

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the March 21, 2002/Phalguna 30, 1923 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food and
Public Distribution; External Affairs; Labour; Parliamentary Affairs;
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Road Transport
and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and
Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—155

Utilisation of financial assistance for SSI

1903. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the share of very small industries;
cottage industries and Small Scale Industries
in the total industrial production of the
country;

(b) whether any financial assistance is
given by the Central Government to these
industries, if so, the details thereof
particularly in Rajasthan/Orissa;

(c) whether Government have sought
the progress report regarding utilisation of
funds, district-wise in these States; and

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

KVIC projects in Gujarat

1904. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the
Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether KVIC has taken up projects
or industries in Gujarat under the Rural
Employment Generation Programme;

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

(c) what is the present status thereof?

Potentiality of agro-based rural industries in NE States

1905. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN:
Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied
potentiality of the agro-based rural industries
in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any plan to bring the
potentiality into reality?

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

1906. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will
the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scientists working in
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre at Mumbai;

(b) the annual expenditure of this
institute;

(c) the objective of this organization; and

(d) the contribution of these scientists to improve quality of life of average Indian?

Russian co-operation for Kudankulam Plant

1907. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:
PROF. M. SANKARA-
LINGAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia and India have signed a contract for delivery of major equipments for construction of the Kudankulam Nuclear Plant in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the construction would be completed; and

(c) the details of further developmental programmes for the Plant?

Nuclear power plant at Kudankulam

1908. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up \$3 billion nuclear power plant at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether some activists are protesting against this project claiming that the nuclear waste from this plant would affect health of the people of the surrounding area; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

Uranium reserves in Chhattisgarh

† 1909. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are indications of availability of high quality

uranium reserves in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that availability of the huge reserves of uranium has been confirmed in Janjgir, Chaanpa and Bastar district of the State as per the survey of the Central Atomic Mineral Department; and

(c) if so, by when mining of these uranium reserves is proposed to be taken up?

Programme for entrepreneurs

1910. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH: Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFOR-
MATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed rupees 100 crore programme for entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Action plan to redress public grievances of telephone consumers

1911. DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO: Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFOR-
MATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are executing any action plan to redress public grievances of telephone consumers and early clearance of faults in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Shifting of telephones

1912. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prescribed any time limits for local inter-exchange and intercity shifting of telephones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure strict adherence of these time limits by the telephone authorities?

Digital signatures

† 1913. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enforce digital signatures in banking and business transaction;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be enforced;

(c) the facilities likely to be made available to the computer and internet users after enforcement of this system; and

(d) the measures taken to make this system secured?

Setting up of a National Cyberspace Cell

1914. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a National Cyberspace Cell;

(b) whether this cell would be used to check anti-national activities of terrorists who use latest communication techniques for transmission of their messages; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

Market for software industries

1915. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries now serving as big market for Indian software industry;

(b) the details of the markets during the last three years, country-wise; and

(c) the details of the foreign exchange earned by the software industry during the last three years, year-wise?

Protection of software industry

1916. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in "The Times of India", dated the 7th February, 2002 to the effect that Mmckinsey and Company Study Report stated that India's cost advantages in software services would end in two-three years;

(b) whether Government have analysed the situation; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to protect the software industry?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Failure of communication system at
IGI Airport**

1917. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone system at the Terminal of IGI Airport collapsed on Thursday, the 7th February, 2002 due to certain snags in the system as a result of which satellite phone to communicate with the Pilots was put into operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to prevent occurrence of such incidents in future?

Meal charge to MTNL employees

† 1918. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai are being paid meal charge in addition to food allowance;

(b) if so, the amount of such charge being paid per day/per month;

(c) the details of the meal charge paid to the employees and officers working under each of the General Manager and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the justification for payment of meal charge in addition to food allowance?

Payment of local TA to the employees

† 1919. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that group A,B, C and D employees of MTNL, Delhi Unit are being paid local TA besides payment of transport allowance;

(b) if so, the amount paid on account of TA/DA from the 1st April 2000 to 31st January, 2002, category-wise, in respect of each office of the General Manager; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken by Government to reduce such wasteful expenditures?

