

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

Friday, the February 21, 2003/Phalguna 2, 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—155

Milk production in A.P.

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

(a) whether Government have
extended financial assistance to Andhra
Pradesh to boost milk production in the
State;

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

(c) what results were achieved in milk
production in the State during the said
period?

Menace of fruit flies

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the flies cause
losses worth Rs. 2945 crores per annum to
various fruits; and

(b) if so, the details of steps being
taken to control the menace of fruit
flies?

State Agriculture Ministers' Conference

319. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-
CHARJEE: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent Conference of the
State Agriculture Ministers, a resolution was
passed unanimously demanding that
National Bank of Agriculture and Rural
Development (NABARD) should be
brought under the administrative control of
the Ministry of Agriculture and if so,
Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether any steps have been taken
to give effect to the resolution and if not, the
reasons therefor; and

(c) what other decisions were taken at
the Conference to make the agriculture policy
farmer friendly?

Food and Fodder Development in Karnataka

320. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government
has submitted schemes for strengthening of

State farms, establishment of Fodder Bank etc., at an estimated cost of Rs. 93 lakhs;

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

(c) by when the State Government is likely to receive the sanction of the schemes and release of funds in this regard?

Drought relief price for rabi wheat

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

(a) whether Government had paid Rs. 10 per quintal as drought relief to farmers over and above the Minimum Support Price for rabi wheat, as recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices; and

(b) if so, the details of amount paid to drought affected States for the same, State-wise?

Foodgrains/fruits production in H.P.

322. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target fixed for foodgrains/fruits production during the Tenth Five Year Plan in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government in this behalf; and

(c) the details of investments proposed to be made in the production of foodgrains/fruits in the State?

Milk production

323. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country is one of the leading milk producing country in the World; if so, the details of production for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether it is also a fact, that the milk producers are selling their milk at cheaper rates, compared to other countries; if so, what are the comparative prices in other milk producing countries; and

(c) the details of steps Government propose to take to improve the quality of the milk, specially for its export?

Diversification of Punjab Agriculture

324. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government has submitted for Central funding a scheme for diversification of Punjab Agriculture;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the scheme; and

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

Milk production capacity

†325. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have found out the possibilities of extension and development of animal husbandry industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that India have largest number of cattle especially milch cattle in comparison to other countries in the world;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether it is also a fact that average milk production capacity of each animal is comparatively less in the country; and

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

Extension and development of animal husbandry industry

†326. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for development and expansion of animal husbandry in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes which Government have decided to implement for achieving these targets; and

(d) the amount allocated for the implementation of the same during the Plan?

Controlling foot and mouth disease in Bihar

†327. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease of livestock and other animals;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to check the disease and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years;

(c) whether the Bihar Government has requested for financial grants to control this disease; and

(d) if so, the amount released for the purposes during 2002-2003, State-wise?

Assistance to Agricultural Research Centres

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

(a) the new research works which are being undertaken in Agricultural University at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Agricultural Research Centres are being extended lesser economic aid by Central Government; and

(c) whether it has been noticed that many other Agricultural Research Centres including that of Pusa at Delhi are unable to undertake new research works for want of financial aid?

Reforms in administrative set up of ICAR

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have felt any need to make radical reforms in the administrative set up of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) if so, what are these reforms;

(c) the changes expected due to implementation of the same; and

(d) by when, these reforms would be completed?

Drought assistance to Rajasthan

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

(a) the details of financial and other

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

types of assistance provided to State of Rajasthan so far, to meet the havoc caused by severe drought there; and

(b) the nature of assistance likely to be provided to Rajasthan during the current year?

(c) whether India was able to evolve a common strategy with like minded countries to protect Indian Farm Sector and interest of farmers; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government have been successful?

Constructions by Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium in Kashmir

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

(a) whether Government are satisfied with the working of Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium; and

(b) if so, whether Government would persuade the consortium to undertake construction of Tetra Pack units and apple juice factories at various places in Kashmir?

Horticulture Development in Jammu and Kashmir

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

(a) whether Government would be interested in the development of horticulture in Jammu and Kashmir State; and

(b) if so, whether Government would ensure production of apple juice in Kashmir on the pattern of Leh Berry?

WTO negotiations in Geneva

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

(a) whether Government have attended WTO negotiations held recently in Geneva;

(b) if so, what are the details of the decisions arrived at the meet;

Increase in insurance premium of cotton crop

334. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government know that the sharp increase in the rate of insurance premium of cotton crop for the Kharif season of 2001 under Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana (RKBY) has proved detrimental to the overall agricultural economy of the nation; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are considering to take to protect the cotton growers from the burden of such sharp increase?

Review of agricultural research

335. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of agricultural research in India has recently been reviewed by a review committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR);

(b) if so, what are the major findings of the review committee; and

(c) the action contemplated by Government to revamp the agricultural research system in the light of the recommendations of the review committee?

Foodgrains to drought affected States

336. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 28th December, 2002 the Centre announced drought relief of over nine lakh tonne of foodgrains, free of cost to six affected States for the next three months *i.e.* December, 2002, January and February, 2003;

(b) if so, what was the total quantity released to Andhra Pradesh and five other States;

(c) what are the total need of the States particularly of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) what criteria was followed in allocating the foodgrains to affected States; and

(e) whether Government have received the report of full utilization of foodgrains from the States?

