

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, the December 20, 2002/Agrahayana 29, 1924 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions—124**

#### **Sugarcane production in Orissa**

3116. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the areas under sugarcane production in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in that regard; and

(c) the details of target set therefor, for the Tenth Five Year Plan for Orissa and other States?

#### **Drought-assistance to States**

3117. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States that have declared the entire State and the number of States that have declared certain districts, as drought affected;

(b) the amount of assistance provided by the Central Government to drought affected States, State-wise; and

(c) the details of other facilities provided to States by different Central Government agencies, organizations?

#### **National policy for farmers**

†3118. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any national policy for improving the economic conditions of the Indian farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Problems of applicants for import permits for meal imports**

3119. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proper mechanism to solve the grievances of applicants for import permits does not exist;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that the concerned officers are irresponsible and refuse to meet the public who come with genuine problems; and

(c) what steps are being taken to make the whole process of issue import permits transparent, as in other Departments?

#### **Research projects for agricultural productivity**

3120. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to implement any new research project for increasing agricultural productivity, under Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the project, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Boosting milk yield**

3121. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as announced by Australian Scientists who have completed a three years project in India, the protein food can boost milk yield in Indian cows; and

(b) if so, when India's National Dairy Development Board would be implementing the same?

#### **Boosting agricultural exports**

3122. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:  
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any

decision for removal of restriction on agricultural exports, to boost country's agricultural exports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Subsidising urea for drought affected States**

3123. SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to subsidise Urea, for the benefit of farmers in drought-affected States;

(b) whether Government have made any long-term planning to face such natural disaster; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Bhoomi e-governance project of Karnataka**

3124. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhoomi e-governance Project of Karnataka for Computerising 20 million rural land records, received Stockholm Challenge Award, if so, which are the other Indian e-governance projects selected for the above award; and

(b) whether there is any proposal with Government to implement the above project in other States also?

#### **Pathetic conditions of agricultural labourers in Tamil Nadu**

3125. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Thanjavour and Trichy regions of

Tamil Nadu are entirely depending on agriculture only;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the pathetic conditions of the agricultural labourers, at the time of monsoon failure;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider to have heavy industries in that region, in order to provide employment for these unemployed labourers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Brackish water Shrimp culture in Orissa**

3126. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases from Orissa awaiting Aquaculture Authority's clearance for taking up Brackish water Shrimp culture and since when;

(b) the reasons for not giving clearance; and

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed by Government for expeditious clearance of requests for Brackish water Shrimp culture from Orissa?

#### **Decreasing availability of land due to use of chemicals**

†3127. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that per capita availability of land is decreasing constantly, due to use of chemicals and insecticides;

(b) if so, whether Geologists and agricultural scientists have insisted to control this tendency;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the policy made/decision taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Assistance for poultry farming in A.P.**

3128. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are providing 100 per cent Central assistance for strengthening poultry farming in States;

(b) if so, how much financial assistance has been provided to the Andhra Pradesh Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance for poultry farming in villages and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Agriculture Insurance Corporation**

3129. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agriculture Insurance Corporation of India is set to become a reality by January, 2003;

(b) whether earlier schemes like Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme and National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) were full of shortcomings and needed to be reviewed; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this case, the advantages of and the need for the new schemes?

#### **Seed Crop Insurance Scheme**

3130. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 266, given in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the Rajya Sabha on the 17th December, 2001 and to state the details of sum assured for each crop and the number of farmers covered under the pilot scheme on Seed Crop Insurance, State-wise?

**Fund for drought hit farmers**

3131. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:  
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to create Rs. 500 crore fund, for providing relief package to drought-hit farmers; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this scheme?

**Conversion of waste land *vis-a-vis* employment generation**

†3132. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 120 million people of the country can be provided employment, by converting the waste land of the country into cultivable land;

(b) if so, the assessment of Government in this regard; and

(c) the names of States where such waste land is available and the State-wise number of persons who can be provided employment, after its conversion into cultivable land?

**Excise duty exemption on diesel for fishermen**

3133. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reimburse the Central Excise Duty on diesel oil, used by fishermen, and enhancement of the present ceiling limit from 35 paise to Rs. 2.25 per litre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the extent of relief proposed to be given to the fishermen?

**Exemption of royalty for HF radio sets in A.P.**

3134. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought exemption of royalty and licence fee, payable to the Ministry of Telecommunications, on very High Frequency radio sets/shore communication stations, used by the fishermen; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the relief proposed to be given to the fishermen in this regard?

**Foodgrains scam**

3135. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 19th August, 2002 under the caption, "Grains meant for poor sold for profit";

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

(c) whether any enquiry has been initiated in the matter to bring the culprits to book; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Excessive use of fertilizers and insecticides**

‡3136. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers are using more than the required quantity of fertilizers and insecticides;

(b) if so, whether any concerted efforts are being made for educating the farmers, about the ill-effects of usage of fertilizers and insecticides, optimum use of underground water and other resources, for increasing yield; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Growth rate of food production**

3137. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present growth rate of food production, in terms of population growth, in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the growth rate shows a downward trend for the first time, after independence;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would consider to supply foodgrains stored in the godowns, free of cost to the poor, to prevent starvation death incidents;

(e) whether it is a fact that the FCI godowns in Kerala are piled with foodgrains; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Pulse and oilseeds production**

3138. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target fixed for production of oilseeds and pulses, during the year 2001-02, has been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the various incentives being provided to farmers to motivate them to take up cultivation of these crops, on a large scale?

**Farmers conditions**

3139. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has emerged as an agriculture power, but most of the farmers continue to live in pathetic conditions;

(b) whether it is also a fact that though agriculture is the backbone of our economy, much more remains to be done, to improve the lot of farmers;

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(d) whether new farm pricing model and reforms in farm sector can improve the lot of farmers, to certain extent; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction?

