

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, the December 21, 2005/Agrahayana 30, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Commerce and Industry; Defence; Home Affairs; Non-Conventional Energy Sources; Power; Rural Development; Textiles)

Total number of questions —155

India-EU trade

3042. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India-EU proposes to set up a joint study group to explore possibility of bilateral agreement that encompasses investment and trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether EU is India's largest trading partner and the biggest source of FDI; and

(d) if so, the details of EU-India trade during 2004 and what are our future estimates?

Assistance to States for development of export infrastructure

3043. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

is providing financial assistance to States under "Assistance to States for development of infrastructure and allied activities for the development of export infrastructure;"

(b) if so, the details of assistance that Government is providing to Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has rejected the additional assistance demanded by States without citing any reasons;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has asked for extending the scheme to develop other export facilities; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Parlours by Tea Board in Tamil Nadu

3044. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up parlours by Tea Board in Conoor and

other near by locations to promote tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up such parlours in other locations in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Export of different commodities

3045. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five commodities-transport equipment, petroleum-crude and products; machinery and instruments, gems and jewellery and ready-made garments including accessories accounted for 42 per cent of country's aggregate exports during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite initial setbacks, textiles exports and clothings have picked up and recorded a good export growth during April-May, 2005;

(d) which are the other items which have shown significant growth in exports; and

(e) what is the action plan of Government to give a further fillip to export of these items?

Agreement between India and Belarus to double trade

3046. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Belarus have entered into an agreement to double their trade;

(b) if so, the details of the tie-ups between the two countries to achieve the objective; and

(c) what is the present status of trade between the two countries and which are the main items of trade?

Cost reduction in Indian industry

3047. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts are being made to introduce cost reduction in Indian Industry to improve its competitive strength *vis-a-vis* Chinese industries; and

(b) whether Government is considering a proposal to provide imports and international prices to the Industry?

UNCTAD survey on FDI prospects

3048. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to an United Nations Conference on Trade and Development survey on Foreign Direct Investment prospects for 2005-06, covering 81 countries, India occupies the second position, next only to China as the most attractive investment destination after China for Transnational Corporations;

(b) if so, what percentage of Transnational Corporations found China, India, US, UK, Russia and Pakistan; as attractive destination; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken or contemplated by Government to make India a more attractive investment destination by multinationals?

Action against major publishing houses and cigarette companies

3049. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether action has been initiated against some major publishing houses and cigarette companies for violation of the "Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade And Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Visit of Defence Minister to North East in September, 2005

3050. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his visit to the North-East in September, 2005 also included gaining knowledge about Army operations, strategies, their success/hinderances, etc. against insurgent outfits, having their training camps in neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, whether these were broadly found satisfactory;

(c) whether the Tezpur based 4 Corps Headquarters issued a statement in September, 2005 indicating that ULFA continued to indulge in heinous activities against the Nation without eschewing violence;

(d) whether Government have begun peace talks with ULFA and Army units have been asked to halt their operations against them; and

(e) details of the cease-fire agreement?

Indo-US Trade Forum

3051. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and US\$ launched "Indo-US Trade Forum" to give thrust so as to double bilateral trade to US\$ 40 billion by 2008;

(b) if so, how India is going to overcome the Non-Tariff barriers that US imposes to achieve the goal of (a) above; and

(c) what is the present bilateral trade between India and US?

Exemption of agricultural commodities from Export Cess

3052. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to exempt all agricultural commodities from the levy of Export Cess; and

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

Hurdles in import and export

3053. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a report, co-sponsored by the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation, has ranked India at 116th place, thus highlighting significant obstacles, including administrative hurdles to import and export, and delays and costs to register property in India, and that an entrepreneur had to submit 15 documents and get 27 signatures to import goods;

(b) if so, are these views reflective of

actual happenings or are based on surmises; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take with a view to improve our ranking even when Bangladesh and Pakistan rank 65th and 60th in the report?

Import of iron scrap

3054. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether over ten thousand metric tonnes of iron scrap is imported in the country on a daily basis and in the last one year over 30 tonnes of live and fired shells were seized from these scraps;

(b) whether it is a fact that if these shells are not defused immediately, they can cause grave danger;

(c) if so, whether these shells have since been defused; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Promoting export of processed food

†3055. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to promote export of processed food and fruits from India during the last five years; and

(b) the details of the achievements made in this regard?

Industrial sickness

3056. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial units are getting

closed due to increasing sickness in conventional industries in the country;

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

(c) whether Government propose to announce any incentive scheme for different industries for their expansion and development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Visit of British P.M. to strengthen trade ties

3057. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British Prime Minister Tony Blair with a group of businessmen visited India in September 2005 to strengthen trade ties between the two countries;

(b) if so, details thereof and trade agreements/deals arrived at during his visit; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to India by these agreements/deals?

Container freight station in Chennai

3058. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to set up container freight station in Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Export of cotton clothes

†3059. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite substantial demand of cotton clothes in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

America, India is unable to reap benefits at par with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government intend to take to boost export of cotton clothes from India?