National drought management code

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

(a) whether the steering committee on agriculture has suggested framing a national drought management code for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government propose to put this code into action?

Rice to Andhra Pradesh for special SGRY

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

(a) the quantity of foodgrains given as

drought relief to six affected States, so far;

(b) whether Andhra Pradesh has requested for release of more rice to continue works taken up under special Sampoorna Grameena Rozgar Yojana Scheme; and

(c) if so, the decision taken on request of Andhra Pradesh Government for providing a relief of Rs. 174 crore?

Recommendations of GoM to fight drought

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Group of Ministers (GoM) was set up to fight the drought and to create conditions for meeting any future droughts;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the GoM; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

Effect of cold and foggy spell on rabi crop

340. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prolonged cold and foggy spell in the Northern parts of the country has hit the standing crops, jeopardising the prospects of a bumper rabi harvest;

(b) if so, the estimated loss to rabi crops;

(c) the measures adopted/proposed to be adopted to protect crops against the inclement weather;

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide financial assistance particularly to marginal and poor peasants whose crops have been damaged; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Improving fish production

341. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the catch of fish has declined in the Indian seas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to improve fish production, if so, the details thereof for the next three years?

Coconut-mite disease in Orissa

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mites have been eating up coconut crop in Orissa;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on account of resource-crunch, the State authorities are not able to control this menace, as reported in the New Indian Express, Bhubaneswar of 28th December, 2002;

(c) whether this disease had earlier affected the coconut production in other States; if so, the details thereof along with the action taken in the matter; and

(d) the assistance proposed to be rendered by the Centre to control this disease in Orissa?

Containing the coconut diseases in Kerala

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the production of coconut in Kerala has come down to 5.747 nuts per hectare due to a combination of pests and diseases;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to contain these diseases;

(c) whether the Kerala Government have submitted a proposal for rejuvenation of coconut sector with an outlay of Rs. 576 crores; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

Drought assistance to Karnataka

344. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka is facing severe drought continuously for the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of Central assistance sought by the State Government to tackle the drought situation, the amount and foodgrains released in the year 2002 and 2003; and

(c) the details of steps taken to provide drinking water to the affected people?

Import of seeds of agro products

345. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the seeds of

different agro products have been imported in the past to improve the yields;

(b) if so, whether the imported seeds were of low quality;

(c) if not, whether it is a fact that the countries exporting such seeds to India don't use the same; and

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

Agri-clinics

346. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided, some time back, a few hundred agri-clinics in the country in tandem with the reputed business and commercial houses;

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

(c) whether any such agri-clinic has been set up and if so, the details thereof;

(d) if the scheme is still a non-starter, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is proposed to implement the scheme expeditiously and in right earnest?

Phasing out of subsidies

347. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing long-term pricing norms for urea units and phasing out subsidies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of fertilizer subsidy that has been given to the fertilizer units during the last five years?

Fertilizer subsidy

348. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of fertilizer subsidy for the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the percentage of fertilizer subsidy to the total subsidy on all other counts?

Urea Scam

349. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Urea Scam case has been closed by the CBI;

(b) the names of the officials of the personal staff of the then Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, who were found involved and whose names find mention in the FIR/Chargesheet; and

(c) the action proposed by the CBI in this case?

Bio-fertilizer and Ethanol plant

350. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under Biotechnology, Bio Genus India has signed letter of intent to set up Prawn Bio-Fertilizer and Ethanol plant in Kakinada with an investment of Rs. 300 crore;

(b) if so, what are the details of the project; and

(c) by when it is likely to start?

Impact of fertilizer policy on various companies

†351. SHR P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the impact of new fertilizer policy on various companies;

(b) the names of the companies which will be benefited together with the names of the companies which will suffer a loss;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Prices of medicinal formulations

†352. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that manufacturers have made comprehensive hike in the prices of some medicinal formulation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to review the price structure of these formulations and bring the prices at reasonable level wherever necessary so that medicines are available at fair prices to common people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Functioning of fertilizer companies

†353. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY :
SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer producing companies have been held responsible for their functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the salient features of fertilizer policy with special reference to subsidy?

Life saving drugs

354. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of drugs and medicines, particularly life-saving drugs have attained soaring height; and

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

Profit margin for medicine manufacturers

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

(a) whether Government have fixed profit margin for the manufacturers of medicines and drugs so that they are available at a reasonable price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

Illegal keeping of wildlife

356. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of endangered, wild and prohibited animals are being kept illegally as pets in farm houses and residential houses;

(b) if so, the number of cases registered in the country during the last five years; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the progress of the registered cases and the action that has been contemplated against culprits?

Mongoose killing

357. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantity of Mongoose hair was recovered recently just outside Delhi, as reported in the Media;

(b) if so, what punishment has been imposed by Government on Mongoose poachers;

(c) whether the Ministry is considering discussion with the Education Department so as to put a ban on Mongoose hairbrush in schools for painting;

(d) if so, by when would such a ban be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Hunting-threat to wild life

358. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hunting is the biggest threat to wild life;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken, so far, to contain hunting; and

(c) the details of cases filed against hunters and poachers and the number of persons convicted in Karnataka State during the last five years?

Fly-ash mandatory in construction

359. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision to make the use of fly-ash mandatory in construction, road laying and reclamation within a specified areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the amendments made in the 1999 notification to this effect?