**Oilseeds production in Andhra Pradesh**

3140. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite being a major oilseeds producing State, the

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

production of oilseeds in Andhra Pradesh has decreased considerably, during the last three years;

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

(c) the main reasons for decrease in the production; and

(d) what incentives are being given and how Government propose to motivate the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, to take up cultivation of oilseeds, in a big way?

#### **Fall in sale of fertilizers**

3141. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sale of fertilizers had fallen considerably during the Kharif season, due to severe drought experienced in several parts of the country and as a result, the agricultural production is likely to decline; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Tests on Bt cotton by ICAR**

†3142. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN  
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council for Agricultural Research is conducting tests on utility of Bt cotton hybrids, from the point of view of its production in northern parts of the country;

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

(c) by when the said tests are likely to be completed;

(d) whether Government have taken any decision with regard to yield of Bt cotton in Northern India, till the tests are completed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Apple production**

†3143. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of apple produced in major apple growing States in the country, during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the area of apple cultivation in such States is decreasing; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of steps to be taken by Government, to encourage such States for producing apples?

#### **Help to fishermen for mechanized fishing**

3144. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA  
RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to provide help to the poor fishermen of the country, during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have marked any limit along the coastline of the country, debarring mechanized fishing; and

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**WTO Agreement on Agriculture**

3145. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been, drawn to the news-item captioned, 'India seeks WTO rethink on agriculture, appearing in the Statesman dated the 25th October, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have been actively considering to negotiate the WTO Agreement on Agriculture;

(c) if so, whether Government have been facing several problems in implementation of the Agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to resolve the issues?

**Oilseeds and rice production**

3146. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:  
SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic Mustard industry has projected that the Kharif 2002-2003 oilseeds production, including the short early Rabi Toria crop, would be around 40-41 lakh tonnes only, including the Rabi crop;

(b) if so, whether a survey has established that the area under Mustard cultivation is going down annually, as a result of a compendium of reasons;

(c) whether India's rice production this year would also drop by 10 million to 80 million tonnes; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the shortage of Mustard oil and rice in the country?

**NCDC loans for co-operatives**

3147. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Co-operative Development Co-operation proposed that for extending loans, preferential treatment would be given to States, which undertook co-operative reforms;

(b) if so, the details of reforms and the States yet to introduce reforms in co-operative laws;

(c) the number of co-operatives in rural areas, State-wise, category-wise;

(d) the details of financial assistance sanctioned to co-operatives by NCDC during the last three years, especially in rural areas, year-wise, State-wise, separately;

(e) whether NCDC can sanction funds directly to co-operatives; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

**Kharif crop production**

3148. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimate of Kharif crop output this season;

(b) what was the total production of this crop last year;

(c) the causes of downfall this year; and

(d) steps taken to increase production in coming years?

**Voluntary Separation Scheme in HFCL**

3149. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in

the Bengali Daily Anand Bazar Patrika dated the 22nd October, 2002 under the caption, "Sar Karkhana Khola Rakhte Kendrer Udyog";

(b) if so, whether the contents of the news items are true; if so, whether the VSS circular already issued by HFCL authorities has been kept in abeyance; and

(c) if not, the exact position thereof?

#### **Import of Medopar medicine**

3150. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medopar medicine for treatment of Parkinson disease, is being imported in the country at a very high price;

(b) whether Government have ordered any probe, to ascertain the correct import price; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the same medicine, in generic form is available in the country at much lower price; if so, what is the justification in importing the same at a high price?

#### **Karnataka High Court judgement on National Pharmaceutical Policy**

3151. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka High Court, in its judgement dated 12th November, 2002 has declared National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2002 arbitrary and violative of the Constitution and Essential Commodities Act; and

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

#### **Demand of fertilizers**

3152. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total demand of fertilizers per annum and the quantity produced in India; and

(b) how the gap of supply due to closure of the Sindri and Durgapur units is proposed to be met?

#### **Fertilizer production in HLL**

3153. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Haldia unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation is having an agreement with Hindustan Lever Limited, for utilizing the Ammonia storage facility of Haldia unit;

(b) if so, whether disruption of this facility on account of Government's decision to close down Haldia unit would affect and lead to closure of fertilizer production in HLL; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to defer VSS in Haldia unit, to ensure utilization of Ammonia storage plant of HFCL?

#### **Recommendations of GoM on subsidy**

†3154. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee of Ministers, under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, had been constituted to give suggestions on fertilizers industry;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(b) if so, the names of other Ministers members in this Committee;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said Committee has recommended in its report to withdraw subsidy from fertilizers; and

(d) if so, by when the subsidy has been recommended to be withdrawn?

#### **Closure of Barauni and Durgapur fertilizer units**

3155. MISS MABEL REBELLO:  
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is proposed to close down fertilizer units at Durgapur and Barauni; if so, the reasons for their closure;

(b) how the staff of both these units would be adjusted, after the closure; and

(c) how much would VRS cost to the exchequer?

#### **Production of Bio-fertilizers**

†3156. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that now-a-days emphasis is on bio-fertilizers all over the world;

(b) if so, the percentage of bio-fertilizers out of the total quantum of fertilizers being utilised in India; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to enhance the use of bio-fertilizers and to increase production thereof?

#### **Privatisation of vehicle repair and pollution checks**

3157. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recommendations of experts to privatise vehicle repair and pollution checks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the main recommendations of experts in this regard;

(d) whether the Ministry is considering implementation of the same; and

(e) if so, whether the Ministry has set any time-frame for the same?

