

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Thursday, the November 21, 2002/Kartika 30, 1924 (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—118

#### Nuclear power generation

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of nuclear power generated in the country during the last five years, year-wise and plant-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Atomic Energy Commission has prepared a perspective plan for the next two decades;

(c) if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(d) the manner in which Government are thinking of generating more atomic power during the next five years?

#### Emission of radiation from Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant

214. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant (KAP) in Surat (Gujarat) is emitting radiation three times as much as of the international norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it is threatening the life of workers in KAP; and

(c) whether the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has warned the KAP and if so, the steps taken by the KAP, so far?

#### Production of atomic energy

215. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for production of atomic energy during the Ninth Five Year Plan period and achievement made during the Plan period;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to increase atomic power generation during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projection made in this regard?

### **Theft of nuclear materials**

† 216. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft of nuclear materials from the various atomic institutions of India which came to light during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases in which stolen nuclear materials recovered; and

(c) the fresh steps Government propose to take to check the theft of the nuclear materials from various institutions?

### **Misuse of PCO of handicapped quota**

† 217. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Jansatta' dated the 28th August, 2002 (published from Lucknow) under the column Shaharnama under the title "Viklang Kote Ke PCO ka Jumkar Durupyog";

(b) if so, the number of cases which came to Government's notice during the last one year;

(c) the reasons for which handicapped are compelled to sell their PCOs; and

(d) Government's policy in this regard?

### **WLL technology**

218. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide Wireless in Local Loop technology

based telephones in all the districts during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the benefit of this technology;

(c) whether the BSNL has sought special package for the purpose;

(d) if so, the funds earmarked for the purpose during the current financial year;

(e) whether the private companies operating in the rural areas of the country have opposed the use of Wireless in Local Loop Technology; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government in this regard?

### **Operation of NIC network**

219. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether NIC network is operating in the country;

(b) if so, the number of districts covered under the NIC network;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make it operational up to the Block/Tehsil level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame fixed by Government for this purpose?

### **Branch Post Offices at Nandla in H.P.**

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

(a) whether Government had received any proposal in the month of July 2002

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

regarding opening of Branch Post Office at village Nandla which lies in District Shimla of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no action has been taken so far although the same was forwarded for appropriate action to the concerned officer; and

(c) whether Government propose to open Branch Post Office at Nandla during the financial year 2002-2003?

#### **Computer and internet facility**

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

(a) the States/villages of the country where Government have provided computer and internet facility;

(b) the number of such States/districts/villages of the country where this facility has not yet been extended so far; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by Government for expansion of this facility in all the villages of the country?

#### **Subsidy on postal services**

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

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

(a) the subsidy that Government are giving to various postal services since 1992-93, year-wise and item-wise *i.e.* subsidy on post cards registration, money order, etc.;

(b) whether Government are thinking of reducing subsidy on the postal services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **High-level Committee on telecom-related issues**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering for setting up of a three-member high-level Committee to address telecom-related issues in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed Committee would also look into the aspect of revenue sharing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Telephone facilities in villages**

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

(a) whether Government propose to link all the villages by telephones;

(b) if so, by when the target would be achieved; and

(c) what are the limitations for achieving this target?

#### **Relief to mobile phone users**

225. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that opening up of telecom sector and entry of private players

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in the field has resulted in the mobile phone users getting a better deal in terms of rent, call tariff and value added service;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in relation to mobile phone users, the fixed telephone users, who are mostly from the low and middle class, feel ignored and discriminated, because their rental, call rates and phone service have been the same; and

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the rental and call rates further in respect of fixed lines and by when?

#### **V.P.T. facility by BSNL**

226. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, a Public Sector Enterprise, is being entrusted the responsibility of providing Village Public Telephone facility throughout the country;

(b) if so, the number of villages in the country which would be provided with this facility;

(c) whether a time-frame has been chalked out for this task; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Licenses to private companies for deployment of village phones**

227. SHRI C. O. POULOSE:  
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether the private basic phone companies were awarded licenses with the obligations to deploy one lakh village phones in three years;

(b) if so, whether these private companies have since fulfilled this obligation; if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of VPTs provided, so far, by these companies; and

(c) if answer to part (b) be in the negative, the action taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Laying of submarine cable link between Visakhapatnam and Kuala Lumpur**

228. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to lay submarine cable link from Visakhapatnam to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia has been finalised;

(b) what benefits would accrue to the country from this project; and

(c) by when this cable link is likely to be functional?