Plan for forest cover

360. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan has been formulated to bring 33 per cent of the country's geographical area under forest cover by 2012, as against the existing forest cover of 19.3 per cent;

(b) if so, the details of the State-wise plans drawn up to achieve the desired target, as also the institutional framework contemplated for strengthening the forest management setup;

(c) whether it is true that a decision has also been taken to constitute a National Forest Commission; and

(d) if so, the details of the terms of reference for the proposed Commission, its composition and the present status of the proposal?

Encroachment of forest land in Andhra Pradesh

361. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 13.5 lakh hectares of forest land is under encroachment in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of forest encroachment figures of other States; and

(c) the action proposed to evict the

encroachment from forest lands in a time bound manner?

Anti-pollution device in electric crematorium

362. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA-KALA PANDEY:

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

(a) whether pollution department has any plan to help the metropolitan local bodies for establishing anti-pollution devices in the electric crematorium; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Global warming due to air traffic

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

(a) whether the temperature of the earth and atmosphere is on the rapid rise owing to the pollution caused by heavy air traffic throughout the world, as has been stated by the environmentalists; and

(b) if so, whether due to this the threat of global warming is taking a serious turn and if so, the details thereof?

Environmental court

†364. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for setting up environmental courts at the earliest with a view to giving fundamental right of clean potable water to citizens and to settle other issues of such type;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether task of reviewing the laws regarding environment in the country has been undertaken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Panel report on Bt. Cotton

365. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Panel report on Bt. Cotton fudged" appearing in "The Statesman" New Delhi edition dated 14, January, 2003;

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

(c) whether Government will conduct a comprehensive and objective Scientific assessment of the benefits of the Bt. Cotton as demanded by the Greenpeace activists; if not, the reasons therefor?

Progress in Yamuna Action Plan

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

(a) whether the Japan Bank of International Cooperation had sanctioned aid of Rs.164 crore for the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP);

(b) if so, when, and the specific works under the YAP to be financed therewith; and

(c) the progress so far made in implementation thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Irrigation through Yamuna

367. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Yamuna Action Plan has been able to achieve its twin objective of making the environment clean and using the treated effluent for irrigation for benefit of the farmers; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the plan has worked well?

Modifications in Ganga Action Plan

368. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal from the Municipal Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal, suggesting some alternative schemes and certain modifications to the Ganga Action Plan (Phase II) Scheme; and

(b) if so, whether approval to the modifications has been given or not?

Lapses in implementation of A.P. Forestry Project

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

(a) whether the World Bank has regretted certain lapses in implementation of the first phases of A.P. Forestry project known as Joint Forest Management;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has also considered shifting cultivation lands under the bank's resettlement policy;

(c) whether the NGOs have pointed out to the World Bank that they have reached an

agreement with the Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing compensation to those affected; and

(d) if so, to what extent the World Bank has agreed to resettle victims of forestry projects?

Air and noise pollution in capital

370. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CPCB has recently revealed that air and noise pollution in the capital has increased;

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

(c) whether any assessment of increase/decrease of air and noise pollution in other major cities have also been undertaken by CPCB;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the effective steps taken by Government to check such increase of air and noise pollution in major cities, particularly in Delhi?

Food consignment from US

371. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of the Ministry, in December 2002, rejected US consignment of 1000 tonnes of Soya-Corn blend meant for making food for poor school children in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is Government's policy to ensure all health checks for such imports;

(d) whether US has appealed to an appellate authority against the rejection; and

(e) if so, what has been the decision of the appellate authority?

Environmental clearance for projects

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

(a) whether the proposal of Karnataka Government for release of 188.40 ha. of forestland in favour of Revenue Department for rehabilitation of Tribal families displaced from Bandipur National Park and construction of Kabini Reservoir is pending for environment clearance, if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in clearing the above project; and

(c) the details of other proposals of Government of Karnataka pending for environment clearance?

Environmental structure at Chilka lake

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that environmental structure at Chilka lake in Orissa is dwindling;

(b) whether as a result, number of migratory birds to this spot is falling day-by-day, as reported in the New Indian Express, Bhubaneswar of 28th October, 2002;

(c) whether increasing salinity in the lake is one of its reasons; and

(d) if so, steps taken by the Centre to help the State for development of environmental structure to attract tourism?

Clearance of Daijanalla Irrigation Project

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

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

(a) whether Government are aware that Orissa is a drought-prone State and agriculture is the main stay of the economy;

(b) whether State's irrigation project Daijanalla (Major Irrigation Project) MIP is pending with the centre for clearance;

(c) whether Government are also aware that on completion, it would provide irrigation facilities to a vast area and provide relief to the drought-hit farmers of the State; and

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

Pruning of trees

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

(a) whether Supreme Court has recently issued directions in the matter of pruning of trees, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have evolved and policy for pruning of trees while setting up of a corridor through dense forests by powergrid corporation and NTPC and other PSU's in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what prompted the Supreme Court to give such a direction?

Dolphin population

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

(a) whether the highly endangered Dolphin population is facing a serious threat from mechanised boats used by tourists and others;

(b) if so, the latest Dolphin population figures and the comparative figures pertaining to the earlier censuses; and

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to protect and promote this endangered specie?