**Taking away of official belongings by
MTNL officers**

† 1920. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that some officers while leaving the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited or for attending a training programme have taken away with them the items like vehicle, mobile phone, computer and furniture etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when, Government would recover the cost of these items from the above mentioned officers?

**Rent rebate on non-functioning of
telephone**

1921. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rent rebate is admissible under the rules on account of non-functioning of telephone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether this rebate is automatically admissible; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Refund of security deposit in Idgah Exchange

1922. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of subscribers have surrendered their telephone connections in the Idgah Exchange of MTNL during the last one year and have requested for the refund of the security deposit;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending for refund of the security deposit as on date; and

(c) what steps are being taken to refund the security deposit immediately?

Foreign exchange facility in post offices

1923. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facility for buying and selling of foreign exchange would be made available in all post offices;

(b) the foreign currencies which would be available in post offices;

(c) by when this scheme is going to be launched; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

Payment of bills in post offices

1924. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are launching an innovative project through which one click system would solve the problems of standing and waiting in long queues for payment of bills in post offices;

(b) whether now onwards citizens would be able to make payments of their bills from a host of agencies through computerized working of post offices; and

(c) by when this facility would be extended throughout the country?

Reduction in call rates for internet users

1925. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the BSNL has announced that it would reduce call rates for the internet users;

(b) if so, whether any order has been issued in this regard; and

(c) if not, by when it would be issued?

Blocking websites on internet

1926. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert team appointed by the Mumbai High Court opined that it would not be possible to block websites on the internet;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce photo identity cards for the users of cybercafes as suggested by the team; and

(c) what are the other suggestions of the team which Government propose to implement?

Target for telephone connections

† 1927. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the target fixed for providing telephone connections in Mainpuri district in the current financial year has not been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the work relating to laying of telephone lines for which the contract, was awarded several months ago, has not been completed so far;

(d) if so, by when, the above job was scheduled to be completed together with the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for not completing the work in time; and

(f) whether Government propose to take action against the negligent officials; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Delay in commissioning of telephone exchange in Leh

1928. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the equipments and all other necessary accessories were bought to install the new exchange at

Squirbuchar Village of Khalsi Block in Leh District for the last couple of years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same has not been commissioned till date; and

(c) Government's plan to commission the same and the reasons for the delay?

Slashing of bandwidth rates by VSNL

1929. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) has slashed bandwidth rates by upto 40 per cent;

(b) whether reduction in the bandwidth rates would benefit to big companies that are using Internet heavily;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for giving benefit to a particular section of industry; and

(d) whether Government would come forward for package for those using less Internet and if not, the reasons therefor?

Practical training for MCA Students

1930. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry or the offices under his Ministry provide some practical training to students doing MCA in different institutes affiliated to different Universities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with formalities and charges prescribed for the same and if not, the reasons therefor;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether some stipend is being paid to the trainees during the training period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for not encouraging propagation of education of Information Technology?

Corporatising of postal services

1931. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that volume of household mail has come down from 57 per cent in 1995 to 35 per cent in 2001;

(b) the volume of non-household mail during the last five years;

(c) whether there is any proposal before his Ministry for corporatising the postal services in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Guidelines for Submarine cable Landing Station for International Gateways of Internet

1932. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared the coast of Gujarat as sensitive area in Clause 13 of the guidelines for setting up of Submarine Cable Landing Station for International Gateways of Internet;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested the Union Government to review the guidelines in this regard; and

(c) if so, the decisions taken/proposed to be taken by; Government in this regard?