#### **Telephone exchanges in Assam**

229. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up telephone exchanges in all the Blocks/Districts of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

**Setting up of a National Internet Exchange**

† 230. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted a suggestion to Government to set up a National Internet Exchange for development of internet keeping in view of slow expansion of internet in the country;

(b) if so, the other suggestions given by the authority to boost development of internet;

(c) whether Government have taken any step in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Ill-effects of radiation from mobile phones**

† 231. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the ill-effects on human body from the radiation emitting from mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a lot of researches have been conducted in Western countries on the radiation emitting from mobile phones and its ill-effects on human body;

(d) if so, the doubts raised by the experts in this connection; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

**Help to Departments in the areas of global competition**

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

(a) the manner in which Government are helping various departments to gain place in the global competition in their respective fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts put in by Government in this direction;

(c) whether the efforts put in by Government to help the departments since its inception have proved fruitful;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Introduction of Cellone**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Cellone has been introduced in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh recently; if so, what are the features thereof;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study before introduction of Cellone;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Opening of Internet/Cyber Cafes**

234. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans or proposals to open Internet/Cyber Cafes,

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

direct under VSNL and BSNL management in all cities of the country;

(b) whether Government realize the revenue generation potential from such cafes throughout the country; and

(c) if so, by when Government would put in effect such a plan?

#### **Slashing of net charges**

235. SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to slash the dial-up charges for logging on the net;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have reduced the charges for day time logging on the net and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Telephone facilities in Rajasthan**

236. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to telephone facilities and the number of villages in Rajasthan which are yet to be provided with telephone facility;

(b) whether the targets for the year 2002 have been achieved; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **I.T.U. meeting**

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

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

(a) the details of the agenda items discussed at the International Telecom Union (ITU) meeting held in Morocco;

(b) the details of the Indian delegation who had participated in the meet;

(c) the nature of gains earned out of the deliberations; and

(d) what is Government's policy on the issue of Village Public Telephones?

#### **Operation of illegal telephone exchanges**

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

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

(a) whether illegal telephone exchanges had been found operating clandestinely in the capital; if so, the details thereof;

(b) what was the *modus operandi* thereof;

(c) the approximate loss caused to the exchequer since their inception; and

(d) the action taken against the accused?

#### **Global meet on telecom security**

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

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

(a) whether a Global meet on Telecom Security was last held in Delhi; if so, how

many companies had taken part in the deliberations;

(b) the issues discussed in the meet; and

(c) the measures suggested to control security threats?

#### **Financial performance of BSNL**

240. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial performance of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has deteriorated after its corporatisation and an estimated financial burden of over Rs. 7000 crore is likely to fall on it during the year 2002-2003; and

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

#### **Agitation by engineers of MTNL/BSNL**

241. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether engineers of MTNL/BSNL had gone on a 'Work to Rule' agitation recently resulting in crippling of telecom links to several States;

(b) if so, the details of their demands;

(c) whether Government started negotiation with the executive negotiating council of engineers of BSNL/MTNL;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Setting up of Community Information Centres**

242. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to set up Community Information Centres in every block in the country to provide connectivity at block levels;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) by when, Community Information Centres would be set up in every block in the country?

#### **Despatch of money orders**

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

(a) the number of money orders despatched from B-10, Vasant Kunj post office of New Delhi to Muzaffarpur, Bihar particularly to Chandanpatti post office in the first week of August, 2002 and the details thereof;

(b) whether all these money orders were received by the recipients, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any complaint in this regard has been received by Government; if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Implementation of Long Term Grain policy**

244. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1662 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 2002 and state:

(a) whether an in-depth study has been made of the recent Report of the High Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy headed by Prof. Abhijit Sen;

(b) if so, the details of the major observations/recommendations of the Committee and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) whether a fresh road-map has been drawn for effecting long term foodgrains policy reforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and its present status?

#### **Inspection of the godowns of FCI**

†245. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had made a surprise inspection of the godowns of the Food Corporation of India situated in Delhi during the third week of July;

(b) if so, the lapses found in the inspection; and

(c) the persons held responsible for the lapses and the irregularities found in these godowns and the action taken by Government against them?

#### **Creation of buffer stock of sugar**

246. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to create a buffer stock of sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the proposal has been strongly opposed by the cane farming community contending *inter-alia* that it would run counter to the proposed de-control of the sugar industry which is to be achieved by the end of the financial year 2002-2003; and

(d) the details of the major points made by the farming community and views of the other concerned interests of sugar industry and the final decision taken on the proposal?