Organisations engaged in environment improvement

†377. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of organisations engaged in improvement of environment getting foreign aid;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint regarding activities of these organisations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Investment in FPIs

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

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the survey

conducted by National Council for Applied Economic Research regarding the investment required for Food Processing Industry in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the total estimated amount of capital required as per the report;

(c) whether Government have expressed its concurrence with the said amount; and

(d) if not, what is Government's assessment in this regard along with the arrangement considered by it for the said investment?

Wastage of fruits and vegetables

379. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state

(a) how much fruits and vegetables have wasted in the country due to non-availability of processing facilities; during the last three years, State-wise and commodity-wise;

(b) what is the main cause for this wastage of food commodities; and

(c) what are the plans of Government for optimum utilization of fruits and vegetables?

Fake Institutions

†380. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Moti Rakam Lekar Degree De Rahe Hain Farzi Sansthan" published in the Rashtriya Sahara, dated the 7th December, 2002;

(b) the steps taken by Government to identify such fake institutes;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have been successful in apprehending the persons running these institutes; and

(d) if not, the arrangements made by Government to arrests such persons?

National Commission for Children

381. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up National Commission for Children on the lines of the National Human Rights Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status;

(c) whether the views of the various child rights' organisations functioning in the country have been obtained, especially in regard to powers, functions and the structure of the Commission; and

(d) to what extent the proposed commission would meet India's international commitments in implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?

Child counselling services

382. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of women and child Development has mooted a proposal for regulating child counselling services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is thinking of constituting any regulatory body on the lines of Medical Council of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Medium of instruction in Kendriya Vidyalaya

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

(a) what steps are being contemplated by Government to ensure that education is also imparted in English medium in Kendriya Vidyalayas along with Hindi medium;

(b) whether there is a provision for a separate section for those who intend to take education in English medium in Kendriya Vidyalayas imparting education in Hindi medium; and

(c) how does a Principal of K.V. decide upon the medium of instruction for the school; has the principal of K.V., INA taken the choice of students as to the medium of instruction in the school; if so, how and if not, why?

Financial assistance to States for Mid-day meal scheme

384. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allocate 100 per cent financial assistance to State Governments for mid-day meal scheme for children in all schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Deemed universities

†385. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of deemed universities at present; State-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the basic requirements for giving recognition to institutions as deemed universities;

(c) the basic differences between deemed universities and general universities; and

(d) whether the Ministry has relaxed guidelines for recognising institutions as deemed universities; if so, the details thereof ?

Dowry related crimes

386. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the crime against women in general and dowry related crimes in particular have increased in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard during the years 2001 and 2002?

Computer education in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government have cleared any proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government for computer education in the State under a Central scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Status of Bharat Shiksha Kosh

388. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Bharat Shiksha

Kosh instituted by HRD Ministry last year as a national fund to develop scientific research and technical education;

(b) whether the expected response has been forthcoming from the employers; and

(c) if so, the present corpus of this Kosh and what percentage of accruals has been used for achieving the desired objective and whether further augmentation is now expected from Persons of Indian Origin as an appeal made in Bharatiya Pravasi Divas Sammelan?

Regularisation of service of Anganwadi workers

389. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to regularise the services of Anganwadi workers and ICDS since their workload has been increased manifold after they are attached to the Panchayats;

(b) whether in view of the Anganwadi workers discharging lot of functions, Government are considering to increase monthly payment from Rs. 700/- and Rs. 400/- to Rs. 2500/- and Rs. 1500/- respectively;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

World Bank assistance to improve technical education

390. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Centre launched an

ambitious Rs. 1,550 crore programme to improve the quality of technical education through better infrastructure and improved access to international scientific and technical journals;

(b) if so, whether this programme which would cover both Government and private institutions would have three components;

(c) if so, what are the main points of three components;

(d) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide assistance of Rs. 1,250 crores; and

(e) if so, by what time they are likely to provide this amount?

Criteria for granting aid to colleges

391. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 30th January, 2003 under the caption, "UGC to help colleges with potential";

(b) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission proposes to identify colleges across the country with potential for excellence in teaching; for awarding grant upto Rs. 1 Crore;

(c) if so, what are the criteria for identifying such colleges; and

(d) whether colleges, including professional colleges, in the private sector would be covered under the scheme?

Syllabi in madarsa

392. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT
RAO:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that madarsa system of education mainly focuses study of the Quran, the Hadis and Fiquah;

(b) if so, what steps are taken to incorporate modern subjects in syllabi of madarsa system of education at all levels throughout the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that according to Dr. Salamullah of Jamia Millia Islamia, in madarsa education, modernity is a far cry; and

(d) if so, looking to such observations what does the Ministry propose to bring about a total change?

Committee to review History and Social Science books

393. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian History Congress has constituted a committee to review the new History and Social Science textbooks published by NCERT;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the errors in the Social Science and History textbooks have been rectified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Universalisation of elementary education

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

(a) whether Government have definite plans to achieve universalisation of elementary education and implement the provisions of the 93rd Amendment Act; and

(b) if so, what are the policy initiatives?

Vacancies in IGNOU

395. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vacancies earmarked for SC, ST and OBC should be filled up within stipulated time;

(b) whether concerned authorities of Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi had advertised some Group 'C' posts in the reserved category of SC, ST and OBC in Employment News dated 9—15 February, 2002;

(c) if so, why selection formalities could not be completed as yet; and

(d) latest action contemplated in the matter?

