therefor?

**Video Conferencing facilities in Jails**

3015. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to give

financial assistance to State Government for setting up of Video Conferencing facilities in prison;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Minors reported missing or kidnapped in Delhi**

3016. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of minors reported missing or kidnapped in Delhi during 2004 and so far during 2005, as per police records, police district-wise;

(b) the number of those of (a) above who could be traced and recovered/returned of their own so far;

(c) the number of kidnapped and missing minors for more than three years still untraced in Delhi; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Delhi Police to trace and recover all those who have been missing/kidnapped from Delhi?

**Hide outs of the terrorists**

3017. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hide-outs of the terrorists operating in India stationed inside and outside the country;

(b) the details of the drives taken by Government to demolish these hide-outs;

(c) the extent of success and failures in demolishing the hide-outs; and

(d) the reasons where drives did not see the fruits of success?

### **Terrorists hiding in Bangladesh and Myanmar**

3018. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many hardcore terrorists wanted in India are hiding in Bangladesh and Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government have put pressure on these countries to handover these terrorists to India;

(d) if so, the response of these Governments in this regard; and

(e) the action taken by Central Government to make it difficult for terrorists cross over to other countries and start their nefarious activities from there?

### **Kidnapping in States**

3019. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether frequency of kidnappings and abductions for ransom has assumed the status of lucrative business and a strong weapon of sweeping political benefits; if so, the number of kidnappings and (1) kidnapping with murders, (2) kidnappings with rapes and (3) kidnapping with both rape and murders reported from each State during 2002-03; and

(b) what steps, if any, including modifications in the law and the legal procedure, are proposed to be taken to effectively curb this menace?

### **Request for raising the strength of the Home Guards**

3020. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the request of the Government of Karnataka seeking the Centre's approval for raising the strength of the Home Guards in the State from the present level of about 17,700 to 25,000 on account of the law & order problem and the frequent demand for deployment of a large number of Home Guards by the Police is pending with the Central Government since 1995; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the Centre's reaction thereto?

### **Re-opening of road to China**

3021. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has conceded to the reopening of the historic stilwell road that links Assam to old Burma Road and onwards to kunming in China;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the fact that this road passes through areas which are part of our security concerns; and

(c) if so, the precautions the Government proposes to take?

### **Srinagar-Muzaffarabad Bus Service**

3022. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Srinagar—Muzaffarabad bus service will open from 7th April, 2005;

(b) if so, whether both Governments have provided precautions in the Agreement to ensure that wanted terrorists and criminals do not sneak out of India and infiltrators are not allowed to enter Jammu and Kashmir by the agreed bus service;

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

#### **Resistance to Fencing along Indo-Bangladesh Borders**

3023. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh borders is almost complete;
- (b) if so, whether there has been any kind of resistance from the locals in Tripura, as this has snatched their livelihood;
- (c) if so, the details of the hardships faced by the border people as a result of fencing; and
- (d) what is the action plan of Government to alleviate their problems?

#### **Fire incident in Kirti Nagar, Delhi**

3024. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a major fire broke out in timber market in Kirti Nagar, New Delhi on 31st December, 2004 in which a number of personnel of Delhi Fire Service and others lost their lives;
- (b) if so, cause of fire, if ascertained and the estimated loss of property caused thereby;
- (c) the number of personnel of Delhi Fire Service and others, separately, who perished in the fire; and
- (d) whether any compensation/financial assistance has been paid by Government to next of kin of the victims and to those who were seriously injured in the incident, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Setting up of composite early warning system**

3025. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Tamil Nadu had suggested to the Centre to make mechanism in place for undertaking storm surge modelling at National and State level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Tamil Nadu had demanded for setting up of a composite early warning system; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Strengthening of security at Nepal and Bhutan borders**

3026. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to strengthen the security on the borders with Nepal and Bhutan;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that over the next two years, 20 more battalions would be raised and deployed on the borders with Nepal and Bhutan; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that the forces deployed to these borders were thin?

#### **Sri Lankan Refugees Staying in India**

3027. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Sri Lankan refugees staying in India, as on date;

(b) the number of Sri Lankan refugees repatriated during the last three years;

(c) whether any arrival of Sri Lankan refugees has been reported during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Upgradation of Crisis Management Centres**

3028. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new Integrated Operation Centre for the country's crisis management has been upgraded with state-of-the-art technology equipment and communication systems to avoid wastage of crucial time in crisis management;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including results of mock drills carried out, if any on networks extending to the State and district control rooms; and

(c) the details of co-ordination system established to provide quick relief to the affected people without the need to go back to various Ministers to seek sanctions, etc.?