#### **Packing of foodgrains in plastic bags**

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

(a) what is the shelf life of wheat, rice and sugar if packed in plastic bags in bulk; and

(b) the countries which use plastic bags for the bulk packing of wheat, rice and sugar and for what period?

#### **Sugar buffer stock**

†248. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



Government's consideration to create buffer stock of sugar of 20 lakh tonnes during the ensuing two years due to sharp rise in the stock of sugar and the continuous reduction in its prices;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to fix the responsibility of maintaining the stocks and to pay in full the other expenditures incurred on this stock;

(c) whether Government have taken the advice of sugar industry in this matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Formula for pricing of sugarcane**

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

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a new formula for pricing of sugarcane country wide;

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

(c) what would be the main features of the new formula?

#### **Export of foodgrains**

250. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains exported by the Food Corporation of India and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last two years;

(b) what are the specific problems encountered in developing our export potential and the steps taken to overcome them;

(c) the long term perspective developed

for export of foodgrains as an integral part of the export strategy; and

(d) what are the fresh specific measures initiated to improve our competitiveness in terms of quality, price and delivery of foodgrains as per prevailing international standards and the market practices?

#### **Diversion of rice by NCCF**

251. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice etc. are released by the National Consumer Co-operative Federation (NCCF) for export;

(b) if so, the quantity of rice released in favour of NCCF during the last three years;

(c) the price at which rice is given to NCCF and how does that rate compare with the open market;

(d) whether instances have come to the notice where rice released for export has been diverted to the open market at higher rate;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government against the NCCF in the matter?

#### **Report of National Sample Survey on starvation**

252. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Sample Survey has estimated that five per cent of the population in the country sleeps without two square meals a day;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that no citizen sleeps hungry in the country and does not die untimely of starvation?

#### **Reported starvation deaths**

253. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported starvation deaths in some States;

(b) whether Government have received detailed reports in the matter from concerned State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Starvation deaths in Orissa**

254. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent telecast of the news reel depicting suppression of starvation deaths in Orissa has been taken note of; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to bring out the truth for immediate corrective measures?

#### **Starvation deaths in States**

†255. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
'LALAN':  
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-items regarding starvation deaths in Madhya

Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether any action was taken by Government to confirm these news-items; and

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

#### **Rejection by Pakistan to use land route for Indo-Afghan trade**

256. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has rejected Afghanistan's request to use country's land route for continuing its trade ties with India;

(b) if so, whether Indo-Afghanistan trade would continue through alternative route avoiding Pakistan territory; and

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

#### **Visit by foreign dignitaries**

257. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign dignitaries who visited India since August, 2002 till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries;

(c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **India-European Union Summit**

258. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the recent India-European Union Summit; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the European Union's views regarding cross border terrorism originating from Pakistan and the need for negotiations between India and Pakistan to resolve outstanding issues?

#### **Implementation of Haj Act**

259. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed the rules for implementation of Haj Act, which has been assented to by the President;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the Act and the rules thereunder are likely to be notified?

#### **Firing on fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy**

260. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the frequent firing on fishermen from Wagapattinam and Thiruvavur districts of Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy; and

(b) the details of the action taken by Government to save the poor fishermen from the clutches of Sri Lankan Navy?

#### **Extradition of suspected accused of Purulia case**

261. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his visit to Denmark in October last, the Prime

Minister was told by his Danish counterpart that Kim Peter Davy, suspected to have air dropped consignments of weapons in Purulia, West Bengal on December 17, 1996, would not be extradited to India; and

(b) if so, what diplomatic channel Government propose to utilise for the trial of Davy in India?

#### **Double standards of western countries on terrorism**

262. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister, during his visit to UK in second week of October, aired his feeling that western countries were maintaining double standards on terrorism;

(b) whether this issue was raised during his meeting with the British Prime Minister;

(c) if so, the British Prime Minister's reaction thereto; and

(d) the other issues discussed with the British Government and the outcome thereof?

#### **Problems faced by Indian job seekers abroad**

263. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems being faced by the Indian youths abroad for job opportunities; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to redress their problems?