#### **Commitment for conservation of forests at Earth Summit**

3158. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation was present at the Conference in Johannesburg on Sustainable Forestry recently;

(b) if so, the details of this delegation;

(c) what was the contribution of this delegation;

(d) whether any commitment has been made by India to conserve forests; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Unsolved issues of Johannesburg Earth Summit**

3159. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after a document on

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

sustainable development of the Earth has been finalised, a number of issues like targets for increase in amount of power generated from renewable sources, the insistence of developed countries to link the demand for aid with rights recorded and democracy of the developing nations, and the latter's demand for cut in subsidies to farmers in developed countries, remained unsolved and were subject to controversy;

(b) if so, the details of the subjects and issues on which controversy continued to persist; and

(c) what steps are being taken in this regard?

#### **Integrated Forestry Development Project in Gujarat**

3160. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal of Gujarat Government on Integrated Forestry Development Project has been lying with Ministry of Finance for long, pending clearance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the said proposal would be cleared by the Ministry of Finance and sent to JBIC?

#### **Gujarat Forestry Development Project**

3161. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government has submitted a new forestry development project for funding by JBIC;

(b) whether the proposal has been passed on to JBIC; and

(c) if not, by when it is proposed to be passed on to JBIC?

#### **Central amount for Bhadra Wild Life Sanctuary**

3162. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for purposes of acquisition of land for setting up Wild life sanctuary at Bhadra, Government of India are yet to release the balance amount of Rs. 7.32 crore; and

(b) if so, by when the funds are proposed to be released?

#### **Yamuna pollution by Indraprastha power station**

†3163. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Capital's oldest Power generation centre, Indraprastha Power Station, is polluting the Yamuna river;

(b) whether the quantity of the suspended solids has been found many times more than the prescribed standard, after the sample test of emissions conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in the power station; and

(c) if so, the details of plan formulated to save the Yamuna river from pollution and to reduce the quantity of solid emitted by the power station?

#### **Foreign funds for afforestation in Assam**

3164. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds granted by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

international institutions for development of Afforestation Projects in Assam during the last three years;

(b) the details of amount remained unutilised during that period; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this respect?

#### **Development of Forests Department in H.P.**

3165. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to Himachal Pradesh for development of Departments of Environment and Forests during the last three years, till date;

(b) the amount utilised in State till 31st October, 2002 in this regard; and

(c) the details of specific reasons for non-utilisation of allocated funds by the State, indicating the balance in hand as on date?

#### **Awareness about Ozone depletion**

3166. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are spending time and funds on creating awareness about Ozone depletion in the country;

(b) if so, the efforts and funding involved this year;

(c) whether it is a fact that the concerned Directorate is very slow in responding to public demands for activity;

(d) the steps proposed to ensure that Government respond immediately to demands for camps and other awareness creating activities; and

(e) what other steps Government propose to assist NGOs to help preserve the environment?

#### **Felling of trees by DDA**

3167. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to his Ministry's notice that the Delhi Development Authority is indiscriminately felling trees in Delhi, to construct flats in several areas, including Vasant Kunj and Vasant Vihar;

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

(c) whether there are different norms for Government organisations and ordinary persons in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken against Delhi Development Authority?

#### **Environment clearance of Chheligada irrigation project**

3168. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: SHRI B. J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether the Chheligada Irrigation Project in Gajapati district of Orissa is awaiting clearance from the Centre, for de-reservation of forest area;

(b) whether Government are aware that on completion of this multipurpose project, it would provide drinking water and irrigation facilities to different districts of the State; and

(c) if so, the present status of the case?

### **Betterment of Matheran**

3169. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article captioned "State scorns SC Order on Matheran", which appeared in 'The Indian Express', dated the 16th October, 2002; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to address various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the article, for the betterment of Matheran and its surrounding areas?

### **Action plan for mountain development**

3170. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level National Committee has been constituted to prepare an action plan for mountain development; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of the Committee and by when it is expected to submit its report?

### **Eviction from forest land**

3171. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments have been directed to summarily evict encroachments of forest land;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, the guidelines for determining encroachment, quantum of forest land under encroachment and evicted, during the last three years and

the number of affected families, State-wise;

(c) whether representations have been made to relax rules, as there is human aspect to the problem and the so-called encroachment is actually farming and forest-based activities, carried out by tribal and other backward people for ages, in harmony with nature; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

### **Environment action plan for Bangalore**

3172. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for rehabilitation of existing trunk sewers, civil structure and electrical metallic installations, etc, in Bangalore at a cost of Rs. 49.50 crores, has been submitted to Government;

(b) if so, the present stage of consideration of the proposal; and

(c) by when the sanction of funds to the Karnataka Government is expected?

### **Species of plants and animals**

†3173. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of species and sub-species of plants and wild animals in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that smuggling of body parts of wild animals is the second largest, next to smuggling of narcotic drugs, and the killings of wild animals and smuggling of their body parts is still continuing, despite existing laws and restrictions;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government are contemplating to enact strict laws to protect the extincting wild life and plants and to stop their smuggling; and

(d) if not, in what manner protection of wild animals and plants would be ensured?

#### **Global warming**

3174. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts Government are making to create an eco-friendly environment in the country in light of the statement of the Prime Minister at UN Climate Change Conference contradicting the change that developing countries generate green house gas emission which are unnecessary for their economies;

(b) whether Government are mobilizing world opinion so as to motivate developed countries to make a greater contribution to check global warming; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **US report on food processing machinery in India**

3175. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study conducted by the US Industry Market Research Group Freedonia has pointed out that India would be the fastest growing national market worldwide for food processing machinery with domestic demand for food and beverage products growing by leaps and bounds;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the study report; and

(c) to what extent India's food processing machinery would be encouraged in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

#### **Export of processed foods**

3176. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether increased food safety norms would help in improving the exports of Rs. 25,00,000 million agro products and processed food products;

(b) if so, whether India's share in global agro-products market is \$ 6 billion, considered to be too small and negligible, and with increased focus on food safety norms, exports can rise further; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to help the processed food exports?

