RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on Friday, the August 20, 2004/Sravana 29, 1926 (Saka)

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Environment and Forests; Food Processing Industries; Health and Family Welfare; Railways; Steel)

Total number of questions — 155

Increasing fellowship to scholars under ICAR

1779. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of scholars undertaking research work under ICAR;
- (b) how many of these scholars are ladies:
- (c) whether any fellowship is being paid to the researchers;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to enhance the fellowship amount to lady research scholars in order to motivate and empower them further; and
 - (f) if so, the details thereof?

Central assistance for debt relief to farmers

1780. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of peasants who caught in debt trap have committed suicide in Kerala;

- (b) whether Kerala Government has sought any Central assistance for providing relief to such farmers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (d) whether Government would consider to waive agricultural loan upto the tune of Rs.50,000 and interest of loan, extend moratorium for recovery of loan announced by RBI upto three years?

Per Capita wheat and rice availability

†1781. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any downfall in the per capita availability of wheat and rice in the country since beginning of 90's till date:
 - (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether it is a fact that agricultural production has been decreasing as compared to population growth in the above years in the country; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and whether in the above situation, promoting production of cash crops and contract farming could be a solution of overcoming starvation related problems?

White paper on suicide

1782. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that during the past few years many farmers committed suicides in different parts of the country; and
- (b) if so, whether Government would consider to place a white paper on this crucial issue before the House?

Suitability of Bt. cotton

- 1783. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether systematic studies have been conducted on different Bt. cotton hybrids to evaluate their suitability under Indian conditions;
- (b) if so, the main conclusions of such studies;
- (c) whether such studies also address issues of ecological consequences including human health; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Permission to foreign trawlers on deep sea fishing

1784. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken any action on the representations for withdrawing permission granted to foreign trawlers for deep sea fishing;
 - (b) if so, the details of action taken;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the total number of foreign trawlers doing fishing due to the above permission?

Development of marine fisheries

- 1785. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the proposals for development of marine fisheries are pending with Government;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of total amount released for above scheme during the last three years to Karnataka, year-wise?

Central delegation to assess drought situation in States

†1786. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have sent Central delegation to the different States to assess the effect of drought there;
- (b) if so, the names of the States visited by the said delegation alongwith the dates of their visits, separately;
- (c) the report submitted by the delegation on drought in each of the State;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (d) the names of the States to whom assistance in form of relief has been provided by Government to tackle the problem of drought so far, alongwith the nature of the relief provided; and
- (e) the shortfall in the kharif crop estimated to be in each of the States?

Diversification of crops in rain based areas

- †1787. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether any scheme has been formulated to encourage the farmers for the cultivation of non-seasonal vegetables crops, fruits, flowers and herbs under agriculture diversification scheme in the rain based agricultural areas;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Governments have been asked to formulate time-bound schemes to turn the agriculture into lucrative profession in such areas; and
- (d) the details of the schemes underway to turn the rain based agriculture into economically lucrative profession?

Cultivation of land between LoC and barbed wire

- 1788. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to
- (a) whether the area between the Pakistan border (LoC) and the barbed wire put up by Government is lying unutilized for cultivation at present;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to help farmers to cultivate such lands; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

Loan for cane development to Maharashtra

1789. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government has forwarded proposals for sanctioning of sugar development loan for cane development;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (c) the reaction of Government thereto?

Special package to agriculture sector

- 1790. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give a special package to agriculture sector in order to boost agricultural production in the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the target expected to be achieved in respect of agriculture produce during the current financial year; and
- (d) the contingency plan thought of in the event of shortfall in production?

Phasing out of concession in crop insurance premium

- 1791. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether small and marginal farmers are entitled for concession in premium for insurance of their crops;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is proposed to phase out the concession; and
 - (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Implementation of NAIS

- 1792. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that some of the States are not implementing the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (1999-2000), treating Gram Panchayats as the unit of insurance;
 - (b) if so, the names of such States; and
- (c) the action plan of Government to ensure that the above insurance scheme is implemented by all the States in its true letter and spirit?

Plan for motivating fruit and vegetable growers

1793. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any plan to motivate the fruit and vegetable growers of such States where off season fruits and vegetables can be grown on a large scale;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether Government will formulate any such plan?

Implementation of National Horticulture Mission

1794. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a National Horticulture Mission with the objective of doubling the horticultural production has been announced;
- (b) if so, whether it is being implemented and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it will be implemented?

Cold storages in Tripura

1795. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cold storages to be constructed in the country during 2004-05;
- (b) of these cold storages, how many will belong to Tripura; and
- (c) by when the construction works will be completed?

KVKs in Chhattisgarh

1796. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to establish Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research in seven newly created districts in Chhattisgarh during the current year;
- (b) if so, the location thereof, districtwise; the funds proposed to be allocated for each KVK in these districts and also for construction of building at KVK, Bilaspur;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of agriculture colleges

- 1797. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of agriculture colleges which are going to be set up in different States during the year 2004-05;

- (b) whether Government have any plan to set up an agriculture college in Tripura in order to bring to the farmer the advanced knowledge of farming in hilly as well as plain agricultural land;
 - (c) if so, the programme in detail; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Drought assistance to Karnataka

1798. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the names of the places which have been affected by current drought in Karnataka and what financial assistance has been given to the State for redressal of the grievances of the people?

Corpus and operations of Consumer Welfare Fund

1799. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESH-WARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount currently available with the Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF);
- (b) what percentage of the available fund has been utilized during the last five years;
- (c) whether Government propose to increase the ceiling on grant allocations to consumer organizations; and
- (d) whether Government intend to simplify the operational procedures of the Consumer Welfare Fund?

Adopting dairy markets of Pakistan and Sri Lanka

1800. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is occupying top position in milk production at the international level with a good network of rural milk societies:
- (b) if so, whether the National Dairy Development Board had planned Rs.10 crore plant in Sri Lanka which was now importing 53000 tonnes of milk powder annually:
- (c) whether experts have suggested that India should adopt dairy market in Pakistan and Sri Lanka;
- (d) if so, the details of efforts being made to adopt the dairy markets in these countries; and
- (e) the details of exports being made by India?