### **Talks with Pakistan**

†264. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has recently proposed to resume talks with India which were stalled so far;

(b) if so, the details of the conditions laid for such talks; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

### **Damage to temples in Bangladesh**

265. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Temple burnt, idols in 3 attacks in Bangladesh" appearing in the Asian Age dated the 9th October, 2002;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to take up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh and impress upon them the need to protect the religious freedom of the minorities in that country?

### **Cancellation of Deputy Prime Minister's Russia visit**

266. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Prime Minister was scheduled to visit Russia some times in mid October, 2002;

(b) whether the proposed visit could not materialize due to the sudden cancellation of the visit by the Russian Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons provided by the Russian Government therefor?

### **Comparison of Gujarat with Jammu and Kashmir by US**

267. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Deccan Chronicle on the 4th October, 2002 under the caption "Clinton compares Gujarat to J.K.: US Commission says Sangh Parivar responsible for religious hatred";

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to obliterate the widespread impression prevalent in the foreign countries that India has not done enough to ensure the protection of the minorities?

### **Supply of arms to Pakistan by US**

268. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has been supplying arms to Pakistan during the last one year in the name of fighting terrorism;

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

(c) whether India has noticed that these arms have been used by Pakistani militants against India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether India has brought this to the notice of US Government; and

(f) if so, the US response in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Yoshiro Mori's India Visit**

269. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has expressed its disappointment to the special Japanese envoy Mr. Yoshiro Mori when he visited India, that Japan has not put enough pressure on Pakistan to put a permanent end to terrorism;

(b) if so, Japan's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the details of the other subjects discussed with the special envoy?

### **Indian demand to stop international aid to countries supporting terrorism**

270. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has made demand that countries supporting terrorism should be barred from any aid and assistance from international aid agencies like World Bank and other institutions; and

(b) if so, the details of their response thereto?

### **Seizure of Yasser Arafat's office**

271. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the office of the Palestine leader Yasser Arafat, had been put under siege by the Israeli troops during September, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued any statement condemning the Israeli action;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government's stand could be construed as a change in its policy towards the Palestine issue?

### **Designating India as Country of Particular Concern**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that for the first time India has been put on religious watchlist by the US administration and designated as "Country of Particular Concern (CPC) in terms of the International Religions Freedom Act, 1998 (IRFA);

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

(c) the disabilities which a CPC under the IRFA is subjected to;

(d) whether the proposed step is likely to affect adversely Indo-US relation; and

(e) if so, the measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

### **Anti-India activities in Bangladesh**

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Time: Dhaka hub of anti-India activities" published in the Hindustan Times dated the 14th October, 2002;

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

(c) whether Government have taken up/propose to take up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh for providing base for carrying out anti-India activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**UN General Assembly meeting**

†274. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister participated in the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, recently;

(b) if so, the names of the Heads of the States who participated in this meeting togetherwith the issues raised therein; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

**Foreign consulates in Hyderabad**

275. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates propose to set up their consulate in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether his Ministry has given permission for this;

(c) the places in the country where these countries have already their consulates; and

(d) by when these consulates are going to be functional?

**Russia and Britain's efforts to reduce Indo-Pak tension**

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

(a) the details of the efforts made by Russia and Britain to reduce tension between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether the same has brought any tangible results; and

(c) what are the areas of disputes between India and Pakistan that were discussed by Britain and Russia?

**Harassment of Indian immigrants in Italy**

277. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal Indian immigrants in Italy are being harassed by Indian Foreign office for issue of new passports;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the lower staff are seeking bribes to help them; and

(c) the action proposed to assist the Indians in ensuring that their FIRs on loss of passports are filed by the Italian Police and help them in getting new passports?

**Issuance of passports to Abu Salem**

278. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in India from where Abu Salem, the notorious underworld don and his accomplice Monica Bedi got passports;

(b) whether these passports were issued under fictitious names;

(c) whether any enquiries have been held in this regard;

(d) the number of persons involved in issuing passports; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against them?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**India's comments on recent missile test by Pakistan**

279. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, instead of making ironical statements to the media about the recent missile testing by Pakistan, Government have thought correct to strongly bring the issue to the international community and the US, that Pakistan has been constantly trying to destabilize South East Asia by its missile test programme;

(b) if so, to what extent his Ministry been able to put this point across to the international community; and

(c) if not, the reasons behind his Ministry's official giving such explanatory statements to the media about the Pakistani missile testing when they could actually build more pressure on Pakistan?