Clearance of sample parcels in Ahmedabad

1933. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the parcels containing electronic goods like CDs etc.; received in the Foreign Parcel Post Office at Ahmedabad during the last three years;

(b) the number of such parcels cleared as sample parcels during the above period and the revenue collected by Government therefrom;

(c) the mechanism adopted by Government to accord clearance to sample Parcels;

(d) whether the device ensures that no under valuation of article is done; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Mismanagement in telecommunication

† 1934. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken stringent action by imposing punishment/penalty on its officers and employees posted in U.P. who have been held guilty of taking money and are responsible for mismanagement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, District-wise, Category-wise, penalty-wise and punishment-wise?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Denial to BSNL for entering into
I.L.D. call**

1935. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has been denied right to enter into ILD call sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would rethink in this regard?

**Lack of material for cable joints in
Mainpuri**

†1936. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lack of material required for cable joints in Mainpuri;

(b) if so, the value of material in terms of rupees purchased last year; and

(c) the reasons for not covering the cable permanently in Anjani?

Post offices in Port Blair

†1937. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices opened, so far, in rural and remote areas of Port Blair; and

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be opened in the Union Territory under the future schemes?

**Post offices in rural, hilly and remote
areas**

†1938. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for opening new post offices in rural, hilly and remote areas of the country; and

(b) the number of post offices opened or likely to be opened in the North-East States of the country, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the basis of prescribed criteria during the last three years and till date?

**Agreement with China for cooperation
in I.T. development**

1939. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Chinese Prime Minister to India, an agreement for cooperation in development of Information Technology was worked out underlining that "while India had been recognized as number one in software exports, China was number one in hardware";

(b) if so, the features of the agreement; and

(c) the schemes, if any, worked out for cooperative effort in that direction between the two countries?

Cyber crimes

1940. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cyber crimes registered in the country during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) what are the figures giving nature of offences, State-wise;

(c) what is the age group of the persons involved in such crimes;

(d) whether Government propose to launch; an awareness campaign to prevent such crimes by youngsters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Macro Cellular Technology

1941. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are adopting Macro Cellular Technology (MCT);

(b) if so, what are the reasons for considering imported technology when indigenous technology is available in the country;

(c) whether DoT/BSNL/VSNL is trying to shift the responsibility to the private operators; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Grievances of subscribers in Mainpuri

†1942. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecommunication system of Mainpuri district of Uttar Pradesh always remain out of order due to negligence of the officials concerned;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that it has become almost impossible for the subscribers to contact Telecom District

Manager (TDM) with regard to their grievances; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

Applications for telephone connections in Himachal Pradesh

1943. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for providing telephone connections have been received in Pachrukhi (Himachal Pradesh, Kangra) during the last one year, date and month-wise;

(b) the dates on which demand notes were issued in each case; and

(c) the number of persons in waiting list?

Shifting of telephones in Sarita Vihar exchange

1944. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that telephones are not being shifted within the same colony under the same exchange even after four months of submission of application due to negligent attitude of MTNL;

(b) the details of the applications received by Sarita Vihar Exchange from the residents of NTPC Township Badarpur alongwith the Status of each case during the last six months;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the installation status of telephone *vide* OB No. -736957633 dated the 22nd October, 2001 at Sarita Vihar; and

(d) by when, all such telephones would be shifted?

Installation of telephones by private companies

1945. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private telecom players are set to install phones in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of the decision made in this regard; and

(c) the terms and conditions decided on network sharing?

Telephone connections to subscribers in Mainpuri

† 1946. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone connections have not been provided to the subscribers so far inspite of laying telephone lines for this purpose by Telecom District Manager (TDM) of Mainpuri district;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said existing TDM refrain from meeting the subscribers and redress their grievances by staying away from the Headquarter; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Increase in PCO Commission

1947. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Call Office (PCO) owners are demanding increase in their Commission on STD charges and special allowance on local calls; and

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

Rectification and maintenance of telephones

† 1948. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecom employees are adopting negligent attitude in rectification and maintenance of telephones;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to take any action against them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Starvation death *vis-a-vis* overflowing foodgrains in FCI godowns

1949. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the problem of peoples' starvation in many parts of the country, despite the FCI godowns overflowing with foodgrains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of people died for want to food, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to curb this magnitude of problem?

Tenders for storage of foodgrains

† 1950. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders were invited for storage of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether tenders have also been received from foreign companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are reviewing credibility and functional efficiency of these companies?