Training programme for short harvest crops

- †1801. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the State-wise details of the areas in the country in which crops have been damaged by drought;
- (b) whether any proposal of conducting training programme for growing other short harvest crops in the drought-hit areas of the country is under consideration;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Financial assistance to the flood and drought affected States

- †1802. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the losses suffered due to floods and drought in various parts of the country during the last three years and in 2004, so far;
- (b) the financial assistance provided by Government to the affected States, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government are aware of the fact that only a meagre part of the assistance provided by the Central Government reaches to the affected persons; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to provide maximum assistance to the affected persons?

Slaughter houses

- 1803. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the total number of licensed slaughter houses in the country as on 30th June, 2004, State-wise;
- (b) whether new slaughter houses are to be added in the country, if so, the details thereof together with their location;
- (c) the number of cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats and other animals which are allowed to be slaughtered, State-wise;
- (d) whether illegal slaughter of animals has come to the notice of Government; if so, the steps taken to prevent such illegal slaughter; and
- (e) the meat production during the last five years, year-wise?

Drought assistance to Maharashtra

- 1804. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1040 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd July, 2004 and state:
- (a) whether the amount sanctioned to Maharashtra is inadequate to meet various relief measures for mitigation of drought situation in the State;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government propose to sanction more financial assistance to overcome the drought situation there?

DAP fertilizer industries

- 1805. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of various remedial measures taken and proposed to be taken to protect all the domestic DAP fertilizer industries in India and the Indian farming community;
- (b) the total number of DAP fertilizer industries closed, so far; and
- (c) the total number of DAP fertilizer industries declared as sick?

Compensation to victims of Bhopal gas tragedy

- 1806. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Supreme Court has ordered to pay Rs.1503 crore to the victims of 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy immediately;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of claimants for the compensation;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (d) whether the amount of the compensation has since been paid to the claimants:
 - (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons for delay in distributing the compensation amount?

Revival of Hindustan Antibiotic Limited

- 1807. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to revive the Hindustan Antibiotic Limited Pimpri, India's first pencillin manufacturing unit:
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (c) by when it is likely to be revived?

High retail prices of drugs and medicines

1808. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that retail prices of drugs and medicines are being labelled at over 20 per cent of the cost of manufacture and packaging; and
- (b) if so, the details of steps taken or being taken to check and regulate the drug prices to protect the ailing and suffering humanity against such exploitation?

Printing prices of life-saving drugs

- †1809. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
 - (a) whether Government propose to

print the prices of life saving drugs on their packing along with sales tax so that common people may not face any difficulty regarding the prices;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when, the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Norms for monitoring prices of drugs

- 1810. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that policy decision for altering the norms of value ceiling for monitoring the prices of medicines in the country has been taken without the approval of the Minister;
- (b) the details of medicines that have a total sale of Rs.1 crore per year;
- (c) whether it is a fact that ORG does not monitor sales of generic drugs; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Loss in Madras Fertilizers Limited

†1811. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Madras Fertilizers Limited has begun incurring loss since last year;
- (b) if so, the loss incurred by this company till June, 2004;
- (c) whether Government have ascertained the causes of the loss; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Clean coal technology based fertilizer plants

- 1812. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a number of power and fertilizer plants in other countries are running on clean coal technology/coal gassification process;
- (b) whether eight such plants are under implementation in China alone;
- (c) whether Government are considering implementation of such project in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether possibilities of revival of coal based fertilizer plants or retrofitting Naphtha based fertilizer plants with coal gassification process is being looked into;
 - (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Overcharging by pharma companies

- 1813. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that overcharging amount of Rs. 40 crores on Revital of Ranbaxy has not been paid yet;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that some other pharma companies have overcharged;and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

Overcharging by drug producers and retailers

- 1814. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a recent survey by the Drug Controller has revealed that the consumers are paying 6 to 30 times more than retailers' price for non-scheduled drugs like Nimesulide, Certrizine, Omprazole etc;
- (b) if so, whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority will invoke the Drug Price Control Order to rectify the situation; and
- (c) the details of other steps being taken to prevent overcharging by drug producers and sellers?

Cleansing of Union Carbide factory soil and environment

1815. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN
PANY:
SHRI EKANATH K.
THAKUR:
SHRI BALAWANT Alias BAL
APTE:

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

- (a) whether Government had been called upon by the Union Carbide Corporation of the US on a direction of the New York Court, to give a No-Objection-Certificate for the Corporation to undertake cleansing of the Union Carbide factory soil and environment, by 30th July, 2004;
- (b) if so, whether the NOC has since been issued; and
- (c) what directions have been given to the Union Carbide Corporation in this regard and the steps since taken to cleanse the soil and the environment?

Pricing of urea fertilizers

- †1816. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to review the rates of secondary freight of urea:
- (b) if so, by when a decision would be taken in this regard;
- (c) whether Government propose to bring urea under the category of uncontrolled fertilizers; and
- (d) if so, by when a decision would be taken in this regard?

Recommendations of committee on foodgrain export

- 1817. 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 the report of the high level Committee on foodgrain export headed by the Chairman, FCI, emphasizes to venture into direct grain exports;
- (b) if so, the full details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and
- (c) the action that has been contemplated by Government in this regard?

Wheat and rice stock

1818. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

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

- (a) the present stock position of wheat and rice as on 1st July, 2004;
- (b) the likely stock position as on 1st January, 2005; and
- (c) whether the depleted stock position is sufficient for the country to withstand the present drought like situation?

Production of sugar

1819. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

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

- (a) whether sugar production in the country would be drastically affected this year because of poor monsoon;
- (b) if so, the total production of sugar during the last two years and to what extent it is likely to be less during 2004-05;
- (c) the steps Government propose to take to meet the shortage; and
- (d) whether Government propose to import sugar to meet the shortage?