**Steps to stop attack on minorities**

280. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsreport captioned "Centre not doing enough to stop attack on minorities: US Report" appearing in The Hindu dated 8th October, 2002;

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

(c) the steps, if any, proposed in this regard?

**Committee for Haj affairs**

281. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:  
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Committee of eminent persons to make the 'Haj' cheaper and more pleasant; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Meeting of the Ministers of External Affairs**

†282 SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of the Ministers of External Affairs of Russia, China and India was held recently;

(b) if so, the decisions taken therein; and

(c) Government's opinion on making a confederation of Russia, China and India?

**Sale of fighter planes to Pakistan by America**

†283. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that America is going to sell 130 fighter planes to Pakistan;

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

(c) whether the Prime Minister had taken up this matter with the American Government during his recent visit to U.S.A.; and

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

**Government's stand on proposed US attack on Iraq**

284. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government had made known its stand on the impending proposed attack by US and allies on Iraq; and

(b) if so, Government's stand and response thereto?

**Second road link between Agartala and Dhaka**

285. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh are going to open a second road link connecting Agartala in Tripura with Dhaka in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, by when this route would be operational; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

**Fishermen detained in Sri Lankan waters**

286. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 103 fishermen, with their mechanised boats, were detained in Sri Lankan waters on the 25th September, 2002;

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

(c) when they were released?

**Issuance of passports to Indians in Italy**

287. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons claiming to be Indians who were issued "authority slips" by Indian missions in Rome and Milan since June, 2002 to the 8th November, 2002;

(b) the number of such cases referred back to PIOs in India for clearance including authority slip receivers and duplicate passport seekers; and

(c) the break up of the cases cleared by PIOs Jalandhar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Bareilly and Jaipur and the number of passports issued by Indian missions on the basis of clearance notes alongwith the number of pending cases and the reasons therefor?

**Deputy Prime Minister's statement regarding Chinese-Occupied-Kashmir**

†288. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the statement of the Deputy Prime Minister to the effect that "China Ke Kabje Wala Kashmir Hamara Hai" published in various newspapers on the 20th September, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps Government have taken to take back China-Occupied-Kashmir?

**Revamping of U.N.O.**

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(a) whether the U.N. Secretary General has submitted a revamp report to the world body to streamline the 190 nations body;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this report also contains some proposal for restructuring of the Security Council; and

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

deposited statutory dues to the extent of Rs. 1578 crore in addition to Rs. 357 crore of wages to workers as alleged in the article;

(c) if not, the actual status as on date;

(d) whether Government are taking any action as per law as articulated in the article; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Cheating by travel agents**

†290. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the illegal business being operated by travel agents to sent gullible people to foreign countries for employment after charging lakhs of rupees from them;

(b) if so, the number of Indian's languishing in Jails of foreign countries alongwith the names of those countries;

(c) the number of Indians brought back to India during the last three years, year-wise, alongwith the names of those countries; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to curb such activities?

#### **Default in depositing statutory dues**

291. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article titled "Public Limited means unlimited waste of public money" appearing in the Indian Express dated the 9th July, 2002;

(b) if so, whether some PSUs have not

#### **Welfare scheme for unorganised workers**

†292. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated or propose to formulate any new ambitious scheme for the welfare of the workers engaged in unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to implement any scheme to grant pension to the workers of the above sector; and

(d) if so, by when, this scheme would be implemented for the benefit of the workers?

#### **Implementation of recommendations of Second Labour Commission**

293. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the reports of the Second Labour Commission set up a few years back;

(b) if so, when and the major highlights of the report;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have started processing some of the vital recommendations of the commission in consultation with the labour unions or otherwise;

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

(e) by when Government would start implementing these recommendations?

#### **Unemployment in private sector industries**

294. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers/employees who have been rendered jobless due to closure of over three lakh industries, downsizing and retrenchments in public sector and private sector, separately;

(b) whether the sickness in industries in private sector is much more higher than public sector, if so, the logic behind the move for privatisation of public sector; and

(c) what concrete move his Ministry has taken to save employment of workers and employees in private sector industries?

#### **Introduction of Social Security Card**

295. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:  
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to introduce 'Social Security Card' to all the workers in the country to enable them to get social security benefit during their service period and after retirement; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard with financial implications thereof and by when the scheme would become operational?

#### **Range of wages for daily wage labourers**

296. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the range of wages for the daily wage labourers in the agriculture and allied sectors across the country alongwith the State-wise figures for the last three years;

(b) whether Government have any plans to revise and standardize the minimum wages for both male and female in the agriculture and allied sectors, as the present wage system does not provide them proper living wages; and

(c) whether Government have any special policy for the unorganized sector?