#### **Operationalising food parks in States**

3177. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food parks sanctioned to be set up in various States so far, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for slow progress in operationalising the food parks; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to ensure that all the conditions necessary for the success of food parks, are put in place quickly?

### Promotion of FPIs

3178. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantity and value of fruits and vegetables destroyed/lost due to absence of food processing industries, in and around the areas of their cultivation; and

(b) the steps, if any, taken/initiated by Government to establish and/or to promote establishment of food processing units in such areas, with a view to save loss of Agricultural Produce and its value to the cultivator?

(a) whether Government have threatened to withdraw funds allocated to States, for setting up and operating food parks, if there is no visible progress in the next six months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not implementing the Scheme by the States;

(c) whether Government are considering extension of this Scheme to the Tenth Five Year Plan and an outlay of Rs. 250 crore has been set for this purpose; and

(d) if so, which States have not implemented the Scheme so far?

### Control on Import of processed foods

3179. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to impose strict controls on imports of processed foods in the country, by amending the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cases of dumping processed foods by various countries in India have come to the notice of Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government thereon?

### Non-implementation of Food Parks Scheme

3180. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

### Enrolments in 1st standard in Kendriya Vidyalayas

3181. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that enrolments in the 1st standard in Kendriya Vidyalayas have gone down progressively, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the causes responsible therefor; and

(c) the details of such enrolments during the current and the preceding three years?

### NCSE employees absorbed in NCERT

3182. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether service period of employees of NCSE, who were later absorbed in NCERT are taken into account for pension purposes;

(b) if so, whether those services are counted for promotion under ACP scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether DoPT has been consulted in the matter; and

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

#### **Yoga institutes**

†3183. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open more Yoga Institutes in the country;

(b) if so, the locations identified therefor; and

(c) by when these institutes are likely to be set up?

#### **Deemed Universities**

3184. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Deemed Universities existing in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending for such Universities;

(c) the guidelines for giving such permission; and

(d) whether it is a fact that promoters of such Universities appoint themselves and their family members as Chancellors/VCs, if so, whether Government propose to check such practices?

#### **Harassment of SCs and OBCs in KVS**

†3185. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of complaints of harassment of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sansthan have increased during the last five years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that officials and principals, against whom such complaints are received, are protected in the inquiries; if so, whether complaints of favouritism have been received against them also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what corrective and remedial steps have been taken in this regard?

#### **Honorarium to Anganwadi workers**

3186. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced that honorarium of Anganwadi workers and helpers would be doubled; and

(b) if so, by when this announcement is going to be implemented?

#### **Task force for students' problems**

†3187. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a Task Force to solve the problems of students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, a final decision in this regard is expected to be taken?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Unfair means in annual examinations**

‡3188. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tendency of using unfair means and copying in annual examinations among students is on the rise due to the prevalent education system in the country;

(b) if so, whether it signifies the declining level of the education system;

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken to check it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Universalisation of primary education in M.P. and Chhattisgarh**

‡3189. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise amount received during the last three years from Central Government and foreign countries for universalisation of primary education in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(b) what were the targets fixed therefor;

(c) the details of the heads in which the said amount has been spent; and

(d) the details of the targets achieved through this scheme?

**Re-evaluation of university results in Delhi**

3190. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Universities in Delhi have not introduced the system for re-evaluation of results of examinations so

far, while the same has been introduced in the University of Delhi;

(b) if so, which Universities have not introduced the system so far and the steps Government propose to take, in the interest of students;

(c) whether despite absence of the above procedure, students of those Universities have applied for rechecking of their results/ answer books; and

(d) if so, whether Government would advise the Universities to convert the applications for rechecking, into re-evaluation of results; if not, the reasons therefor?

**Donations for admission in public schools**

3191. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether various public schools affiliated to CBSE, like Apeejay School, Pitam Pura, Delhi, are taking donations while giving admissions in their schools;

(b) whether donation has been made compulsory in the name of admission fees in that school;

(c) the criteria of Apeejay Public School, Pitam Pura, Delhi for admission of a child in Lower K.G. for academic session 2003-2004;

(d) whether school authorities have been discriminating in income/social criteria and are not following the guidelines issued by Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action Government propose to take against the school?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



### **Amendment in rape laws**

3192. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA  
SEKAR REDDY:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has  
been drawn to the press report which  
appeared in Hindu dated 3rd December,  
2002, under the heading, "Report on  
overhaul of rape laws gathering dust";

(b) if so, whether an overhaul of the  
rape law is not just the demand of women's  
organizations and recommendation of the  
Law Commission of India, even  
Government's task force advocated several  
changes in the rape laws as recently as April,  
2002;

(c) if so, to what extent Government have  
examined various points raised in the press  
report; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take  
to implement the rape laws, pending for  
action?

### **Navodaya Vidyalayas in Uttaranchal**

†3193. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will  
the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Uttaranchal  
where Navodaya Vidyalayas have not been  
opened yet; and

(b) by when Navodaya Vidyalayas  
would be started in those districts?

### **Central Schools in Himachal Pradesh**

3194. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will  
the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Schools  
running in Himachal Pradesh, district- wise;

(b) the number of students supposed to  
be in each class of these schools, as per  
rules;

(c) whether the number of students in  
schools in remote areas is very less; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government  
to solve this problem?

### **Startegy for female literacy**

3195. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the  
Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what strategies Government have  
adopted to improve female literacy in the  
country; and

(b) the progress made, as a result  
thereof?