Smart card system

1820. SHRI SANJAY RAJARAM RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tenth Plan Working Group on Public Distribution System and Food Security has recommended introduction of smart card system in the form of a credit or debit card instead of the existing ration cards to eliminate the rampant corruption in the PDS in the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, Government's views thereon;
- (c) whether Government propose to introduce such smart card system in the country; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Food stamp scheme under TPDS

- 1821. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there is any proposal for a Targeted Public Distribution System other than Universal Public Distribution System;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for a "Food stamp scheme";
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of families covered under Public Distribution System during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise?

Fixing norms for storage shortage

- 1822. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the District Managers, FCI are to fix the norms of storage shortage;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that no such norms have been fixed and the Corporation has accounted for total storage shortages to the extent of 2.3 lakh MT, 2.94 lakh MT and 2.51 lakh MT valuing Rs. 205.44 crores, 268.79 crores and Rs. 243.74 crores during 1997-1998, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 respectively;

- (c) if so, the reasons for not fixing norms, for suffering such huge storage shortage causing huge losses of public money;
- (d) whether such norms have been fixed now; and
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

Production, allocation and export of foodgrains

- 1823. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) the production of foodgrains during the period 2000-03, year-wise and the quantity available in the buffer stocks of the Food Corporation of India as on 31st December, 2003;
- (b) the allocation of rice and wheat made by Government for the Food for Work Programme during the years 2000 to 2004; the total mandays of employment generated and the number of people who benefited from it; and
- (c) the quantity of rice and wheat exported during the years 2001-2002 and 2003 by the FCI and the prices at which such exports were made?

Gap between production and consumption of sugar

- †1824. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 108 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th July, 2004 and state:
- (a) the suggestions given by sugar industry and the decision taken thereon;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) the details of gap between production and consumption of sugar at present and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to fill the gap between production and consumption of sugar and by when its outcome will be known?

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

†1825. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that at present, foodgrains are being supplied to a total of 15 million families in the country under 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana';
 - (b) if not, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the estimated number of BPL families in the country is 65.2 millions;
- (d) if so, Government's assessment in this regard; and
- (e) the criteria selected by Government for bringing families under Antyodaya Anna Yojana?

Leopards attack

- 1826. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that leopards have been creating a havoc for people in many places of the country;
- (b) if so, the number of persons attacked and killed by leopards in the country during the last one year;

- (c) the steps being taken by Government to protect people from the menace of leopards; and
- (d) the details of compensations paid to persons injured and families of those killed by leopards during the last one year?

Pollution in Ganga and Yamuna rivers

- †1827. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that the Ganga and the Yamuna rivers are getting polluted even from their places of origin due to waste material thrown by the large gathering of tourists at the origin places of the rivers including Gangotri and Yamnotri;
- (b) whether efforts are being made to save these rivers from pollution even from their places of origin under the Ganga and the Yamuna action plan; and
- (c) if so, the details of the plans to be implemented under the Ganga-Yamuna action plan during the year 2004-05?

Adherence to safe ship breaking norms

- 1828. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there are guidelines of Supreme Court and International agencies on decontamination of ships particularly for radio-active material, prior to ship breaking;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a French warship is permitted to be taken apart in an Indian yard; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof with number of such ships taken apart in India during the last three years and whether decontamination norms were followed in all the cases?

Conservation of sacred groves in Karnataka

1829. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has approached the Central Government seeking financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 60 lakhs for conservation of sacred groves (Devarakadu) in Kodagu District of Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government to the proposal; and
- (c) by when financial assistance is likely to be sanctioned by Government?

Environment Courts

1830. SHRIMANOJ BHATTACHARYA: SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently the Law Commission has recommended the setting up of "Environment Courts" in all States aimed at decentralizing environmental issues for speedy action; and
- (b) if so, the details of the other related major recommendations made by the Law Commission recently and the action taken/ proposed to be taken thereon?

Pollution in rivers and ponds

- †1831. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had provided financial assistance during the last three years for preventing pollution in rivers and ponds in the States;
- (b) if so, the details of the assistance provided, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that States particularly Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh did not spend the full amount of assistance and as a result no progress has been made in preventing pollution and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of the action taken/to be taken in this regard?

Grant to Maharashtra for various projects

- 1832. SHRI SANJAY RAJARAM RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of amount given as grant by the Ministry to the State Government of Maharashtra during the last three years for various projects;
- (b) whether Maharashtra Government used this grant to the particular project or diverted this fund to the other project; and
- (c) whether State Government has submitted expenditure account in time to the Union Government?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Financial assistance for Conservation and Management of Bio-diversity

- 1833. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has taken up with the Central Government in regard to financial assistance of the order of Rs. 55 lakhs for Conservation and Management of Biodiversity in coastal districts of Karnataka;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) by when the approval to the proposal is expected?

Deaths due to animals attacks

- 1834. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of people who have died in attacks by animals in different parts of the country during the last two years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that leopards, tigers, wolves and elephants are attacking human beings in different parts of the country because of encroachment of the protected land; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government have taken to stop the encroachment and punish the encroachers?

Sea link connecting Mumbai to the mainlands

1835. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

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

- (a) whether Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal for a sea link (Sewri-nava Sea Link Project) connecting Mumbai to the mainland in order to reduce congestion in the Island city, for the environmental clearance;
- (b) if so, whether the project was conceptualized in 1984; and
- (c) the steps taken for clearance of the project; and the extent of cost escalation suffered by the project?

Social forestry

1836. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount proposed to be spent for social forestry in Assam in this year;
- (b) whether there is any monitoring Agency to monitor the work relating to the plantation and whether any records of death or survival of plants are kept; and
- (c) the details of States which are doing excellent work in social forestry?

Environmental hazard by fly ash and blast furnace slag

- 1837. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that more than 100 million metric tonnes of fly ash from thermal power plants and 10 million tonnes of blast furnace slag from steel plants constitute a major environmental hazard;
- (b) if so, to what extent the cement industry is utilising these hazardous wastes to curtail use of conventional limestone and gypsum; and

(c) the measures being taken to attain optimum utilisation of fly ash and furnace slag?

Submission of schemes by Central Pollution Board

- †1838. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the schemes submitted by the Central Pollution Board to Government for its approval during the last three years;
- (b) the number of schemes out of them Government have granted approval for implementation; and
- (c) Government's plan on the schemes still pending for its approval?