PDS ration to income tax payees

1951. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government warehouses are overflowing with cereal stocks;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to allow income-tax payees to draw ration from Public Distribution System shops;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and other alternative steps taken to dispose of the surplus stock?

Diversion of foodgrains from TPDS

1952. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the magnitude of diversion of wheat, rice and sugar from the TPDS at the national level;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to control such diversion; and

(d) how far these measures have been effective in controlling diversion of foodgrains from TPDS?

Marketing yards and godowns for farmers in Rajasthan

1953. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for setting up of marketing yards and Government godowns, for providing additional storage and marketing facilities to the farmers have been submitted by the Government of Rajasthan and other State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proposals received from the State Governments during the last three years are still pending with the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when approval is likely to be accorded, the amount of assistance proposed to be provided, State-wise?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Smart card system

1954. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

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

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

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith Government's response thereto;

(c) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the other recommendations made by the Working Group?

Government funding for construction of godowns

1955. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government funding is done for construction of godowns in the States to strengthen PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of godowns which came up in Gujarat during the last five years under this pattern of funding, year-wise and district-wise and capacity thereof; and

(d) the authority who has the ultimate control over these godowns in the State?

Procurement of sugarcane in UP and Haryana

1956. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether procurement price of sugarcane in UP is Rs. 95 per quintal whereas it is Rs. 120 per quintal in Haryana;

(b) whether it is also a fact that per quintal yield of sugar is 11-12 Kg in UP against 8-9 Kg in Haryana; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to give high price to the sugarcane farmers in UP also?

Damage/shortage of wheat procured in Punjab and Haryana

1957. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat procured in Punjab and Haryana in the months of March, April and May in the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001;

(b) how much of this quantity was released for PDS in these two States in the following ten months during the above period;

(c) the extent of damages/shortage reported during the said period; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to reduce the same?

BPL ration card holders under TPDS

1958. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to supply foodgrains to cover all the BPL

ration card holders by making additional allocation of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether any State other than Gujarat has also made request for additional allocation of foodgrains to cover all the ration card holders identified as BPL families by them;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to cover all the BPL ration card holders under the TPDS; and

(d) if so, by when, the left out BPL families would be covered under this scheme?

Mounting stocks of sugar

1959. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 28th January, 2002 under the caption "State sugar industry reels under mounting stocks"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Fetification of sugar with Vitamin-A

1960. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that almost half of the population suffers from micronutrient deficiency of vitamin A, iron and iodine;

(b) whether impact of fortified sugar on human beings has been tried;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to fortify sugar with vitamin A to balance the diet as recommended by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad; and

(d) the strategies evolved to supply such sugar to all including children especially in tribal and backward areas at affordable price?

Protection of farmers against intermediaries

† 1961. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large-scale bungling is being committed in purchase of all the agricultural produce at the purchase centres;

(b) if so, whether Government would formulate any concrete policy/scheme to purchase the farmers produce at proper rates and to save them from brokers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that produce of only powerful and influential farmers is purchased; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to protect interest of the farmers?

Movement and storage of agricultural products

1962. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

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

(a) whether Government have since

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

decided to lift control on the movement and storage of agricultural produce within the country and remove curbs on quota and registration of farm produce;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard and the mechanism to overcome scarcity of foodgrains;

(c) whether Government have also decided to remove some items from the list of Essential Commodities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) since when this orders would be operational; and

(f) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure that benefit in pricing goes to the farmers?

Preference of Kakinada port for import of foodgrains

1963. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for shortlisting Kakinada Deep Water Port as a preferred port for foodgrains export and to develop SAILOS at Kakinada port;

(b) if so, when such a request was received in his Ministry;

(c) what steps has been contemplated on such request; and

(d) the places where Government propose to construct the state-of-art warehousing facilities with modern systems storage and transportation of foodgrains?