#### **Fire Incidents in Delhi**

3029. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of incidents of huge market place fires like the recent one in Ramakrishna Puram are occurring in the NCT of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps being taken by Government to avoid such accidents?

#### **Dialogue with Nepal**

†3030 SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Nepal dialogue at Home Secretary level was held recently;

(b) if so, the details of such dialogue; and

(c) the decisions taken after the dialogue?

#### **Loopholes in the Security of Tihar Jail**

†3031. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sher Singh Rana, the prime accused in Phoolan Devi murder case in an interview on a TV channel has enumerated a number of loopholes in Tihar prison;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have looked into these loopholes and taken measures to plug them;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to arrest the prime accused of Phoolan Devi murder case despite its all out efforts; and

(e) if so, the concrete action proposed to be taken by Government to nab him immediately?

#### **Registering of False Cases by Delhi Police**

3032. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Police

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

is in the habit of registering false and fabricated cases of abduction and rape against innocent citizens under political pressure;

(b) whether Government have received complaints against registering false cases involving Baljit Singh and his family members, a resident of B-14/1, Dabri Extn., New Delhi-42;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw such cases registered under pressure after proper investigation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Illegal Settlements in Great Nicobar Islands**

3033. DR.(SMT.) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Great Nicobar Islands lots of people have settled illegally, with many arriving as labourers for Government contractors, and then staying on with the connivance of local officials;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from tribal leaders in this regard; and

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

#### **Assessment of World Agencies regarding Reconstruction of Tsunami affected Areas**

3034. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a report prepared jointly by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the United

Nations, it has been estimated that 1.2 billion U.S. Dollar is required to undertake rehabilitation and reconstruction work in Tsunami affected areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to the said report Tamil Nadu was the worst affected with reconstruction needs estimated at 868.3 million U.S. Dollar;

(d) if so, whether Government had decided to sanction the said amount to the Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Indian Citizenship to Afgan Nationals Migrated to India**

3035. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Hindus and Sikhs living in Afghanistan migrated to India because of the oppression by the Taliban regime;

(b) what facilities have been provided by Government of India to them;

(c) since they were not having proper travel documents, whether Government have given them any document for their stay in India; and

(d) since they are living here for the last 15 years, whether Government of India have provided them Indian citizenship and how many applications are pending?

#### **Inclusion of Tulu Language in 8th Schedule of the Constitution**

3036. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent proposal for inclusion of Tulu Language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India;

(b) if so, what is the present status of the proposal; and

(c) by when the Tulu language would be included in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India?

#### **Setting up of Mega Power Projects of NCEs**

3037. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the viable non-conventional energy source State/region-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government set up some mega projects of non-conventional energy sources in the States such as Tamil Nadu that have almost exhausted conventional and affordable power generation resources such as hydel power?

#### **Solar Energy Projects in Uttaranchal**

†3038. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of solar energy projects being run with the help of Central Government in Uttaranchal State and the quantity of energy being generated with the help of these projects;

(b) whether the State Government has sent some new project proposals to the Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by when these projects are expected to be sanctioned?

#### **Energy Parks in Karnataka**

3039. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established Energy Parks in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent during 2004-2005 for these Energy Parks in Karnataka; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up more Energy Parks in Northern parts of Karnataka?

#### **Setting up Biomass/Bagasse Co-Generation Projects**

3040. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a scheme where under Biomass/Bagasse co-generation power Projects are set up in all cities/towns for Producing Power from solid waste, bionicss residues etc; in co-operation with State Governments and Municipal bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Pending Proposal for Production of Power from NCES of Kerala**

3041. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala submitted any proposal seeking financial assistance for providing energy from non-

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

conventional sources to the colony areas in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government accorded sanction for the project and the amount of assistance proposed to be extended therefor?

**Setting up a Thermal Power Plant in Khandwa District of M.P.**

3042. SHRIMATIPREMACARIAPPA:  
SHRIMATISUKHBUNS KAUR:  
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up a 2000 MW Thermal Power Plant in Khandwa District of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of the project and cost thereof and how the power and the cost would be shared; and

(c) whether the project has been approved if not, at what stage the project stands?

**Hydropower Station in Arunachal Pradesh**

3043. SHRI AMAR SINGH:  
SHRI EKANATH K.  
THAKUR:  
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has ignored a cheaper offer from PSU Navaratna Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) to build a 2,000 MW hydropower station in Arunachal Pradesh and has favoured a French conglomerate Alstom for it; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Entering of NTPC into Hydro Sector and Transmission**

3044. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC plans to enter into power transmission;

(b) if so, details of their action plan;

(c) whether the Organization also propose to enter into hydro sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Consumption and Supply of Power in MP**

†3045. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:  
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise data of consumption and supply of power in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to bridge the gap between consumption and supply; and

(c) the power projects of Madhya Pradesh which have been given approval by the Central Government during the last three years?