Pending environmental projects of Maharashtra

1839. SHRI BALAWANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE: SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

- (a) the details of environmental projects from Maharashtra pending for approval by Government along with the reasons therefor;
 - (b) the details of the cost of each project;
- (c) whether any additional information has been sought from the State Government or the organisations concerned; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Environment impact assessment

- 1840. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued notification that any new major construction has to undergo an environment impact assessment;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government had sought the views of the State Governments before issuing the said notification as the State Governments were responsible to implement the said notification; and
- (d) if so, the response received from the State Governments in this regard?

Conversion of forest villages into revenue villages

- 1841. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that villages in several areas are categorised as 'Forest Villages' and some as 'Revenue Villages' in the country;
- (b) the criteria and rules followed, if any, in such categorisation and conversion of forest villages into revenue villages and *vice-versa*;
- (c) the material impact envisaged on the habitants of such villages consequent to conversions;
- (d) the details of forest villages as on 31st March, 2004 in the country, Statewise; and
- (e) the number of forest villages converted, if any, into revenue villages in Jharkhand region since independence, yearwise?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Grant to Chhattisgarh Government for various projects

- 1842. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of amount given as grant by the Ministry to the State Government of Chhattisgarh during the last three years for various projects;
- (b) whether State Government used this grant to the particular projects or diverted this fund to the other projects; and
- (c) whether State Government has submitted expenditure account in time to the Union Government?

Tribal settlements in forest villages

- 1843. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there are many tribal settlements that exist within or adjacent to forests that are legally classified as forest villages;
- (b) if so, the details of number of such villages as on date, State-wise, district-wise and category-wise;
- (c) whether above tribal settlements are denied basic developmental inputs that revenue villages are entitled to;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any guidelines were issued to relevant States during the year 1990 to convert forest villages into revenue villages; and
- (f) if so, the details of forest villages converted into revenue villages after the above guidelines, State-wise, district-wise and year-wise?

Pending environmental projects from Chhattisgarh

- 1844. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of environmental projects from Chhattisgarh pending for approval by Government along with the reasons therefor:
 - (b) the details of the cost of each project;
- (c) whether any additional information has been sought from State Government or the organizations concerned; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Changes in PFA

1845. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any ordinance is proposed to be promulgated to bring changes in the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act regarding the safety standards for drinking water:
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for the availability of safe drinking water in the country?

Allocation for development of district hospitals in U.P.

- †1846. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) the amount allocated by Government for the development of district hospitals

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- of Uttar Pradesh during the year 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, district-wise; and
- (b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make improvement in State-run hospitals and to save the common rural people of the State from dreaded and fatal diseases?

Amendment to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules

1847. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government have decided to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules(DCR) under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act;
- (b) if so, the main set of new rules that are being considered;
- (c) whether any legislation is also likely to be introduced;
 - (d) if so, by when; and
- (e) the main features of the proposed amendment?

Dengue and malaria cases in Delhi

- 1848. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of dengue and malaria cases reported in Delhi this year since March, month-wise;
- (b) the reasons for early out break of the diseases caused due to mosquito bite this year; and

(c) the action taken by various Government agencies to cope with the situation?

Shortage of blood

- 1849. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of blood in various blood banks through out the country, particularly in Delhi where as per a rough estimate of the Indian Society of Blood Transmission and Immunahaematology (ISBI) blood requirement is around 10,000 units per day while supply through various blood banks is only 3000 units;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard, Statewise; and
- (c) the details of the new incentives and measures proposed to introduce and campaigns, if any, proposed to be launched to encourage people to donate blood and to create awareness regarding necessity of blood donation?

Fungus in glucose bottles

- †1850. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether his attention has been drawn towards some cases related to presence of fungus in glucose bottles;
- (b) if so, the action taken in the matter; and
- (c) the number of such cases of negligence which have come to light during the last three years?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Polio Eradication Programme

1851. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

- (a) whether the Polio Eradication Programme is running in Rajasthan and Punjab;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of Polio cases reported in the last three years, year-wise?

AIDS control programme

- †1852. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that inspite of expenditure of crores of rupees by Government on AIDS control programme, it has failed to create awareness among the people;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government have formulated any new plan to run AIDS control programme more effectively; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

15th International AIDS Conference

- 1853. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have reviewed the deliberations at the recently concluded 15th International AIDS Conference in Thailand: and
- (b) if so, the details of time-bound plan of action drawn up, if any, to eradicate the HIV/AIDS epidemic from the country?

IVF facility in AIIMS

1854. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that AIIMS does not have IVF facility and the patients have to approach the private hospitals/clinic where a single IVF attempt costs nearly Rs. 40,000/-;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that AIIMS has already procured the IVF machine costing Rs. 60 lakhs which has not been put on use; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not starting that facility?

Declining child sex ratio

- 1855. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the United Nations Population Fund expressed its serious concern on the declining child sex ratio in the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the child sex ratio in the country from 1971 census; State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to bring equilibrium in the child sex ratio in the country?

Observation of C&AG on HIV infected patients

- 1856. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have reviewed a recent observation of the Comptroller and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Auditor General of India highlighting *interalia* that a large number of HIV infected patients are not being revealed the actual status of their disease which could lead to such persons unknowingly spreading the disease among the un-infected persons and the NACO has failed to discharge its due obligations in this regard; and

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken for proper implementation of the HIV/ AIDS control programme for timely prevention and treatment of the disease?

Free medical check up for senior citizens

1857. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

- (a) whether any schemes are running to give free medical check up for senior citizens in the country;
 - (b) if so, the details of such schemes;
- (c) the details of such schemes in the State of Rajasthan and Punjab; and
- (d) the implementation of such schemes at various levels in Rajasthan and Punjab?

Insurance cover for pregnant women

1858. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to extend insurance cover network for pregnant women to control maternity mortality;
 - (b) if so, the details of the project;

- (c) the rough estimates of deaths related to pregnancy causes per annum; and
- (d) the action plan of Government to control this unabated rise in the deaths of mothers specially in the rural areas?