Fund for vedic study

396. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA
CHATTERJEE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allocated Rs. 75 crore for vedic study in primary schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Scholarships for higher education

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that arrangements have been made to provide scholarship and bank loans for getting higher education from the institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Human Resource Development during the recent years;

(b) if so, number of students provided with the scholarships and bank loans during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(c) number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students amongst the said beneficiaries?

Revamping higher education

398. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to do away with structured course system in a major move to revamp higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether extensive consultations are proposed to be held with educational experts and specialists in the field and with the various State Governments in the matter before taking a final decision; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Setting up of Steel Plants in Orissa

466. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to set up new Steel Plants in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the proposals under the consideration of Government; and

(c) the details of places identified for the establishment of new steel plants in that State?

comprehensive economic development programmes;

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

(c) the details of the youth centric programmes and schemes, the allocations made and results achieved during the last three years; and

(d) the details of training and employment generation programmes evolved for the rural and urban youth?

Pending proposals of Chhattisgarh

†467. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposal received till date from Sports and Youth Welfare Department of Chhattisgarh Government and pending before Central Government for approval;

(b) the reasons for not according approval to these proposals, so far; and

(c) by when all the pending proposals would be accorded approval?

Development of Youths

468. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the recently held Conference of Governors it was stressed that there should be meaningful schmes for developing the full potential of youth, a forward looking National Youth Policy and implementation of

Promotion and development of sports activities in H.P.

469. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds granted to Himachal Pradesh for promotion and development of sports activities during the last three years, District-wise; and

(b) the effective measures being taken by Government to ensure proper utilisation of funds provided by Government to that State?

Doping charges against athletes

470. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sunita Rani has been declared innocent and stands absolved of the doping charges; and

(b) if so, what concrete measures Government are taking to ensure that such hasty and unjustified action is never taken against our athletes in future?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

National Service Scheme

405. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that National Service Scheme's volunteers from Karnataka are in the forefront of the scheme's activities at the national level;

(b) if so, what is the present quota for NSS volunteers at the college level, for Karnataka;

(c) whether there is any demand from Karnataka for increase in the quota of NSS volunteers; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

Special body to study courses/syllabi

406. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether there is any special body in India to study various courses, syllabi, standards and credits and to equate them in relation to various universities in India and abroad;

(b) if so, what are the details of such a body; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider it necessary to form such a body in the context of rapid globalization?

Appalling conditions of primary schools in Bihar

407. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has given directive to the State Government regarding the appalling conditions of primary schools in Bihar;

(b) if so, how the State Government plan to improve the conditions of primary schools;

(c) whether it is due to lack of funds or any other reasons which has lead to this deteriorating situation of the primary schools in Bihar; and

(d) what assistance Government plan to give to the State of Bihar to manage the primary schools well?

Guidelines on harassment of female students

408. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that JNU students union has accused the JNU Administration regarding shielding two Faculty Members held guilty of harassing female students by University's Gender Sanitisation Committee last year on the plea that GSCASH rules and regulations are yet to be ratified whereas students have been expelled on the basis of GSCASH reports earlier; and

(b) if so, why this double standard has been adopted in such sensitive matter which may cause major confrontation and whether Government are thinking of issuing general guidelines in such matters?

**Centrally sponsored scheme on
"Improvement of Science
Education"**

409. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has approached the Central Government for according sanction of Rs. 700 lakhs for implementation of the Ninth Phase of the scheme on "Improvement of Science Education"; and

(b) if so, by when the sanction for the amount is proposed to be issued?

Discontinuation of subsidy for higher education

†410. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that at the time of inauguration of the golden jubilee ceremony of UGC, the Prime Minister had announced the discontinuation of the subsidy in future which is being given by Government in the field of higher education;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken by Government on the basis of the said announcement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Ecological impact of sand mining

411. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the ecological impact of sand mining in the coastal sea beds;

(b) if so, the names of agencies with expertise to conduct such studies in the country;

(c) the details of the study report thereto;

(d) whether Government have received any proposal for sand mining in the coastal sea beds from any State Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

**Promotion of tourism by 'Palace on
Wheels'**

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

(a) what is the position of the train namely 'Palace on Wheels' introduced with a view to encouraging tourism and the number of such trains running;

(b) whether a few more such trains have been planned to be introduced; and

(c) the reasons for not introducing the Palace on Wheels proposed by the Government of Maharashtra as yet and the status thereof?

Railway power generation plants

413. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are actively considering installation of its own power generation plants in order to partly meet their requirements in running the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether necessary study about economic viability of the project has been carried out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) the estimated savings in expenditure on purchase of power every year after production of power in own plants?

Train accidents

†414. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major train accidents till 31st December during 2002 alongwith the dates of accidents, the places of their occurrence, number of people killed and injured in the same;

(b) the reasons for each accident and whether various commissions appointed after accidents have submitted their reports; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation keeping in view the recommendations made by them?

Management of Railways to reduce accidents

415. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway accidents have become a ghastly routine and the number of Railway accidents have increased during the last one year; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to concentrate on better quality management of Railways rather than quantitative achievement?

Incidents of loot

416. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of looting passengers after making them

unconscious near Nagpur Railway Station have been increased;

(b) if so, the details of the incidents taken place, persons affected and money looted from them, during the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken by Railway Police to stop recurrence of such incidents?