### **Implementation of noon meal scheme by Tamil Nadu**

3196. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the  
Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of  
implementation of nutritious noon meal  
scheme by the Government of Tamil Nadu,  
for the last two decades;

(b) whether Central Government would  
provide financial assistance for this scheme,  
which is implemented in several States of  
the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.





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**Culture and values in education**

3197. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether two-thirds of the BE of the scheme to strengthen culture and values in education remained unutilised during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether only one agency has received 19 to 27 percent of the grant under the scheme, during the last two years, despite the agency violating the scheme norms?

**Budget Estimate for scholarship**

3198. DR. A.R. KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether around 73 percent of Plan BE sanctioned for scholarships, was not utilised in 2000-2001 and the non-utilisation rate of Plan BE was higher in 2001-2002;

(b) if so, what are the year-wise and programme-wise physical targets which could not be met;

(c) whether the Department has conducted any review meeting, to minimise non-utilisation of funds for scholarships; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Women welfare scheme in West Bengal**

3199. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central schemes for women's welfare are in operation in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds or any other assistance sanctioned for these schemes;

(d) whether the schemes are being monitored through N.G.O.s and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government are receiving utilisation certificates from the monitoring agencies regularly and if so, the details thereof?

**Increase in distant education centres**

3200. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an unprecedented rise in the number of distant education centres attached to various universities and professional Institutes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, university-wise and Institute-wise, during the last three years;

(c) whether Government are satisfied as to the quality of education and training in these education centres; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to regulate the centres and their course contents?

**Budget Estimate for NCERT**

3201. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 25 percent of Plan BE sanctioned to NCERT was not utilized during the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the year-wise

programme-wise targets, which could not be met; and

(c) whether the department has conducted any review meeting to augment utilisation of the resources, sanctioned to NCERT; if so, the details thereof?

#### **Balika Samridhi Yojana**

3202. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Balika Smridhi Yojana in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to publicise this Yojana in that State and in rest of the country?

#### **Funds for vocational courses in Uttar Pradesh**

3203. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount allotted to Uttar Pradesh for its Colleges and Universities, for starting vocational courses, during the year 2001-2002;

(b) the amount proposed to be allotted for the purpose for 2002-2003;

(c) the college-wise details in the State which have been granted funds for vocational courses; and

(d) the details of achievements made so far, in this respect?

#### **Hostels in Delhi University**

3204. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of progress made and utilization status

of funds for the two hostel buildings constructed in Delhi University, funded by North East Council?

#### **Child prostitution**

3205. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly two million children are forced into prostitution every year, even fifty five years after independence as reported in the Statesmen of August 12, 2002;]

(b) if so, whether Government have caused a probe into the affairs and circumstances in which children are abused, exploited and sold, to be driven into prostitution; if so, with what results; and

(c) whether Government have prepared any comprehensive programme or plan of action to effectively curb and prevent the social menace, affecting our children, the future of the nation?

#### **Delay in grants for JRF**

3206. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC has delayed in sanctioning grants to Junior Research Fellowship (Foreign Nationals Engineering & Technology and National Education Testing Qualified) during the year 2002-2003;

(b) whether the delay in sanctioning such grants is causing serious hardships for the scholars in carrying out the research work smoothly; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

### Sati incidents

3207. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:  
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sati incidents that took place in the country since 1996; year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware of the sati incidence that took place in August in Panna district in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that Sati incidents are on the rise in the country;

(d) the number of people who have been arrested or punished under the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987, since 1996, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent Sati in the country?

### Representation of NE in National history

3208. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:  
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3422, given in Rajya Sabha on the 26th April, 2002 and state:

(a) whether NCERT has taken any action to place the North East India in the national history, socio-culture, geography and other major NCERT Text Books; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress thereof?

### Education for non-recognised degrees in Central Universities

†3209. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:  
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Universities are not only imparting education for non-recognised degrees, but they are also ahead in cheating Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the University Grants Commission, which extends help to Universities, is also negligent on this count;

(c) whether 13 Central Universities have usurped an amount of more than Rs. 27 crore, receiving from the UGC, due to the favour shown by the UGC officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### Budget Estimate for Book promotion

3210. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:  
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is that more than 56 percent, 53 percent, 66 percent and 50 percent of the Plan BE, sanctioned for book promotion in the four years between 1998 and 2002, remained unutilised;

(b) if so, what are the year-wise, programme-wise and agency-wise, physical targets, which could not be met; and

(c) whether the department has conducted any review meeting to minimise the staggering non-utilisation of funds for book promotion and if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Financial rights of NCE**

3211. PROF. M. -: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has curtailed the financial rights of the National Commission for Women (NCW);

(b) if so, whether it is in violation of the 1990 NCE act;

(c) if so, what are the financial implications of such an action;

(d) whether it would affect the functioning of the State Commissions for Women;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons behind curtailing financial rights of the NCE?

### **Kendriya/Navodaya Vidyalayas in NER**

3212. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open Kendriya/Navodaya Vidyalayas for children of hilly and tribal areas of North Eastern Region;

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

(c) the amount allocated for construction work of these Vidyalayas in the Region; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **ICHR Chairman's advice for writing text book**

3213. DR. A. R. KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICHR Chairman has advised Government not to be involved in writing history text books; and

(b) if so, whether Government would implement his suggestion?

### **Relaxation in tutorial attendance**

3214. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NCERT and NCTE do not have a uniform policy for relaxation of tutorial attendance for students, studying on correspondence courses in B.ed. in Madhya Pradesh;

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

(c) what are the reasons that relaxation has been given in some districts but not in Devas district; and

(d) by when the relaxation is likely to be extended to students of Devas district and a uniform policy is adopted?