#### **Plight of the workers of unorganised sector**

†297. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that plight of the workers of unorganised sector is pitiable despite many efforts of Government and they do not get full remuneration and employment throughout the year;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any concrete steps to provide proper remuneration and employment to the workers throughout the year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Unemployed youth in N.E.R.**

298. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated/uneducated unemployed youth in the North Eastern Region at present alongwith category-wise details, viz., physically handicapped, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other weaker sections of the society, district-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide employment to these people?

### **Decline in employment ratio**

299. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employment ratio in both public and private sector has been showing a declining trend particularly from the year 1996;

(b) if so, the details of the employment in public sector and private sector from 1995 to 2001, year-wise; and

(c) the comparative data of growth in population during the said period?

### **Setting up of ITIs in the country**

† 300. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up new ITIs in the country to promote vocational training;

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

(c) whether Government have identified new courses in the said training fields which are in great demand and which are not in demand at all;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when, these training centres would be set up?

### **Amendment in labour laws**

301. SHRI GAYA SINGH:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to amend various labour laws as recommended by the Second Labour Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

### **Pension scheme for unorganised workers**

302. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2721 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th April, 2002 and state:

(a) the details of the "Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana 2001" launched through Life Insurance Corporation of India;

(b) the districts where it has been implemented;

(c) the number of beneficiaries in each districts, so far; and

(d) whether Government have proposed to extend the scheme to more districts; if so, the details thereof?

### **Housing scheme for EPF members**

303. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

a housing scheme for the members of Employees Provident Fund (EPF);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the scheme would be implemented?

#### **Unemployed educated youth**

304. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed educated youth all over the country in terms of qualification, State-wise;

(b) the annual growth rate of unemployment over the last three years; and

(c) Government's policy to tide over the problem of unemployment?

#### **Recommendations of the Second Labour Commission**

†305. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent recommendations of the Second Labour Commission report are against interests of the workers;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to reconsider these recommendations in the interest of workers keeping in view the protest by various trade unions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when a decision is likely to be taken thereon?

#### **National Labour Relations Commission**

306. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Second Labour Commission has recommended for a National Labour Relations Commission for adjudication and formation of a new All-India Judicial Administrative Services;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Labour Conference discussed the recommendations made by the Second Labour Commission on September, 28-29, 2002 to evolve a consensus; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

#### **Workers in fish processing industries**

307. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey about the number of workers in the fish processing industries in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to improve the living and working conditions of these workers?

#### **Strengthening of social security net**

308. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to rationalise labour laws to strengthen social security net;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether labour unions have been consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when this Bill is likely to be introduced?

#### **Medical insurance to rag-pickers**

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

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Organisation in their study had identified Pune rag-pickers as a high-risk group prone to health hazards;

(b) whether as a result of this, the Pune Municipal Corporation are proposing to offer medical insurance to rag-pickers; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such an insurance cover has also been offered by some other Government agency; if so, the details thereof?

#### **Retirement age of Central Government Employees**

310. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scope of recruitment of fresh entrants to the Central Government jobs has been reduced to zero following certain restrictions including the raising of age of retirement of the Central Government servants from 58 years to 60 years;

(b) whether it is proposed to reduce the age of retirement from 60 years to 58 years;

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

(d) what other steps are proposed to be taken to open up avenues of promotion for the Central Government employees?

#### **Sale of stationery to the Government officers**

311. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that DOP&T issued two Office Memorandum on 19th August, 1987 and 11th April, 1994 authorising Super Bazar and NCCF to sell stationery and other items to the Government offices giving relaxation to certain provisions of GFRs without the prior approval of the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to investigate the matter and to bring before the law the guilty officials responsible for issuing those OMs; and

(d) the steps taken to revoke those OMs forthwith?

#### **Growth rate for Tenth Five Year Plan**

312. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approved 8 per cent GDP growth rate estimated during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) is realistic in view of the past experience of the Ninth Plan and midterm Reserve Bank of India review forecasting a GDP of only 5.5 per cent as against 6.6 per cent forecast earlier;

(b) if so, what special efforts Government propose to make during the Tenth Plan period to achieve 8 per cent GDP; and

(c) what were the reasons for low GDP growth during the Ninth Plan?