Movie Theatre Coaches

417. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Movie Theatre Coaches in long distance railway routes;

(b) if so, names of the routes; and

(c) by when the new facility would be introduced?

ISO certificate to Bhopal Express

418. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhopal Express has been awarded ISO certificate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria for awarding such certificate?

Revision of railway safety rules

419. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise the railway safety rules based on detailed work study observation;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when it would be taken up; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider the desirability of such a revision, particularly in view of the present frequency of accidents?

conversion of narrow/meter gauge lines during the last three years; and

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

RUB near Narendra Nagar in Nagpur

422. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware of existing Railway underbridge near Narendra Nagar in Nagpur which has become notorious for accidents involving nearly 300 lives over the last few years, and that local residents' persistent complaints lodged with the Railway authorities have not fructified at all as reported in Lokmat dated the 17th January, 2003; and

(b) if so, whether Government would adopt any effective measures so that continuous loss of human lives through accidents could be eliminated in this case and simultaneously take adequate care in similar cases elsewhere in the country?

Modes used by Railways

420. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) total length and location of Railways which are run by power, diesel and steam;

(b) future plan for phase-wise replacement of diesel by power and details of route finalized;

(c) specification-wise total number of batteries used in coaches and other establishments of Railways indicating total amount incurred in purchase of such batteries annually during the last three years; and

(d) method, frequency, agency and premises used for testing the lifecycle and other parameters specified for each such category of batteries?

Adoption of advanced technology in Railways

423. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of technology adopted by Indian Railways as compared to that adopted in other developing and developed countries;

(b) by what time Indian Railways would attain the advanced technology to match with those of other countries; and

(c) what steps have been taken in that direction to avoid human and mechanical failures as the reasons for rail accidents?

Gauge conversion in Gujarat

421. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for the conversion of some narrow/meter gauge lines in Gujarat into broad gauge have been pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details of the request made by the Government of Gujarat for the

Profits by new Railway Zones

424. SHRI PRASANTA
CHATTERJEE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether newly created Railway zones are making profits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;
- (c) what was the earning of Eastern Railway prior to creation of Hazipur zone; and
- (d) what is the present earning of Eastern Railway?

Late running of trains

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

- (a) number of trains which reached their destinations on time and which reached late in the year 2002 and till date;
- (b) whether any responsibility has been fixed for trains running late; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rail Neer

426. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to launch 'rail neer' facility in Railways;
- (b) whether for the purpose of clause it is proposed to set up bottling plants in various regions;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any bottling plant of rail neer is being set up in Tamil Nadu;

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

Works under National Rail Vikas Yojana

427. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI RUMANDLA
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Rail Vikas Nigam, a special purpose company, is proposed to be floated for executing the Rs. 15000 crore National Rail Vikas Yojana announced recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the Articles of Association of the Nigam;
- (c) the details of the major programmes/work included in the Yojana, the source(s) of their funding and the time-frame laid down for their execution;
- (d) the status of the project studies conducted therefor; and
- (e) monitoring mechanism to keep track of the timely and economical execution of the Yojana?

Level crossings in Gujarat

428. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have received some proposals for construction of level crossing from the State of Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and
- (c) the number of level crossing selected for construction during the current year, location-wise and by when construction work would be completed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Signalling system

429. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Loco Running Staff Association has blamed the faulty system for Ghatnandur, Maharashtra accident on 3rd January, 2003;

(b) whether they have stated that line system used there is an outdated system and it gives scope for many errors; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken to instal modern signalling system to avoid accidents in future?

Secunderabad-Manmad Express accident

430. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Secunderabad-Manmad Express was involved in a head-on collision with a goods train last month;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the reasons for the accident has been identified and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is proposed to instal anti-collision device, as developed by the Konkan Railways, which is capable of preventing such accidents and if not, the reasons therefor?

Repair of railway tracks

431. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has

allocated Rs. 32,000 crore for taking up repairs of railway tracks all over the country;

(b) if so, what is the total amount Railways have allocated from Railway Safety Fund and by the Prime Minister under the Rail Vikas Yojana; and

(c) whether the Railways have prepared a comprehensive report on all safety issues; if so, the details thereof?

SRSF to prevent rail accidents

432. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 17,000 crore Special Railway Safety Fund was created on October, 1, 2001 for toning up railway safety measures including track renewal and upgradation and replacement of signalling equipment and rolling stock;

(b) if so, the amount spent out of the fund so far, with details on different counts;

(c) what other measures have been taken to ensure greater safety in the railways; and

(d) what has been the impact of these measures on the occurrence of railway accidents?

Installation of ACD

433. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accidents in the various Railway zones have increased during the last one year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that one of the factors for frequent accidents is that

railways do not have Anti Collision Device (ACD) developed by Konkan Railways;

(c) whether Government propose to instal Anti Collision Devices in view of the increasing number of rail accidents; and

(d) if so, how much time would be needed for the installation of such devices to keep at bay losses of man and material due to rail accidents?