### **Sections in KV Classes**

3215. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all the Kendriya vidyalayas in Delhi have only three sections in each class now;

(b) if so, the details of section-strength of each class in each Kendriya vidyalaya, in each of the three preceding academic sessions; and

(c) what has been the fate of students of sections, abolished during the above period?

**Strike by DU teachers**

†3216. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi University teacher's had observed a strike in September, 2002, in protest against the UGC instructions;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the strike;

(c) whether Government are aware of the future of students is being jeopardized, due to the politics on account of the demands of teachers and the decisions of the UGC; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to end the dead lock, keeping in view the future of the students?

**Privatisation of Primary Sections in Kendriya Vidyalayas**

3217. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise the primary sections in Kendriya Vidyalayas from the next academic year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any restriction has been imposed on appointment of teachers in primary sections;

(d) whether Government propose to introduce any changes in the exiting teachers strength of Kendriya Vidyalaya; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Rejection of NCERT new text books**

3218. SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sixteen States, including the Delhi Government, have rejected NCERT's new textbooks on History and Social Sciences;

(b) if so, what would be the percentage of circulation there after; and

(c) the total number and percentage of CBSE alliliated schools, which would not be accepting the new textbooks, because of Delhi Government's decision?

**Amendment in transfer guidelines in KVs**

3219. SHRI V.V. RAGAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has amended/is going to amend the existing Transfer Guidelines for its employees; and

(b) if so, the details of amendments made/being made, alongwith the justification, if any?

**Expeditions to Antarctica**

3220. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times expeditions have been launched to Antarctica;

(b) the main purpose for launching the expeditions;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to launch any expenditure to Antarctica, in the near future; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(d) if so, when and the steps taken in the matter?

#### **Subways at railway level crossings**

†3221. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway level crossings without gates throughout the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the bridges or sub-ways are proposed to be constructed on all such crossings;

(c) if so, the time-schedule fixed for completion of such construction work on unmanned railway crossings and the Budget provisions made therefor;

(d) whether any co-operation is proposed to be sought from the State Governments also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **EMU Halt between Kalua and Somna**

3222. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no Railway Station or halt for stoppage of EMUs and passenger trains, between Kalua and Somna Railway Stations near Khurja Station in Northern Railway, due to which public face problems for up and down journeys to Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government have received requests/representations from the public recommended by members of Parliament; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to create a new railway station or halt between Kalua and Somna railway stations for the convenience of the public?

#### **Rail bridge over Saryu in Ayodhya**

†3223. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Railway bridge being constructed over Saryu river in Ayodhya and by when this bridge is likely to be opened for traffic;

(b) to what extent the distance between Gorakhpur and Allahabad will be minimised;

(c) whether there is a proposal to run any intercity train between Allahabad and Gorakhpur, via this route;

(d) whether some South-bound trains, via Gorakhpur to Banaras, would be operated from this route; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Remodelling of Bangalore railway station**

3224. SHRI M.V. RAJA-SHEKHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Bangalore city (SBC) station lounge constructed and the number of trains added up since then;

(b) the measures taken to ease the congestion and whether there is any proposal for further expansion;

(c) the steps taken to improve passenger amenities like retiring rooms which are very few at present; and

(d) what are the future plans to develop the 2nd entry at SBC; and

(e) whether Government have any programme for overall beautification and remodelling of Bangalore city railway station (SBC)?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**New train from Bangalore to New Delhi**

3225. SHRI M.V. RAJA-SHEKHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two trains are running daily from the Southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, to the capital;

(b) whether there is any proposal to start a 2nd train from Bangalore to New Delhi; and

(c) if so, by when it would be taken up and what is the current demand position of KK Express?

**Length of rail tracks in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh**

†3226. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of the rail tracks, in K. Ms. extended in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on extension of rail tracks during the said period; and

(c) the length of rail tracks, in K. Ms. where electric engines and Diesel engines are being run, separately?

**Threats by terrorists to NDLs**

†3227. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn towards the persisting threats from terrorists being recieved in the reservation counter of the Northern Railway situation at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of persons who come there every day to get their tickets reserved;

(c) whether the aforesaid office has been given the status of heritage; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government, so far, to provide to security the said building?

**Railways against Electricity Boards**

†3228. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outstanding dues of the Railways against various Electricity Boards, as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that the railways had stopped coal carriage of these borads due to non-payment of dues by them;

(c) if so, the names of such Electrically Boards; and

(d) the details of impact of these steps by the Railways on the production of electricity?

**Theft of electric wires in Railways**

†3229. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thieves are causing damage worth lacs of rupees, by stealing the electric wire of Railways and the department is completely incompetent, due to which the traffic remains interrupted for hours together;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents that look place during the last three years and at which places and the details of the damage caused; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the names of persons found guilty and the action taken against the persons responsible for these incidents?

**Gauge conversion between Bikaner and Delhi**

†3230. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the survey conducted for gauge conversion between Bikaner and Delhi, via Rewari; and

(b) by when the work for this gauge conversion from Bikaner to delhi would be started?

**Rail infrastructure in Orissa**

3231. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa is far behind in rail route length per thousand square kilometers, as against the national average of 19 kms and the adjoining state figure of 30-40 kms;

(b) whether it is a fact the state is being continuously neglected in allocation of funds for various projects in the state vis-a-vis its neighbours;

(c) if so, what is holding up speedy development of rail infrastructure in the State and the steps proposed to overcome this; and

(d) the details of budgetary allocations made, year-wise, during the last three years and their final utilization for individual projects in the state?

**Employment on compassionate grounds in railways**

†3232. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of in Ministry cases pending for employment on compassionate grounds in various Railway Zones, as on 30th November, 2002;

(b) the details of action being taken by Government to dispose of such cases, expeditiously; and

(c) by when all the cases for employment on compassionate grounds would be disposed of?