**Allocation of Electricity to Malwa in MP from Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant**

†3046. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 147 megawatt of electricity had been allocated to the Malwa region of

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



Madhya Pradesh from Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant in view of voltage problem;

(b) whether problem of voltage has arisen again when the said allocation was withdrawn;

(c) if so, by when the said allocation would be made again in view of the problem of interrupted electric supply being faced by the farmers;

(d) whether State Government has proposed a 1000 megawatt thermal power plant in Malwa region for which approval of Central Government is required; and

(e) by when the said sanction would be accorded?

#### **Assistance to PSEB**

3047. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of profit and expenditure of Punjab State Electricity Board during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the accumulated profit/loss of Punjab Electricity Board as on date; and

(c) the nature of assistance provided by Government to PSEB to meet the situation?

#### **Scheme based on Traditional Power Sources**

†3048. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted a scheme based on the traditional power sources to the Government regarding electrification of villages situated in 37 far reaching and forest areas in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) by when the same would be given sanction?

#### **Power situation in Assam**

3049. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a complete failure of electricity in Assam causing extreme inconvenience to the people;

(b) whether Government are also aware that despite the provision of finances for power generation and distribution, the power situation in the State has remained static without any improvement; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard for improving the power situation in the State?

#### **Co-operation with China in Power Sector**

†3050. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to cooperate with China instead of competing with it in the field of power; and

(b) if so, the details of the initiative taken so far/to be taken in this direction?

#### **Rural Electrification in Border Villages**

†3051. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scheme prepared by Government for the implementation of rural electrification on priority basis;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the rural electrification programme is being implemented at very slow pace in far-off zones in a number of States particularly in bordering villages in each district/Tahsil;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to expedite the programme in these bordering villages; and

(d) the minimum norms prescribed for conferring electrification Status to bordering villages?

#### **Allocation of Power from Central Pool to Rajasthan**

†3052. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allotment of power to Rajasthan from Central Power Houses is continuously going down due to the formula adopted by the power projects under Public sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the present system of allotment of power from power projects under public sector like NTPC/NHPC has been reconsidered; and

(c) if so, the details of new targets set?

#### **New Power Plants during the Tenth Plan**

†3053. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount to be spent by Government on creation of new power plants during the Tenth Five Year Plan and electricity in terms of Megawatts to be produced therefrom;

(b) the amount of power required in the country at the end of this year and the extent to which the requirement of power would be met through the power produced from new power plants; and

(c) the extent of per capita power consumption in the country and the extent to which it is less than that of developed countries?

#### **Distribution of Electricity through private Companies**

3054. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government under the Electricity Act permitted the distribution of power in Delhi and various other States through private distribution companies; and

(b) whether it is true that no minimum availability of power is assured and no guidelines have been prescribed by the Central or by the State Government to ensure distribution companies provide minimum assured power supply i.e. 98%?

#### **Programme for Employment skills**

3055 SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI  
BARUPAL:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a massive training programme aimed at imparting employment skill to one million rural poor in a year;

(b) if so, whether the programme launched formally by Rural Development Ministry would be implemented by CAPARAT through NGOs in rural areas and 150 most backward districts;

(c) if so, what are the States whose backward districts will be covered in the first phase of the programme; and

(d) whether this programme will help to create productivity and market oriented

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

employment opportunities for the rural unemployed?

**Financial assistance to computerise the land records**

3056. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government extended financial assistance to the State Governments for implementing a programme to computerise the land records at the village levels;

(b) if so, the details of amount allotted to various State Governments, so far;

(c) the amount allotted to the Government of Kerala for the implementation of the above project for the previous financial years and the details of progress made by the State Government so far to computerise the land records; and

(d) how many villages in Kerala have computerised its land records fully by using the central fund so far and the district-wise details thereof?

**Selection of districts for inclusion of Food for Work Scheme**

3057. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many districts in different States have been selected for inclusion in National Food for Work Programme;

(b) what are the guidelines fixed for selection of these areas;

(c) whether Government are aware that in one district there may be some parts irrigated or developed, whereas other may be without irrigation or under development; and

(d) in the above circumstances where Government propose to consider to select under developed areas taking 'Block as a Unit'?