Sanction of AEZ for potatoes in Hassan, Karnataka

3060. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka requesting for sanctioning AEZ for potatoes in Hassan in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the delay and by when the said proposal would be sanctioned?

Survey to identify 'no industry' district

3061. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted a survey to identify 'no industry' districts in the country;

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

(c) whether Government propose to set up joint ventures in these districts with the help of foreign Government to develop these districts; and

(d) if so, the names of foreign countries in collaboration with which joint-ventures have been set up in 'no industry' districts in various States?

Steps to increase India's exports to US

3062. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US exports in India doubled over the last three years from 4 billion dollars to 7.5 billion dollars; and

(b) whether Government is taking any steps for increasing India's exports to US where there is a good market for Indian goods?

Industrial package to backward hill States

3063. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given an industrial package to industrially backward hill States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had in January, 2003 announced that the industries to be set up in these States up to 2013 will get the benefits under the package;

(d) whether Government have now decided to allow benefits to the industrial units to be set up before; and

(e) if so, the reasons for this shift in policy?

Suggestions of India and Brazil on Doha Round Negotiations

†3064. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India and Brazil have jointly suggested for World Trade's "Doha Round Negotiations" to be held in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Manila, that fifty per cent reduction in the tariff on the products of America and European countries would be considered, provided America and European countries agree to reduce tariff on agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held on this suggestion; and

(c) the reaction of America and European countries thereto and the outcomes thereof?

Business agreement with European countries and North America

†3065. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has entered into a business agreement with European countries and North America as a Free Trade Zone;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) the names of the countries having Free Trade Agreement with India in addition to the above countries;

(d) the percentage of tax rebate under the agreement;

(e) whether foreign trade has taken place during the past few years with the above mentioned countries; and

(f) if so, the value of export and import taken place with each of the countries during 2003-04 and 2004-05?

Construction of wall at Indo-Bangladesh border

†3066. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to erect four thousand k.m. long wall at Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) if not, whether Government would consider the matter seriously in this regard so that illegal infiltration of Bangladesh nationals and illegal smuggling from across the border could be avoided; and

(c) if so, the length of the wall erected so far and the time likely to be taken to complete this work?

Permission to container depots for importing iron scrap

†3067. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently granted permission for more container depots to import iron-scrap;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made all essential arrangements before allowing more import container depots for importing iron-scrap to prevent arrival of live-shells in form of scrap in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Negotiations with Gulf Cooperation Council

3068. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister authorized the Commerce and External Affairs Ministries to initiate negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council to conclude a Free Trade Agreement (FTA);

(b) whether the Prime Minister has pointed out that the Gulf region like South East and South Asia, is part of our natural economic hinterland and so we must pursue closer economic relations with all our neighbours;

(c) if so, whether both Commerce and External Affairs Minister visited these countries and had reached agreement; and

(d) if so, the details of the same and by when they are likely to be implemented?

Earthquake resistant constructions

3069. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that traditional structures in many regions of India have strong earthquake resistant features as compared to post multi-storied complexes;

(b) if so, whether the standards of Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) for earthquake resistant constructions are being followed ; and

(c) if not, whether Government are thinking of issuing guidelines for local municipal authorities and such other

agencies to incorporate in their bye laws (BIS) standard and enforce them strictly?

Trade pacts with US and EU

3070. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether PM's Trade and Economic Relationship Committee (TERC) comprising Finance and Commerce Ministers have decided to go slow on bilateral economic/trade agreements with Washington and Brussels;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons that India has agreed to go slow on trade pacts with US & EU and to what extent it will affect our trade relations with these two countries; and

(c) whether the Ministry had pointed out that India's merchandise exports to US and EU would not increase at desired pace if they do not dispense with heavy specific duties on imports?

Capital investment in SEZs by foreign multinational companies

†3071. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign multinational companies including major industrial houses of the country have decided to enhance capital investment in Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the names of the countries alongwith their industrial houses and foreign multinational institutions which have

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

decided for capital investment so far; and

(c) the amount and names of the institutions by which this capital investment would be done?

Violation of Indian airspace

3072. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been violation of Indian airspace by some countries;

(b) if so, the details of violations of airspace reported during the last one year; and

(c) the action contemplated by Government to check such violation?

Roads constructed by BRO

3073. SHRIMATI VANGA
GEETHA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of roads constructed all over India during the last one year by BRO;

(b) the amount sanctioned for each project;

(c) the amount utilized for each project so far;

(d) the present status of each project; and

(e) the time set to complete the pending projects?

Closure of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway due to landslides

3074. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was closed many times for vehicular traffic due to landslides during the current year;

(b) if so, the details of each case closed;

(c) whether the BRO had prepared any road map to clear the landslides to tackle such situations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount spent by Government in removing the landslides during the current year;

(f) the man-power used by Government to tackle these cases during the current year;

(g) whether Government had sanctioned extra amount for this purpose in the second half of the current year; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Installed capacity of wind energy

3075. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total installed capacity of wind energy in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the names of companies who are producing wind energy with installed capacity?