Balurghat-Eklakhi line in West Bengal

434. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of commissioning of Balurghat-Eklakhi line covering Malda and Dakshin Dinajpur Districts of West Bengal and details arising thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways only plans to operate passenger trains and not goods trains along this new line;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether this will affect the viability of the project;

(d) whether some of the bridges particularly over the river Punarbhaba is much lower than would be warranted in a flood prone district to ensure free movement of boats; and

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

Shatabdi Express between Chennai and Tirupati

435. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether works for augmenting the amenities for rail users at Tirupati station were undertaken in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed Shatabdi Express train between Chennai and Tirupati has since been introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Extension of Naihati and Budge-Budge line

436. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Techno Economic Survey was undertaken to extend the Naihati and Budge-Budge line under Sealdah division upto Bandel, under Howrah division; and

(b) if so, the latest development thereof?

Pending safety packages

437. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of rail accidents in the last one year and the details arising thereof;

(b) the number of occasions where shortcomings in the track and bridges have been located and traffic has been affected with details arising out of each such discovery;

(c) whether for any of these sabotage has been established;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of safety related packages pending, the financial requirement of such projects and a tentative time table and plan of implementation and other details arising thereof?

Doubling of Solapur-Pakni line

438. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether while inaugurating the double-lining extension project on January

5, 2002 the Minister also announced further extension of the Solapur-Pakni double-lining to Mohol;

(b) if so, what priority is proposed to be accorded to this further extension; what is the estimated cost thereof; and whether this extension has been included in the plan for implementation during 2003-2004; and

(c) whether this double-lining is being undertaken as a part of double-lining of the Bhigwan section; if so, the details of overall double-lining project from Solapur to Bhigwan?

Meeting of GMs on accidents

439. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the second week of January, 2003, a meeting of the Railway General Managers was held to look into the aspects of increasing incidents of human failure that caused accidents;

(b) if so, the outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether any concrete mechanism has been evolved to reduce the alarmingly increasing railway accidents due to human failure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Accidents avoided by awareness of Railways

440. SHRI D.P. YADAV:
PROF. M. SANKARA-
LINGAM:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) details of the railway accidents during last two years alongwith those avoided due to awareness of railway personnels and other people;

(b) what are the reasons of each of these accidents;

(c) the number of people killed/injured and the property damaged in these accidents;

(d) the amount of compensation paid so far; and

(e) the concrete steps taken so far by Government to prevent these accidents together with the results thereof?

Responsibility of high officials for accidents

441. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed responsibilities on all railway General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers in case of any of the accidents held under their areas;

(b) if so, the division-wise details of major and minor railway accidents held in the month of December, 2002 and January 2003;

(c) the details of losses suffered in such accidents and whether the steps taken to control such accidents proved to be futile;

(d) whether Government propose to establish Safety organizational setup in Railways;

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

Rail projects launched by Prime Minister

442. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the three mega rail projects launched by the Prime Minister in December, 2002; and
- (b) what is the target fixed for completion of these projects?

Plots to railway employees under 'Grow more Food' Scheme

443. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that plots offered to class three and four staff to cultivate vegetables under 'Grow more food' scheme of Western and Central Railway have been sublet or rented out to others;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) action taken by the Railway against these employees?

Allocation to Orissa for rail infrastructure

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Orissa has demanded an allocation of Rs. 510 crores from Railways for development of rail infrastructure to match with the resources generated from

the State, as reported in the New Indian Express of 23rd January, 2003;

- (b) whether the State has already submitted a memorandum in this regard earlier; if so, the demands made therein; and

- (c) the details of proposed action plan of Government to initiate new projects at least to commensurate with the resources generated from the State to meet the ends of justice?

Rajdhani Express for Bhubaneswar

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that Bhubaneswar, Capital of Orissa, an important religious and tourist-cum-business centre of the State has now developed as a Regional Software Centre;

- (b) whether both up and down passenger rail traffic from Bhubaneswar has increased manifold; and

- (c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the frequency of up and down Rajdhani Express to Bhubaneswar and introduce other fast services; if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in number of unreserved coaches

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

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of unreserved coaches of general class in the trains running more than 500 kms. due to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

which passengers have to face lot of difficulties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the number of unreserved coaches of general class in view of the difficulties being faced by the passengers; and

(d) if so, by when?

Conference on safety in Railways

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

(a) whether a Conference of General Managers on Safety was held in the Capital in the first week of January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of the decisions taken in the meet; and

(c) what strenuous efforts are being made by Government to keep the operational staff, while on duty, away from the alcohol?

Doubling of Gooty-Pullampetta rail line

448. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Andhra Pradesh, the Prime Minister announced the doubling of the 151 km. Gooty-Pullampetta line on the Mumbai-Chennai route which will be part of the rail quadrilateral connecting the four main metros;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the total amount to be spent thereon; and

(d) by what time the work would be completed?

Trial run of fastest train

449. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways has conducted a trial run of its fastest train at 180 Kmph in January, 2003;

(b) whether indigenously manufactured engine was used for this train or it was an imported engine;

(c) whether trial was successful or not;

(d) whether Government propose to run some other trains at that speed; and

(e) if so, what are the other details in this regard?

Dues of Railways on SEBs

450. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total dues to Railways by various State Electricity Boards as on January, 2003; and

(b) the steps taken to collect such dues?

Speed limit for trains passing through Bihar

451. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a speed limit of 70 kilometer per hour has been imposed for trains passing through the State of Bihar during night;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such restrictions are in place in any other part of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the decision on speed restriction is based on security consideration, and if so, whether any input from the Home Ministry has been received or consultation with the State Government has been made and if so, the details thereof?