**Food for work programme**

3058. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether "food for work" programme is not being implemented in a sincere way by many State Governments; and

(b) what steps Government are taking so that the defaulting States are made to implement this programme?

**Meeting of District Collectors to speed up the rural development**

†3059. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to convene a meeting of district collectors at State level to speed up the work of rural development;

(b) if so, the agenda of the proposed meeting;

(c) whether such meetings have been organised by Ministry earlier also; and

(d) if so, the outcome of these meetings?

**Amount for rural sanitation programme in Punjab**

†3060. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked to the State of Punjab for rural sanitation programme in the year 2004-2005; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the district-wise details of Punjab included under this programme?

**Shortage of water in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra**

3061. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute water shortage in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and particularly in more than 500 villages in Wardha district;

(b) whether this problem of water shortage may turn worse during the coming summer;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to improve the situation of water supply thereon war footing?

**Report of Planning Commission on bio-fuel**

3062. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Rural Development has been assigned the job to act as the nodal agency for processing the Planning Commission report on bio-fuel;

(b) whether it is also a fact that TERI, New Delhi was assigned the job of preparing a final report on the subject by January, 2005;

(c) if so, whether the report from TERI has since been received by the Government; if not, what are the reasons for the delay and by when report is likely to be received by the Government;

(d) whether Government propose to offer any incentive to the grower of bio-fuel plants (jatropha); and

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

**Water Conservation Mission**

3063. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a "Peoples Water Conservation Mission";

(b) if so, the objectives of the mission; and

(c) if not, the time-frame by when the mission would be launched?

**Constitution of a committee to study the problem of rural population**

†3064. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instead of increase in the employment opportunities in rural areas there has been decrease;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a major portion of rural population is forced to migrate to big cities due to the above reason;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to constitute a committee to study the above problems of the rural population; and

(d) if not, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Schemes/programme for the Welfare of rural women**

3065. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes and programmes formulated and being implemented for the welfare of rural women in the country; and

(b) the details of financial assistance provided to each of the States during each of the last three years for implementing the above schemes in the rural areas of the country?

**PMGSY in Jharkhand**

3066. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the phase-wise details of road works, in terms of length and cost, cleared for implementation under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Jharkhand and completed till 31st December, 2004;

(b) the projects carried over on 31st December, 2004 pending last-mile completion;

(c) the steps taken for completion thereof;

(d) the details of measures initiated for imparting appropriate training to the Field Engineers especially in road design and construction; updating of data for the Online Monitoring and Management System (OMMS), and expediting preparation of project proposals for road works at District Levels; and

(e) the volume of fund provided by World Bank for PMGSY projects in Jharkhand?

**Funds for potable water facilities**

†3067. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government provides funds to the States for potable water facilities under the Rapid Village Water Supply programme in rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of habitations covered so far and likely to be covered under the said programme along with the amount to be spent therein and the time limit fixed for the same; and

(c) the State-wise details of the status and achievement made under the said programme?

**Implementation of Swajaldhara programme**

†3068. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any limit for every State has been fixed in the budget to implement the "Swajaldhara" rural potable water projects;

(b) if so, the maximum cost limit of such projects;

(c) whether 10 per cent share to be paid by the villagers for "Swajaldhara" projects can be contributed by a Member of Parliament from the MPs fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Economic development and  
employment opportunities  
under different schemes**

3069. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the economic development which has taken place or employment opportunities created in services and man-days during the last three years, under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana, and the Basic Minimum Services;

(b) have these schemes achieved the objectives which were envisaged when these were introduced;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any targets have been fixed for the current year and special drives being launched to achieve the same?

**Irregularities in implementation of  
PMGSY**

3070. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain irregularities in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna have been found out;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to maintain the quality of roads to be constructed under the said Yojana?

**Revised Rural Infrastructure  
Development Fund**

3071. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the revised Rural Infrastructure Development Fund;

(b) the reasons for revising RIDF;

(c) the amount allocated for 2005-06, State-wise;

(d) whether any district-wise allocation is made for the State of Andhra Pradesh; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any monitoring is being done on the utilisation of the fund, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking  
Water Mission**

3072. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission;

(b) whether all the existing drinking water schemes of the Union Government have been brought under this Mission, if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of rural habitations in the country without proper drinking water facilities, State-wise; and

(d) whether any time bound programme has been chalked out to provide safe drinking water to all the rural habitations in

the country; if so, the State-wise details thereof?

**Providing assistance from NGOs for rural development**

‡3073. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that assistance from Non-Governmental Organisations would also be taken for rural development;

(b) if so, the names of the Non-Governmental Organisations from whom assistance would be taken; and

(c) the names of Non-Governmental Organisations which are providing their assistance in the State of Bihar?