Food security to the poor

† 1964. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any effective steps to provide food security to the poor people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Antyodaya Anna Yojana in Pondicherry

1965. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families identified in Pondicherry under "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" during the year 2001; and

(b) the quantity of rice allotted for this scheme to Pondicherry?

Damage of foodgrains

† 1966. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that one third of the foodgrains produced is rotted every year;

(b) if so, the concrete steps being taken up by Government to check such damage of foodgrains; and

(c) if no steps have been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Benefit of Annapoorna and Antyodaya Schemes

1967. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to know whether benefits of Annapoorna and Antyodaya Schemes are reaching to the right people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to raise monthly PDS allocations; and

(d) if so, to what extent, it would be raised and by when?

several more consumer items to be covered under the net;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that many consumer items which are compulsorily covered under the BIS net are openly available without any ISI mark;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the State Governments are also not implementing the guidelines on consumer items issued by the Union Government; and

(f) if so, the steps through which Government propose to ensure its implementation?

Reduction in prices of rationed foodgrains

1968. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to further reduce the prices of rationed foodgrains in view of buffer stocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also been seriously considering delinking of Minimum Support Price from procurement; and

(d) if so, the extent to which delinking of Minimum Support Price from procurement is going to help in reducing the foodgrains stocks?

Extending BIS net

1969. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether BIS has decided to bring

Surplus sugar

1970. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been surplus availability of sugar in country for the last five years if so, the details of the demand and supply;

(b) what is the rationale of continuing with monthly release mechanism; and

(c) whether this system is prevalent in other sugar producing countries also, and if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

Additional allocation of foodgrains

1971. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received requests from some of the State Governments for additional allocation of foodgrains during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, as on date, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the allocation made, State-wise?

Government funding to sugar industries for power generation units

1972. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to fund sugar industries to set up power generation units;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed, if any; and

(c) the maximum and minimum amount fixed for funding each unit?

Indian stand on Sri Lankan peace process

1973. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have welcomed Sri Lanka Government's ceasefire with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and assured Sri Lanka that India would play its role in the peace process;

(b) if so, whether it is for the first time that India has taken keen interest in solving the problem of Sri Lanka; and

(c) if so, what sort of help has been assured to Sri Lanka in settling this issue?

All Party team to Bangladesh

1974. SHRI P. N. SIVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an all Party team is likely to visit Bangladesh to get a first hand account

of the alleged atrocities being committed on the Hindus as reported in the 'Hindu' dated December 6, 2001; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Discussion on border dispute with Chinese Premier

1975. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Chinese Prime Minister to India efforts were made to get clarified the position with regard to 4056 kms. Sino-Indian border disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the reaction thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Changes in employment and immigration laws by the U.K.

1976. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.K. is contemplating to effect sweeping changes in its employment and immigration laws to flush out around 5,00,000 illegal immigrants from the country;

(b) whether Indians constitute a large share of this illegal immigrant workforce; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to solve the problems to be faced by the Indian immigrant community in U.K.?

Interest of Indian settlers in Fiji

1977. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up

with the Fiji, after its new Government formation, regarding safeguard of Indian settlers there;

(b) if so, the details thereof and also their response thereto; and

(c) if not, whether it is proposed to take up this issue now?

Russian suggestion to Pakistan to stop intrusion in India

1978. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Russia had told Pakistan to take concrete action to stop intrusion of terrorists in India and stop their terrorist activities?

Extradition treaty with Iran

† 1979. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to sign an extradition treaty with Iran;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Musharraf's willingness to establish cordial relations

1980. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pak President Musharraf in his Republic Day message to the Prime Minister expressed Pakistan regimes wish to establish a tension free relationship with India and conveyed his readiness for sustained dialogue with New Delhi;

(b) if so, what was the precise message; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

U.S. activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan

1981. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States is setting militancy in India's neighbourhood in post Taliban Afghanistan and Pakistan;

(b) if so, Government's response to these developments; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

Criteria to declare a country and organisation as terrorist

1982. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the internationally accepted criteria to declare a country and an organisation as terrorist;

(b) the names of the countries and organisations declared so far terrorist in terms of those criteria;

(c) whether Bhutan and Bangladesh qualify to be termed as Terrorist States as they are harbouring terrorists operating in India;

(d) if so, the implications thereof and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Indian plea to stop such activities from their territory indicating outcome so far; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to convincingly establish that terrorism issue in NER is taken up equally at International level?