AIIMS type hospital at Guwahati

1859. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to set up an AIIMS type of hospital at Guwahati to cater the need of the people of Assam and the North-East; and
- (b) what steps have been taken by Government to up-grade the Guwahati Medical College Hospital, Assam Medical College Hospital and Silchar Medical College Hospital as was assured by Government earlier?

Record of foreign patients

1860. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are not maintaining any record of foreign patients coming to India for treatment in spite of offering quality medical treatment at a cost much lower than that of other countries in areas like cardiology, opthalmology, pathology, Indian systems of medicine, etc.;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not maintaining it;
- (c) whether it can think of maintaining a centralised record in co-ordination with the Ministry of External Affairs; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Decentralisation of issuance of Form 10 and test licences

- 1861. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a move to decentralise the issuance of form 10 and Test licences and other related approvals from the Drug Controller's office; and
- (b) if so, the system in place to monitor the process and what angles were taken into consideration?

Expenditure on public healths

- 1862. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) the total amount of money spent on public health in India during the last five years, year-wise togetherwith their percentage in terms of G.D.P.;
- (b) the reasons for their low spending compared to most of our neighbouring countries:
- (c) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount in the current year's budget;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps proposed to attain the goal of "Health for All" laid down in the latest National Health Policy?

TB patients in the country

- 1863. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of T.B. patients in the country, State-wise;

- (b) the number of infections (T.B.) reported in the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the number of people died due to T.B. in the last five years, year-wise and State-wise:
- (d) whether it is a fact that the WHO has expressed its dissatisfaction over the T.B. and Polio eradication programme in the country; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for failure in the above programmes?

Permission for new medical colleges in Tamil Nadu

- 1864. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that permission has been declined to six new Medical Colleges in Tamil Nadu; and
- (b) if so, the criteria for granting permission to start new medical colleges by State Government Departments?

Assistance to NGOs for setting up of hospitals health centres

- 1865. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government provide grant/assistance to NGOs to set up small hospitals/health centres;
 - (b) if so, the details of the scheme; and
- (c) the details of such hospitals/health centres in Tamil Nadu?

Malaria Control Programme in M.P.

- †1866. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the proposal for inclusion of 29 Development Blocks under the extended Malaria Control Programme in Madhya Pradesh was sent to Government;
- (b) whether all the said Blocks have been included under the said programme;
- (c) if not, the number of Development Blocks included under the programme; and
- (d) whether rest of the Development Blocks will be included during the financial year 2004-05?

Health related campaigns programmes and schemes

- †1867. SHRI NARAYAN SINGH KESRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of health related campaigns, programmes and schemes being launched by Government all over the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the people belonging to Scheduled Castes remain deprived of the benefits of the said health related campaigns due to their being on work and uneducated;
- (c) whether Government propose to launch any special campaign of said programmes for the people belonging to these classes;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government propose to open health centres in the Scheduled Castes Colonies throughout the country;

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

CGHS dispensaries in Karnataka

- 1868. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of dispensaries and hospitals located in Karnataka under CGHS;
- (b) the total number of Central Government employees and pensioners, so far, registered under CGHS in Karnataka;
- (c) the number of new dispensaries and hospitals opened in Karnataka during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04; and
- (d) whether Government propose to open new dispensaries and hospitals under CGHS in Karnataka during 2004-05?

Upgradation of Medical Colleges

- 1869. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there is any proposal for the upgradation of the medical colleges of the country;
- (b) if so, the number of the medical colleges chosen for the same; and
- (c) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Orissa for the upgradation of medical colleges of Orissa?

Unused equipments in AIIMS

- 1870. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that AIIMS have been acquiring equipments worth crores of

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

rupees but not putting them to larger gainful use; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to scan through all costly purchases of equipments and their public use?

Population Control Programme

- 1871. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the Population Control Programmes are yet to achieve the targeted results;
- (b) if so, the shift in the policy focus envisaged and the new-measures being initiated/implemented;
- (c) whether the family planning programme is more women centric;
 - (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) if not, the level of the male participation in contraceptive use and sterilization process;
- (f) whether any political consensus has been attempted or achieved to frame any policy guidelines and implementation mechanism to address the concern of population growth; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

National Population Policy

- 1872. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) what was India's population in the year 2003-04 in comparison to other Asian countries:
- (b) when India's National Population Policy was formulated to control day-today increasing population in the country; and

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the strategies/methodologies laid down in the policy indicating the targets fixed during the period 2000–04 and the results achieved till 31st March, 2004, State-wise, particularly in Punjab and Maharashtra?

Formation of Indian Pharmacopocia Commission

- 1873. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government had announced the formation of Indian Pharmacopocia Commission; and
- (b) if so, the details of the same and how different would be its role from the existing Pharmacopocia Committee?

Opening of institute of Medical Sciences in Bangalore

1874. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any plan to open Institute of Medical Sciences in Bangalore in the shape of AIIMS of Delhi; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Yoga classes in Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga

- 1875. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.
- (a) whether free Yoga classes offered to general public in Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi have been

closed down indefinitely from 4th June, 2004 without making any alternative arrangements for hundreds of Yoga sadhakas who used to visit the institute daily for practising yoga;

- (b) whether sadhakas have been agitating against above decision for the last one month and Government have received a number of representations in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the alternative arrangements made for resumption of classes for benefit of sadhakas who are facing several health related problems due to discontinuation of Yoga practice?

Negative publicity of spurious drugs

1876. SHRI ABANI ROY: SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

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

- (a) the total number of samples of drugs that have been lifted by drug inspectors during the last three years all over the country, year-wise;
- (b) the details of percentage of samples declared spurious and the names of persons/Licensed companies manufacturing these drugs; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to stop the negative publicity of spurious drugs?