**Indira Awas Yojana in T.N.**

3074. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds were allotted to Tamil Nadu during each of the last 3 financial years and proposed to be made for 2005-06 under Indira Awas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the district-wise number of houses constructed in the State of Tamil Nadu under IAY during each of the last 3 financial years and proposed to be constructed during 2005-06?

**TSC in Tamil Nadu**

3075. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Tamil Nadu where Total Sanitation Campaign operates at

present with the assistance of the Union Government;

(b) the fund allocation made by the Union Government for the campaign for the State during each of the last 3 years and for 2005-06;

(c) whether all the districts of the State are to be covered by the campaign during the year 2005-06;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Liberalization of labour laws in Textiles Industry**

3076. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:  
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to liberalize the labour laws in textile industry in order to generate more employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the liberal measures are likely to be implemented?

**Prospects of textiles sector in global market**

3077. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post quota regime has brightened the prospects of textiles sector in global market;

(b) if so, the details of anticipated exports during 2005-06 and 2006-07;

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether there will be any change in the value of exports of textiles if companies are granted draw back on the basis of weight; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Establishment of handicraft cluster**

†3078. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to establish the handicraft cluster in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent by Government for this purpose?

#### **Textile Group Infrastructure Scheme for Punjab**

†3079. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes sanctioned under Textile Group Infrastructure Development Scheme for Punjab; and

(b) the details of amount likely to be spent for these schemes, location-wise in the State; and by when these are likely to be completed?

#### **Modernization of NTC mills**

†3080. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering about modernization of textile mills owned by NTC in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent by Government on modernization of textile mills?

#### **Modernization of powerloom, handloom and textile units**

†3081. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to modernize powerloom, handloom and textile units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have proposed any fund for this purpose?

#### **Steps to encourage foreign participation in Indian textile market**

3082. SHRIMATI. N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that India and China will become a major textile exporters in the world after the multi fibre Agreement which ended on 21.12.2004;

(b) how the Ministry justifies the view of experts that India is expected to grow at the rate of 250%; and

(c) what avenues Government of India are providing to textile ancillary firms of other countries so as to establish themselves in the Indian market?

#### **Plants eligible for TUFs benefits**

3083. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has removed wind mills from the list of plants eligible

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



for availing benefits under Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS);

(b) if so, whether this move will put the textile mills in South India to a great disadvantage as Tamil Nadu alone accounts for 57 per cent of the total wind power generated in India which reduces the power cost for textile mills;

(c) the details on (a) and (b) above; and

(d) whether the decision for removal of wind mills from the TUFS Scheme will be revised by the Government to encourage growth in textile industry?

#### **Import of readymade garments from India**

3084. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the Countries which are importing readymade garments like shawls/knitwear etc. from India specially Ludhiana (Punjab);

(b) the value of export of readymade garments during the last 3 years, year-wise;

(c) the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof;

(d) whether Government have explored the possibility to increase the export; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Economic assistance to artisans and weavers**

†3085. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed a target for providing economic assistance to artisans and weavers under self-employment credit card scheme;

(b) the number of artisans and weavers benefited so far from the said scheme; and

(c) the scheme of Government to promote handloom knitted garments in view of termination of multi-fibre agreement in December, 2004?

#### **Ban on Indian textile companies by US**

3086. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US has banned 5 Indian textile companies for quota fraud; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with action plan of Government to control recurrence of such incidents?

#### **Rehabilitation of workers of sick textile units**

3087. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for felling 119 textile undertakings as sick units so far;

(b) the proposed Government action against the guilty;

(c) the measures for the Rehabilitation of the workers of sick/closed textile mills;

(d) the reasons for surplus staff in NTC mills; and

(e) the strategies and planning for the revival of all the sick units of NTC?

#### **Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana**

3088. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Centrally

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

sponsored scheme, 'Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana', for development of handloom sector, with details of assistance released during the last 3 years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted certain proposals seeking assistance under the above Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's reaction thereto?

**Assistance to Tamil Nadu for revival of Handicrafts sector**

3089. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to extend any assistance to the

State of Tamil Nadu for the revival of languishing handicrafts of the State;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Role of handloom and khadi clothes after lifting of sanctions**

†3090. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantitative sanctions imposed on the textile and readymade garments among member countries of the WTO, have been lifted; and

(b) if so, the role of handloom and khadi clothes in this scenario?

NEW DELHI;  
The 13th April, 2005  
*Chaitra 23, 1927 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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