British Foreign Secretary's Delhi visit

1983. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Foreign Secretary visited Delhi in February, 2002;

(b) if so, what was the intention of such a visit;

(c) whether any discussion took place to end cross-border terrorism;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the other issues discussed with various leaders during his visit to India?

Pakistan's involvement in attack on Parliament

1984. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have definite proof of active connivance of an official of the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi in helping the Jaish-e-Mohammad attack on the 13th December, 2001 on the Indian Parliament;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the Pakistan Government; and

(c) whether the official concerned has been declared *persona non-grata* and if not, the reasons therefor?

Pakistan's efforts to get support of European Union on Kashmir

1985. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Pak wooing European Union on Kashmir" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 21st February, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has succeeded in getting some members of the European Parliament to press for special hearing on Kashmir in April, 2002; and

(c) if so, what steps have been activated by Government to counter the Pakistani move?

Bringing back Indians detained in Ukraine

1986. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 110 Punjabi youths were detained recently in the capital of Ukraine in whose cases Indian travel agents had lured them with promises of jobs and a better lifestyle in the European countries;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to bring them back; and

(c) what punitive action is being taken against the erring travel agents?

Indians imprisoned in Guatamala

† 1987. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that twenty five Non Resident Indians are still in captivity in Guatamala;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) the details of the action taken by Government to set them free from the captivity?

Pakistan's support to Kashmir

† 1988. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani President in his message broadcast on 12th January, 2002 has stated that 'Kashmir Hamare Khoon main hai, Samarthan Jaari Rahaingay';

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

(c) whether Government have conveyed their protest to the Pakistan Government?

Passport application collection centres;

1989. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started passport application collection centres at every district Headquarters;

(b) whether this practice does not involve any delay in processing and issue of passports; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that passport applicants are not harassed?

Assault on Indians in Durban

1990. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases of assault on Indians living in Durban in South Africa;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to ensure safety of the Indians living there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Pressure on India to ease tension at borders

† 1991. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the influential countries of the world have pressurized India to the effect that India and Pakistan ease the tension increasing between them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these countries are also pressurizing Government to withdraw its forces deployed on the line of Actual Control in view of security threat;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

Russian Deputy Prime Minister's Visit

1992. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian Deputy Prime Minister has recently visited India and held discussion on several matters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that he pressed India for routing of all Russian Defence deals through its trading house; and

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

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Treaty with Bangladesh

1993. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are all set to sign a bilateral agreement with Bangladesh on long term economic corporation regarding trade, investment, communications, infrastructure and other matters of mutual interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed agreement would also include provisions for controlling cross border terrorism and extradition of militants and terrorists and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the agreement is likely to be signed?

Demand to close down Pak High Commission

1994. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demands have been made to shut down Pak High Commission in New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the staff posted at Pak High Commission is linked with ISI agents and spreading terror in India;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to close down the Pak High Commission?

Committee for cases of harassment of women employees

1995. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a complaint Committee to deal with the cases of harassment of women employees in the Indian Missions abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of the complaints received since the constitution of the Committee;

(d) the number of complaints that have been inquired into by the Committee and were substantiated; and

(e) what action has been taken by Government against the officials found involved?

Support sought by USA

1996. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and kind of support sought by the United States of America in its own efforts to fight terrorism;

(b) Government's response alongwith the details of the aid and assistance provided; and

(c) whether Government have accepted military alliance with the USA in support of the so called global coalition to fight international terrorism which according to USA stand so far does not include cross border terrorism and the proxy war engaged by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country for more than a decade?

Declaration on 'No First Use' of nuclear weapons

1997. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan was urged to declare the 'No First Use' of nuclear weapons as has been announced by India;

(b) whether Pakistan have rejected the proposal; and