Flourosis disease in Andhra Pradesh

- 1877. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that several districts particularly Nalgonda district in A.P. are plagued by "Flourosis" disease;

- (b) if so, the steps Government have taken to contain the disease;
- (c) whether any financial assistance has been rendered to the State Government to help tackle the disease; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Anti-AIDS drug prices

1878. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any decision has been taken to constitute a working group including members from Pharmaceutical Industry to chalk-out a strategy to reduce Anti-AIDS Drug prices in India, in order to make these costly drugs available at cheaper rate;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government would form such a working group immediately, as the incurable AIDS disease has become a great menace to the entire nation; for which reducing the costly Anti-AIDS drugs to a much cheaper rate, is the only solution for the survival of AIDS patients for a longer period?

Grant-in-Aid to States under NIAF

- 1879. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) the total Grant-in-Aid released to States under "National Illness Assistance Fund" (NIAF) uptill 31st March, 2004;
- (b) the ailments/diseases eligible for assistance under the scheme;
- (c) whether Government propose to increase the budgetary outlay to the fund;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pesticide residues in food items

1880. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of Medical Research has found that 51 per cent of food items were contaminated with pesticide residues; and
- (b) if so, the steps Government have taken to make checking of food items more stringent?

Supply of Anti-retroviral drug

1881. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the WHO has stopped two Energic Anti-retroviral drugs supplied by a drug company in India, to poor countries;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons behind stopping the supply of ARVs?

HIV/AIDS afflicted people

1882. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: SHRI ANAND SHARMA: SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

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

- (a) the number of people afflicted with HIV/AIDS in india as per U.N. Estimates;
- (b) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure availability of medicines at affordable and cheaper rates; and
- (c) the progress in the development of AIDS vaccine in the country and the estimated date of clinical trials?

Non-survival of infants in paediatric wards of Safdarjung Hospital

1883. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in Safdarjung Hospital in the month of June, 2004, 142 of the 1175 infants admitted into its paediatric wards did not survive;
- (b) whether doctors in emergency department do not attend patients until police register emergency cases; and
- (c) the action proposed to make the public hospitals more responsible to the real needs of the people in health delivery system?

Derecognizing post graduate courses in Vardman Mahavir Medical College

1884. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Medical Council of India derecognized eight post graduate courses in Vardman Mahavir Medical College (Safdarjung Hospital) in Delhi in 2001;
- (b) whether the college authorities deposited Rs. 4 lakhs (Rs. 50,000 per course) in January, 2002 with Medical Council of India as Inspection Fee but Delhi University did not make a formal request to medical Council of India for carrying out necessary inspection for according recognition; and
- (c) the action proposed to be taken by Government to ensure due recognition of the courses by Medical Council of India so that students pursuing these courses do not suffer?

Physiotherapy and occupational therapy

- 1885. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether physiotherapy and occupational therapy are separate disciplines;
- (b) whether physiotherapist can be the in-charge of occupational therapists and *vice-versa*; and
- (c) whether the occupational therapist can practise the physiotherapy?

Guidelines to attend the accident victims

1886. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Government have issued any guidelines to Government Hospitals/Medical Institutions in the country to attend immediately the victims of accidents without waiting for legal medico formalities like F.I.R. etc. from Police; and
- (b) if not, the provisions which exist in I.P.C. Cr. P.C. and Motor Vehicles Act for promptly attending to seriously injured persons?

New guidelines of WHO

1887. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the new guidelines issued by WHO aiming at helping national health authorities to develop reliable information for consumers-guarding against adverse or fatal reactions to so-called traditional or alternative medicines (herbal medicines,

- acupuncture, etc.) purchased across the counter; and
- (b) if so, whether these guidelines have percolated to medical units at district levels for dissemination to general public?

Proposals of Government of H.P.

- †1888. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether he is aware that Himachal Pradesh Government had sent a proposal of Rs. 8.40 crores on 27th February, 2003 to convert Post Graduate Ayurveda College at district Kangra into a Special Model Ayurvedic College and Research Institute in the field of Ayurveda and a proposal of Rs. 66.39 crores on 17th August, 2002 for setting up of a 'Kshar Sutra Centre' in Regional Ayurvedic Hospital, Shimla, for sanction through Directorate of Ayurveda;
- (b) if so, the action taken on these proposals; and
- (c) by when a final decision will be taken in the matter?

Upgradation of PHCs

1889. SHRI BALWANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

- (a) whether Central assistance is provided to States for upgradation of primary health centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided to Maharashtra and number of PHCs upgraded during the last three years, year-wise; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Neo-natal screening to detect genetic defects

1890. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that a Delhi based lab has claimed that their neo-natal screening will detect genetic defects early and prevent irreversible damage;
- (b) if so, whether Government would consider making the same available in major Government hospitals in the country; and
- (c) the complete details of such screening?

Over burdened CGHS dispensaries

- 1891. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that C.G.H.S. dispensaries in Delhi are over burdened, particularly dispensary No. 53 situated at Rajouri Garden;
- (b) whether Government have any proposal to open/construct new dispensaries to reduce the burden on existing dispensaries, particularly of dispensary No. 53 of Rajouri Garden;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Downsizing health staff

1892. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he wants the Central Government to exclude health sector from Government order issued in 2001, for downsizing staff;

- (b) whether it is also a fact that about 7000 posts of doctors, nurses, technicians and other staff are lying vacant in Central Government-run-hospitals across the country but the Ministry can neither fill these vacancies nor create any new posts as per the 2001 order; and
- (c) if so, in what manner Government propose to remedy the situation?

NGOs granted assistance in H.P.

1893. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the list of NGOs granted assistance in the State of Himachal Pradesh during the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, scheme-wise and the criteria for grant;
 - (b) the list of pending proposals; and
- (c) by when the grants are likely to be released for pending proposals?

Budgetary cuts for Deptt. of Family Welfare

1894. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the budgetary cuts for nearly Rs. 160 crores for the Department of Family Welfare in 2004-05 will affect setting up of comprehensive primary health care services at the grassroots level for rural family welfare services;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that while nearly Rs. 160 crores has been deducted from these heads, Government have raised the assistance for the programme on immunization and eradication of Polio by Rs. 196 crores; and
 - (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Special Railway Safety Fund

- 1895. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) when was the Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) created;
- (b) the amount of money allotted to this Fund; and
- (c) how far the SRSF has been utilised since its creation till today?