**Queues for rail tickets at NDLS**

†3233. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long queues at the New Delhi Railway Station for purchasing tickets and that sometimes even the trains are missed while buying tickets;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make any arrangement to remove difficulties of passengers in purchasing tickets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Conversion of MG line between Kasganj and Kanpur**

3234. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made so far in conversion of Kasganj Kanpur MG rail line, in the BG;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) what steps are being taken to expedite the conversion; and

(c) by when the line so converted would become operational?

**Sale of Platform tickets through machines**

3235. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM:  
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is considering any proposal to install machines at Railway Stations to sell platform tickets; and

(b) if so, how many railway stations have been identified for this purpose?

**Late running of Kalindi Express**

3236. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kalindi Express from Delhi reaches its destination invariably late, and the commuters miss the connecting train to Kanpur; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to meet the situation?

**Frequency of Chennai Rajdhani express**

3237. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bi-weekly Chennai Rajdhani express is having good occupancy;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to increase its frequency from the existing bi-weekly to six days a week; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the commuting time to around 24 hours, to make it more attractive and popular with the passengers?

**Payment of cases by Konkan railway**

3238. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Konkan railway has not paid Rs. 1.75 crores as N.A. cess (Tax) to the Collector, in spite of repeated reminders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to pay the above tax?

**Engineers and workers for safety**

3239. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of engineers and workers on roll and entrusted with rail safety, track maintenance, bridge maintenance, etc., as on 31st March in 1990 and 2002; and

(b) the number of engineers and workers on roll for the above works under Eastern Railway, before and after the bifurcation?

**New train between Rewari and Delhi**

3240. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the new time table a new train was to be introduced between Rewari and Delhi, from July, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the train has been introduced as proposed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be introduced?

### **Rail projects in Orissa**

3241. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:  
SHRI MANMOHAN SAMAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going railway projects in Orissa;

(b) the progress of each project, as on date;

(c) the year-wise allocation made for execution of individual projects, during the last three years;

(d) the target data for their completion;

(e) the original estimated cost of those projects;

(f) whether allocations made were fully utilized in that particular financial years or were carried forward to next financial years giving the details thereof, with reasons; and

(g) whether paucity of resources is the main reason for slow execution of projects; if so, the steps taken to overcome the bottleneck?

### **Rail recruitment examinations in AP**

3242. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of growing tension between locals and non-locals in Orissa and the large number of regular incidences resulting in violence against Andhra Pradesh candidates, who had to appear for Railway recruitment examinations only in Orissa, Government propose to issue a mandatory order for the Railways to permit Andhra Pradesh candidates to appear for any Railway recruitment examination, for any category at any place within Andhra Pradesh, selected by recruitment authorities;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would propose a solution to this regular crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Rape in local train at Mumbai**

3243. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:  
SHRI H.K. JAVARA GOWDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the rape committed on a mentally retarded, minor girl, in a local train at Mumbai, as reported in the Indian Express dated 17th August, 2002;

(b) whether any compensation/relief was paid to the victim;

(c) whether the Railways have deployed any special force, to prevent such incidents; and

(d) if so, the details of the development and incidents reported there after?

### **Declining traffic in trains**

3244. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are witnessing a continuous decline in traffic for the second and first AC classes in Rajdhani, mainly due to competing discounted fare schemes announced by some airlines, recently;

(b) if so, the details of the monthly traffic for the second and first AC classes in Rajdhani during the last six months, in different Railway Zones; and

(c) the studied reasons for decline in revenues, especially since August, 2002, and the steps taken to meet the challenging competition of the airlines?

### **Distressed Dhawe Bridge**

3245. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bridge over the river Dhawe, near Rafiganj, where rail accident took place was one of the 262 bridges identified as 'Distressed' in the report of Railway Safety Review Committee;

(b) if so, whether Distressed bridges have been strengthened; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not strengthening this bridge?

### **Mou with Karnataka for heritage train**

3446. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had insisted the Karnataka Government to incorporate a clause on revenue sharing before signing a Memorandum of Understanding for running the heritage tourist train, Palace on Wheels;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has indicated that it was not practical for the State Government to pay a minimum amount of money and both the State Government and the Railways should bear the loss and profit equally; and

(c) whether Government would take step to delete the above clause which was not in the MoU signed by the Railways with Maharashtra Government?

### **Rail Booking through internet**

3247. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have started booking through internet;

(b) if so, in which regions this facility is available in the country; and

(c) what is the mechanism for payment, apart from credit card?

### **Merger of Vizag Railway Division**

3248. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vizag Division could be merged with S.C. Railway Zone, Secunderabad; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Abohar-Fazilka rail line**

3249. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for laying new rail line between Abohar and Fazilka, in Punjab, has been completed; if so, when and the finding of the survey report;

(b) which route has been suggested in the survey report and what could be its total length; and

(c) by when the rail-line laying work is likely to start and be completed?

### **Internet Kiosks at railway stations**

3250. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have taken steps to allocate more space at Railway Stations for putting up Internet Kiosks; and

(b) if so, whether Railway stations have been identified in Tamil Nadu for their purpose state wise;

(c) how many Railway Stations have been identified in India for the above purpose?

### **Commission of Railway safety**

3251. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the safety of a rail passenger is the responsibility of an office called the commission of Railway safety (CRS);

(b) if so, whether the credibility of CRS has come under considerable strain after the recent Rajdhani Express accident;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by Government to make free from the undue pressure on this organisations in the internet of the safety of a rail passenger?

in India and Natural Dyes of India, submitted for approval, have been pending with competent authority, NISCAIR (CSIR) for a long time;

(b) if so, the dates of initial submission of above titles and reason for delay in approval;

(c) whether a brochure on above titles, alongwith feed beck proforma, were published during 2002;

(d) whether NISCAIR used to bring out such proforma, before approval of titles for publication; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including on IT books, for the last three years?