### People Below Poverty Line

†313. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the persons living Below Poverty Line (BPL) during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the norms fixed for determining persons living Below Poverty Line;

(c) whether similar standards exist for persons living above the poverty line; and

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

### Tenth Five Year Plan

314. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the draft of Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the major highlights thereof;

(c) by when, the document is likely to be placed before the National Development Council and Parliament for deliberation and finalisation; and

(d) what is the projected annual growth rate envisaged in the plan and how it is sought to be achieved?

### Reduction in number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

315. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning

Commission has decided to reduce the number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS);

(b) if so, what are the schemes proposed to be abolished/merged with other schemes; and

(c) what is the final state of the CSS to be implemented during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

### Financial health of Rajasthan

316. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 4629 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 2002 and state:

(a) what specific proposals have been made by Rajasthan for readjustment of the loan-grant ratio in the Central Plan Assistance for restoration of financial health of the State, especially in view of the recurrent drought and scarcity that hit the State during the recent years; and

(b) the details of the Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Plan drawn up by Government for restoration of financial health of the States and how far it meets its specific demands and requirements?

### Tenth Five Year Plan

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, when this approval was given and the names of those five areas where target has been fixed to spend maximum amount; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the amount to be spent in each of these areas?

**Upgradation of State Highways into National Highways in Tamil Nadu**

318. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been submitted by the Tamil Nadu Government for upgradation of State Highways into National Highways;

(b) if so, whether approval has been accorded by the Centre alongwith the financial allocation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Amendment in Motor Vehicles Act**

319. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to amend the Motor Vehicles Act to ensure strict punishment, including cancellation of driving licence in accident cases;

(b) whether the number of road accidents has increased manifold during the last three years; and

(c) if so, Government's response in this regard?

**Condition of National Highways**

320. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic conditions of the National Highways after the flood and drought every

year and the inadequate funds for maintenance of National Highways all over the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal pending with Government for allocation of more funds for the States for better maintenance of National Highways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Highway connecting four metros**

321. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched some years back a project to link the four metros with four-lane highways;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project as originally fixed and the time-frame by which it was scheduled to be completed;

(c) the present status of the project;

(d) whether there has been any cost and time overrun and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure timely completion of the project?

**Golden Quadrilateral Project**

322. SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral Road Project is progressing as per schedule;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made on the project so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the States were found to have diverted the funds allotted for this project to some other purposes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon?

(d) if so, by when these schemes are likely to be implemented?

**Road accidents due to inexperienced drivers**

323. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to careless driving by inexperienced drivers of motor and motor cycles, accidents are increasing throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government would make non-bailable offence law provision against those drivers killing and injuring innocent travellers; and

(c) whether Government have proposed to make compulsory insurance provision for all motor drivers and bus passengers?

**National Highway Development Project**

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

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to seek Public Investment Board's approval for taking up fresh projects worth about Rs. 10,000 crore;

(b) if so, whether these projects will form the first tranche of second phase of Rs. 30,000 crore National Highway Development Project;

(c) whether the NHAI has also sought a go-ahead for accessing Asian Development Bank funding for a 500 km. stretch on the north-south, east-west corridors; and

**SIDBI Report, 2001**

325. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Small Industries Development Bank of India Report, 2001 Small Scale Industries (SSI) in the country are being affected the most due to the agreements signed under World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any remedial steps have been taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**SSIs in Uttar Pradesh**

326. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up small scale industries in the rural and backward areas in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the programme drawn up during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

**Development of small scale sector in Rajasthan**

327. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes and programmes implemented by Government for the development of small scale sector in Rajasthan during the past two years;

(b) the budget allocated under such schemes and the programme during the current year; and



(c) the details of the benefits derived from this sector under such schemes and programmes in the State?

**Satellite for promotion and development of education**

328. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO is developing an exclusive satellite for promoting and developing education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the satellite is going to be launched to start the programme?

**Projects running behind the schedule**

†329. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 152 Government projects are running behind their time schedule, the time of completion of 78 projects is not known and the time

schedule of 39 projects could not be fixed as a result of which the cost of these projects have increased to Rs. 40,889 crore;

(b) if so, the details of these projects, region-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of the factors responsible for delay in these projects;

(d) whether Government have fixed any responsibility in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Non-completion of projects**

†330. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the projects are affected by cost overrun day by day due to non-completion in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of projects are facing problems due to not having any long term Government policy and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 15th November, 2002*  
*Kartika 24, 1924 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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