Using pickles/spices prepared by self-help groups

- †1896. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are considering to use pickles and spices prepared by selfhelp group to add quality and taste to the food served to the passengers by Railways;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Theft at National Rail Museum

- 1897. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that thieves had struck at the National Rail Museum, Chanakya Puri, Delhi on the 28th July, 2004 and stole some parts of the Fairy Queen, a 149-year old steam locomotives;
- (b) if so, the details of the goods stolen from there;
- (c) whether the matter has since been investigated;
 - (d) if so, the outcome thereof;

- (e) whether some employees of the Rail Museum were found involved in this theft; and
- (f) if so, the action taken against them and steps taken to ensure foolproof security at the prestigious Rail Museum?

Working capacity of goods trains

- †1898. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the working capacity of goods trains has come down to 25 per cent due to creation of new Railway Zones due to which there is rise in prices of the essential commodities as they are coming late in the market;
- (b) if so, whether special efforts are being made to increase their slow speed;
- (c) whether Railways is having sufficient number of wagons for carrying goods; and
- (d) if not, whether Railways have issued orders to construct new wagons?

Train accidents on Konkan Railways

1899. SHRI AMAR SINGH: SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of people killed/ injured in train accidents on the Konkan Railways and the amount of assistance that has been given to the victims and injured persons;
- (b) the precise reasons which were responsible for this disaster;
- (c) the steps Government propose to take to avert such accidents in future on this sector; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) what action Government propose to take against the officers concerned who had failed to implement the safety norms, chalked out after the last year's accident?

System of telescopic fares

the road transport system?

Railway projects in Rajasthan and Punjab

1900. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the on going railway projects and surveys in Rajasthan and Puniab:
- (b) the reasons for their slow progress and the expenditure incurred thereon, so far, along with the estimated cost thereof, project-wise;
- (c) the funds allocated to each project during the last three years; and
- (d) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

Contract work on Bogibeel bridge

1901. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that local contractors do not get contract work on Bogibeel bridge and approach road construction project;
- (b) if so, whether Government would take action to do justice to the local contractors to defuse discontentment among them; and
- (c) whether the Ministry will arrange to provide fast moving express goods train to carry various essential commodities in view of the transport bottleneck in the State

1902. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

of Assam due to unprecedent flood affecting

- (a) whether Government are aware that the public wants the system of "telescopic fares" restored:
- (b) whether it is a fact that honest passengers are paying a heavy penalty by not having the "telescopic fare" facility;
- (c) what were the original resources for removing the age old system of "telescopic fares";
- (d) whether Government are not extending any help to honest travellers; and
- (e) the steps proposed to respond positively to this public demand?

Construction of safe light terminal

- 1903. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to take up the construction of Safe Light terminal for railways at Kochuvele in Thiruvananthapuram;
- (b) if so, the time by which the proposal of construction is likely to be commenced;
- (c) whether any decision has been taken to dismantle the goods shed at Kochuvele; and
- (d) if not, whether Government propose to retain the goods shed there?

Augmentation of capacity of Ahmedabad-Mumbai rail line

1904. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the existing capacity of Ahmedabad-Mumbai Railway line has been over-utilised;
- (b) whether Government are considering augmentation of the capacity of this line by providing an additional track; and
- (c) if so, by when this project will be taken up?

Diversion of unused fund for incomplete projects

1905. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the funds earmarked for some Railway projects are lying unutilised with Railways;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry will divert these funds to complete the project which are not yet completed due to the paucity of funds; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

Catering services on trains

1906. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have brought out some changes in the menu catering services for the passengers in the running trains; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

Train derailment near Korva

- †1907. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a goods train derailed from Sarvamangla Bridge near Korva in Chhattisgarh on the night of 16th July, 2003;
- (b) whether the goods train was over loaded with coal;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the investigation was carried out into this accident which revealed that the overloading was the cause of this accident and a case was also registered in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the accused persons?

Bimlagarh -Talcher and Bolangir-Khorda Road Rail link

1908. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated cost of Bimlagarh-Talcher and Bolangir-Khorda Road Rail link project of Orissa;
- (b) the money that has been provided to these projects in the current year Railway Budget; and
- (c) the time frame, Government have set for the completion of these projects?

Conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge

1909. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of metre gauge still in use in the country, State-wise;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) by when these are proposed to be converted into broad gauge; and
- (c) whether Government would give priority to Tamil Nadu in gauge conversion, in view of the neglect the State has been subjected to?

Construction of over-bridges in Bangalore

- 1910. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Railways have taken up the construction of over-bridges at banaswadi and Lingarajapuram in Bangalore in collaboration with Bangalore Mahanager Palika:
- (b) if so, the present status of these works; and
- (c) whether Government would take steps to expedite these works to ease movement of traffic?

Proposal for bifurcation of Sambalpur Railway division

1911. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sambalpur Railway Division in Orissa is proposed to be bifurcated and allocated to different Railway Zones;
 - (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether Government are also aware that bifurcation will result in loss of revenue to the East Coast Railway, which is already cash strapped;
- (d) if so, whether Government have reviewed their decision to maintain the status quo; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Model railway stations

- †1912. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have selected some of the Railway Stations to be upgraded as model stations;
- (b) if so, whether such stations have been selected in Chhattisgarh also; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Shutting down of diesel locomotive

- †1913. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether according to present instructions, if at any place, there is likely obstruction for more than thirty minutes, the diesel locomotive should be shut down;
- (b) if so, whether the CAG has reported a large scale flouting of the said order in its report;
- (c) if so, the action taken against the employees responsible for the same; and
- (d) the quantity of diesel wasted monthwise and monetary loss suffered as a result thereof?

Research and Development by Railways

- 1914. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Research and Development wing of Railways has developed any indigenous equipment or innovation in technology in the recent years;
- (b) if so, to what level the contribution of the research work will enhance the

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

performance of Railways and also minimise the expenditure; and

(c) the details regarding the funds allocated for the R&D work during the last five years?