### **Misbehave by CRPF Jawans in Kerala Express**

3252. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of tipsy CRPF Jawans tortured a school team from Madhya Pradesh, consisting of girls and female teaching staff, travelling in Thiruvananthapuram bound Kerala Express, on the 18th October, 2002;

(b) whether the CRPF Jawans, in uniform, were drunk, when the school team boarded the train at Itarsi; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not attending to the complaints, by the Railways officials?

### **Indian Science Congress**

3254. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the next Indian Science Congress would be held in Bangalore;

(b) if so, when it would be held;

(c) the number of scientists expected to participate in the proposed meet;

(d) the estimated expenditure for convening the above meet;

(e) the amount released so far; and

(f) whether the Karnataka Government has been involved in organizing the above meet?

### **Natural wealth of India**

3253. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether manuscripts of Natural Wealth of India series, entitled Bomboos of India; Neem in India; Cotton in India; Mango

### **Indo-Brazil collaboration in Biotechnology**

3255. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Brazil signed a MoU recently, on a work

plan for collaboration in various fields of biotechnology; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement?

#### **R&D fund for drug industry**

3256. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has finally earmarked a sum of Rs. 150 crore, as R&D promotion fund for the drug industry;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in providing this fund;

(c) whether this fund would be operated by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizer; and

(d) if so, to what extent it would be helpful?

#### **Exposure to Mercury poisoning in India**

3257. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:  
Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre for Science and Environment has undertaken a green rating project and found India being exposed to high levels of mercury poisoning, due to the companies producing caustic soda and chlorine, as reported in the Times of India of 3rd September, 2002, under the caption, Green rating sounds mercury alert; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the preventive steps proposed to be taken?

#### **Decline in science students**

†3258. SHRI JAHESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a considerable decline in number of Science students during the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons for such decline and the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it has been due to non-availability of required apparatus and materials and less teaching hours; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by Government in this direction?

#### **Growth of biotech industry**

3259. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the estimated potential for growth of biotech industry is to the tune of US\$ 4.5 billion, by the year 2010;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and how India's potential compares with that in the world;

(c) whether India has sufficient infrastructure and capability, to tap the potential; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to tap the potential, fully?

#### **Conference on failure Monsoon**

3260. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Meteorological

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



Department of India held a conference of weaker experts in November, 2002, to study the causes for failure of this year's Monsoon in the country;

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

(c) whether experts from foreign countries also participated in this conference?

#### **Indo-Russia venture for transfer of technologies**

3261. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India-Russia Joint Centre, being set-up for transfer of technologies, evolved through collaborative efforts, would be concentrating only on new and innovative technologies or it would also upgrade the already transferred technologies in fields like Defence Aircrafts, etc. with a view to minimizing accident rate; and

(b) if so, what sensitive projects in other fields are contemplated, where gestation period is low and quick results are achieved?

#### **Customs duty on Metallurgical Coke from China**

3262. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs duty on imports of Metallurgical Coke from China for Pig Iron Manufacturers (bulk importers) and iron manufacturers, using Corex Technology, is five percent while it is 15 percent for other, including Ferro Alloys Units;

(b) whether Ferro Alloys Producers Association (IFAPA), who use only less than five percent of total imports, has represented to steel Ministry for reduction in Customs Duty; and

(c) whether the Minister of Steel has considered their request favourable; if so, the action taken by Government to rescue Ferro Alloys units and make them competitive, internationally?

#### **Loans to Tata Steel and SAIL**

†3263. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major steel manufacturers, Tata Steel and Steel Authority of India, had been given loan out of Steel Development Fund, in the recent years;

(b) if so, the amount of loan at the end of March, 2002 due on these institutions, separately; and

(c) the rate of interest fixed for this loan?

#### **Restrictions on import of Indian steel**

†3264. SHRI RAJEEV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America, China and some European countries have imposed various restrictions on import of India steel;

(b) if so, the varieties of steel against which Governments of the said countries have taken restrictive measures, along with the details of such measures;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that these restrictive measures have adversely affected the export of steel from India; and

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

#### **Quality of exportable steel**

3265. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHARJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem, published in the Economic Times, dated the 7th November, 2002 under the title, "Indian Steel not so welcome in South-East Asia, China;

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

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to improve the quality of steel, so as to enable it to meet the challenges posed by other steel exporting countries?

#### **Ban on seconds and defective steel**

3266. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main steel producers have been demanding a ban on imports of seconds and defective steel items;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to cope up with the problem of cheap imports of such steel; and

(c) what is the outcome of the steps taken?

#### **Restructuring of ailing steel plants**

3267. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a restructuring package for revival of ailing steel projects, where about Rs. 35000 crore are locked;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also analysed and identified causes of sickness of the projects and suggested steps, so that similar error are not repeated in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Production projects of SAIL**

†3268. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production is going on in many projects under Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the total number of projects, alongwith the details of products of each project; and

(c) the names of projects suffering losses continuously during the last three years, alongwith the total amount of loss suffered by them at the end of March, 2002?

#### **Steel Production**

3269. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited has improved performance in various spheres; if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the growth in production during the first half of the current year and that expected by the end of the year; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the main factors which had contributed to improved results?

**Complaints against arrangements in  
Busan**

3270. SHRI SANTOSHBAGRODIA:  
Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS  
AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints by sports associations that arrangements made in Busan during the Asian Games were not upto themark; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons for their complaints?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 4th December, 2002*  
*Agrahayana 23, 1924 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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