Gauge conversion of Lumbding-Silchar section

452. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gauge conversion of Lumbding-Silchar section of the North-Eastern Railway is pending completion for quite a some time;

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

(c) whether the Ministry of Railways has been pleading for the release of money from the Prime Minister's non-lapsable fund in order to meet the resource constraints to finalize the completion of the project; and

(d) if so, by when Government would release the required fund?

Regularisation of services of casual workers

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to induct in regular railway services, those casual workers who rendered long service during 1980s and 1990s on different Railway Divisions;

(b) if so, the number of such casual workers on different Railway Divisions who have been inducted as regular workers; and

those who are yet to be inducted, despite qualifying service as casual workers; and

(c) whether absence of departmental records of casual service during the last two decades, is coming in the way of their regularisation; and whether proof of such casual service furnished by the workers is considered sufficient for such regularisation?

Drivers and Guards in Railways

454. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA
CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents occurred in each zone during the last three years and the damages thereof to Railway property, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are shortages of drivers and guards in every zone;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these vacancies are one of the prime reasons for the accidents; and

(d) the percentage of vacancies in the category of drivers and guards compared to the total vacancies zone-wise?

MoU between Railways and NTPC

455. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in the year 2002 between Railways and NTPC for setting up of joint venture power projects; and

(b) if so, the status of the MoU?

Stoppage of trains in Gujarat

456. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from MPs and other organizations for providing stoppages/halts of various trains at the railway stations, particularly in Gujarat, during the last two years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Backlog of vacancies in safety category

457. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level meeting was convened in the wake of a series of railway accidents recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion and conclusion arrived at;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it was revealed in the course of discussion that there was a huge backlog of vacancies in the safety category; and

(d) if so, the zone-wise details of such vacancies and steps being taken to fill up the same?

Bifurcation of Ahmedabad rail division

458. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision to create a new Division of Ahmedabad from 1st April, 2003 would reduce the area of Rajkot Division to only 637 RTKMs;

(b) whether it is a fact that if the above decision is implemented it would involve large-scale transfer of employees from Rajkot Division;

(c) whether the Railways would be required to spend additional Rs. 1.26 crores by way of house rent allowance to employees as there is no quarter facility at Ahmedabad; and

(d) whether the Kanalus-Porbander and Rajkot-Veraval sectors can be transferred to Rajkot Division from Bhavnagar to have an area of 922 RTKMs?

Fire at National Chemical Laboratory

459. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out at Pune's National Chemical Laboratory;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the cause of fire; and the injuries sustained by trapped scientists;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

Share of private sector in R & D

460. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount in terms of GDP invested in R & D by both the Private Sector as well as the Public Sector; and

(b) how Government propose to increase the share of Private Sector in R&D?

Research for treating snake bites

461. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Scientists have discovered that chicken eggs can become a source of molecules to treat snake bites; and

(b) if so, the details of the research made by the Scientists of the Mittal Mallaya Scientific Research Organisation in this regard?

Recovery of loans by TDB

462. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Development Board is facing problems in recovering the loans given to the companies to help them commercialise indigenous technologies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of companies and the amount outstanding against them; and

(c) the steps taken by the TDB for early recovery of loans?

Steel export to Thailand

463. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Thailand has recently clamped 62 per cent duty on Indian Steel

and Steel products, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that besides the high rate of duty, the Thailand Government has also imposed some non-tariff barriers to reduce the import of the Indian steel and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this decision would not affect the SAIL and other steel companies in the country; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the interests of the Indian Companies?

Closure of Mahamaya mines of BSP

†464. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for closure of 'Mahamaya' mines of Bhilai Steel Plant; and

(b) the details of present status thereof?

Revival of IISCO

465. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Russian Government has refused to invest in the ailing Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) as a part of the revival project lying with the IDBI which is the operating agency of the SAIL; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what other steps Government propose to take regarding this plant?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Setting up of Steel Plants in Orissa

466. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to set up new Steel Plants in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the proposals under the consideration of Government; and

(c) the details of places identified for the establishment of new steel plants in that State?

comprehensive economic development programmes;

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

(c) the details of the youth centric programmes and schemes, the allocations made and results achieved during the last three years; and

(d) the details of training and employment generation programmes evolved for the rural and urban youth?

Pending proposals of Chhattisgarh

†467. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposal received till date from Sports and Youth Welfare Department of Chhattisgarh Government and pending before Central Government for approval;

(b) the reasons for not according approval to these proposals, so far; and

(c) by when all the pending proposals would be accorded approval?

Promotion and development of sports activities in H.P.

469. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds granted to Himachal Pradesh for promotion and development of sports activities during the last three years, District-wise; and

(b) the effective measures being taken by Government to ensure proper utilisation of funds provided by Government to that State?

Development of Youths

468. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the recently held Conference of Governors it was stressed that there should be meaningful schmes for developing the full potential of youth, a forward looking National Youth Policy and implementation of

Doping charges against athletes

470. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sunita Rani has been declared innocent and stands absolved of the doping charges; and

(b) if so, what concrete measures Government are taking to ensure that such hasty and unjustified action is never taken against our athletes in future?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Legislation for utilising youth power

471. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are

contemplating to bring in a legislation for
utilizing youth power in projects and in
different areas, as in some advanced
countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would
consider the desirability of such a
measure?

NEW DELHI;
The 15th February, 2003
Magha 26, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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