Recruitment of minorities in Railways

- †1915. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of employees from minorities was 22 per cent in the Railways at the time of independence, which has now reduced to 2 per cent;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government have any plan to provide reservation to the minorities in the recruitment in Railways and if so, the percentage thereof?

Committees on railway accidents

- 1916. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the recommendations of various Committees including Prakash Narain Committee on Railway accidents have since been considered and action taken on them; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

Pending gauge conversion projects

- 1917. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the gauge conversion projects pending for completion as on date, State-wise, especially in Assam;
- (b) whether any target date has been fixed for the completion of those projects;and

(c) the number of those projects likely to be completed by the end of the Tenth Plan?

Developmental projects

- 1918. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the revenue collection during the last two years zone-wise;
- (b) whether development works are undertaken commensurating with the income generated in the zones; and
- (c) if not, how priority for developmental projects is selected?

Filling of backlog in reserved vacancies

- 1919. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the detailed figure of backlogs in all groups of Railway Service in respect of reserved vacancies for Scheduled Tribes;
- (b) what steps have been taken by Government to fill up the vacancies for STs including the backlogs immediately; and
- (c) by when the backlog is likely to be cleared?

Siding track of KRIBHCO

- 1920. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) looking to industrial growth of the area around Hajira Port, whether the Railways connect Hajira Port to its hinterland;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) whether Government would consider extending the siding track of KRIBHCO up to Hajira; and
- (c) if so, the proposed time-frame for completion of the same?

Appointment on compassionate grounds

- 1921. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of representations have been submitted by the Member of Parliament during the period from June to August, 2004 to the Hon'ble Minister for Railways and General Manager, Northern Railways regarding appointment on compassionate grounds against the missing person working in railway from Ajitwal Railway Station, Punjab;
- (b) if so, the number of applications pending with the Ministry/headquarter; and
- (c) the reasons for delay in appointments on compassionate grounds and by when these cases would be settled?

Jammu-Srinagar rail project

- 1922. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the status report of Jammu-Srinagar railway project;
- (b) the amount spent on this project so far;
- (c) the amount likely to be spent on the project during the current financial year;
- (d) by when the project is likely to be completed?

More powers to RPF

1923. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railway Protection Force was provided with more powers to deal with crimes on trains and railway premises to make rail travel safe;
- (b) whether measures announced in the railway budget have been introduced in the railways for curbing offences like sabotage, damage or destruction of railway property and hurting people; and
- (c) if so, to what extent these measures have helped in checking the crimes and robberies?

Demand of farmers for cheap transport

- 1924. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Railways have any plan to provide refrigerated bogies to farmers to bring their produce to cities;
- (b) if so, the steps Government are taking to move with speed to meet demand of farmers for better transport;
- (c) whether any meetings have been held with traders across the country to establish close links; and
- (d) the full details of steps being taken by Government to provide rapid and cheap transport for farmers?

Rail projects in Orissa

- 1925. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that development of rail-network in Orissa has been neglected as compared to its neighbouring States, West Bengal, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that fund allocation for East Coast Railway projects is abysmal which is delaying completion of the prolects;
- (c) whether a request has been received from the State for grant of adequate funds for speedy completion of the existing and new projects; and
- (d) if so, the present status of all these projects and the time-frame within which these would be completed?

Vacant railway land

- 1926. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that huge lands belonging to Railways are lying vacant;
- (b) whether Government propose to lease these lands for commercial purposes to increase the revenue of Railway; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

New trains in Rajasthan

- †1927. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether people of Rajasthan have demanded connectivity of the State by railway lines with various States of the country in view of it's vast potential for the same:

- (b) the steps being taken by Government for introducing new trains from Anoopgarh to Delhi *via* Bhatinda (express train running at night), Jodhpur to Thiruvananthapuram, Amritsar to Mumbai *via* Bikaner, Jodhpur and Ahmedabad and Coimbatore to Jodhpur in this regard;
- (c) if so, the comprehensive details thereof along with the time-limit fixed for the same; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Expenditure incurred by Maharashtra Government

1928. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a huge amount of arrears of expenditure incurred by Government of Maharashtra on Railway Police, is due from the Railways to that Government;
- (b) if so, the amount of such arrears as on 31st March, 2003 and 2004;
- (c) whether any procedure has been laid down for streamlining the clearance of such dues; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and how far it is adopted for implementation?

Decline in ship breaking industry

†1929. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ships

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

which become unfit for operation are broken as scrap in the country;

- (b) whether it is also a fact that two years back India was on top position in the world in this business;
- (c) whether it has now slipped to the third position;
- (d) if not, Government's reaction thereto;
- (e) the reasons for continuous decline of this industry; and
- (f) the names of the countries which are ahead of India in this industry?

Constitution of a committee to study increasing steel prices

†1930. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have constituted a committee which will study constantly increasing prices of steel in the country and submit its report;
- (b) the details of the members of the said committee and by when the committee has been asked to submit its report; and
- (c) the reasons for nominating above members in the committee?

SAIL's programme to increase steel production

1931. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India

has announced an ambitious programme of investment of Rs. 25,000 crore to increase steel production;

- (b) if so, to what extent Government are confident to meet shortage after investing so much money;
- (c) the average production of steel at present; and
- (d) the total demand and to what extent the plan for investment of Rs. 25,000 crore will help in meeting the demand of steel in the country?

Revival of RSP

†1932. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are contemplating any big package for the revival of Rourkela Steel Plant, if so, the details thereof:
- (b) whether Government have any plan to revive the sick enterprises of public sector on the line of Rourkela Steel Plant, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government are also contemplating any package for the factories of Raibarely, Amethi, Naini, Allahabad and Gorakhpur which are lying closed; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Increasing the prices of steel by companies

†1933. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel producing companies of the country have

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- again announced to increase the prices of steel during July and August, 2004;
- (b) if so, the names of companies which have increased the prices of steel and to what extent they have increased the prices of steel:
- (c) whether reasons for such increase have also been mentioned; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have taken any measures to keep check on such hike?

New Delhi; *The 14th August, 2004 Sravana 23, 1926 (Saka)* YOGENDRA NARAIN Secretary-General.

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