Role of Coast Guard in protecting our fishermen

3076. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coast Guard has any responsibility to protect our fishermen and guide them in sensitive places near the borders of other countries;

(b) if so, what steps is the Coast Guard taking to give priority to ensure that our fishermen do not stray near or into the waters of any nearby country;

(c) has the Coast Guard implemented any such task in the last year;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Coast Guard has not lived upto the expectations in protecting and guiding our fishermen; and

(e) steps proposed to review the functioning of our Coast Guard?

Differentiation between OP Vijay and post OP Vijay casualties

3077. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has drawn distinction between OP VIJAY and post OP VIJAY casualties thus diluting the benefits being extended by Government to the widows/NOKs of post OP VIJAY Battle casualties; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove this anomaly which is not only against the natural justice, but also has adversely affected the morale and motivation of soldiers, their families and NOKs of martyrs?

Conferring war widow status to widows of soldiers who died before 1st January, 1999

3078. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the widows of soldiers who sacrificed their lives during various operations before 1st January, 1999 are not being given the status of war widows; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to remove the disparity and give status of War Widow to the widows of those who died before 1st January, 1999?

Submarine deal with France

3079. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed a US\$ 1.8 billion submarine deal with France recently to acquire six submarines to replace to "fast decommissioning" of India's fleet;

(b) the reasons for Government going in for a single tender and why did it not look at the two other contenders viz. German HDW and Russian Amur class submarines; and

(c) additional benefits that the French Government is giving in this deal when compared to other two companies?

Restructuring of AFHQ Stenographers Service

3080. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal

to restructure the AFHQ Stenographers Service was made by the concerned Association;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal received;

(c) action taken on the proposal so far; and

(d) action proposed to be taken for acceptance of the proposal in a time bound manner?

Report on restructuring of AFHQ Civil Service

3081. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2381 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th August, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the Committee of Senior Officers in the Ministry of Defence constituted to consider restructuring of AFHQ Civil Service has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations;

(c) what action has been taken on the recommendations received;

(d) likely time by which decisions on each of the recommendations is likely to be taken; and

(e) if answer of (b), (c) and (d) are in the negative, likely date by which the recommendations are anticipated to be received by Government?

Shortage of personnel

3082. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is

shortage of personnel in certain departments/wings of the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) will Government consider granting commission to other ranks to fill the vacancies of officers?

US warships for surveillance purposes

3083. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has agreed to give warships to our Navy for surveillance purposes on lease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these ships cannot be built indigenously;

(d) if so, the reasons for not building the same; and

(e) if not, the action taken to build the ships?

Loss to defence personnel and their families in Tsunami

3084. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government initiated to conduct any assessment on the loss sustained to the defence personnel and their families due to the onslaught of Tsunami;

(b) how many military personnel belonging to Kerala sustained loss due to the above calamity, the district-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend any financial assistance to the affected service personnel and their families and the reaction of Government thereto?

**Occupation of 'Abbey House',
Hyderabad by Defence authorities**

3085. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Abbey House' owned by the Andhra Pradesh Government in Hyderabad has been under occupation of the Defence authorities since 1954;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Defence to hand over defence land to the State Government in exchange of 'Abbey House';

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the status of the proposal and the action taken thereto by the Ministry of Defence?

Accidents in ordnance factories

3086. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major and minor accidents in ordnance factories during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the loss of property in the above accidents; and

(c) what measures Government is taking or propose to take to modernise ordnance factories and ammunition depots?

Encroachment of defence land in New Delhi

3087. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of

encroachment and unauthorized construction like Juggi, PCO booths, vegetable market and other stall on defence land in Teen Murti, Kushak Road and Kashmir House, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to take this land back in its possession alongwith the action taken against those responsible for this; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Defective Dhruv helicopter

†3088. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the helicopter named 'Dhruv' provided to the State Government of Jharkhand was already defective which met with an accident while being taken away afterwards;

(b) whether technical testing of the helicopter had not been carried out before supplying it;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures being taken to prevent recurrence thereof in future?

**Service tenure of Short Service
Commissioned officers**

†3089. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tenure of service for Short Service Commissioned officers of Air Force has been fixed to fourteen years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Renewal of Indo-Russian defence programme

3090. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia have agreed to renew defence programme for another 10 years from 2010;

(b) if so, any discussion has been held with the Russian authorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation of additional air tonnage to Arunachal Pradesh

3091. SHRI NABAM REBIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation of air tonnage made by Government in Fixed Wing and Rotary Wing in respect of the State of Arunachal Pradesh for the year 2005-2006;

(b) whether the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has asked for allocation of additional air tonnage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps taken by Government to maintain smooth supply of essential commodities to the people residing in remote /international border areas of this border State?

Supply of 30 ALHs to Chile

3092. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered to supply 30 Advanced Light Helicopters to Chile valued at Rs. 400 crores;

(b) whether Indian ALH Dhruv is already in operation with Nepal Army for the last two years; and

(c) whether India has drawn a plan to phase out foreign made helicopters now operating in defence wings and substitute the same with our own, and if so, the details thereof?

Fresh tenders for 155mm Howitzer guns

3093. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to invite fresh tenders for the purchase of 155 mm high-caliber Howitzer guns;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the order is likely to be placed for procurement of guns?

Study/survey report of Ex-Chairman of Fifth Pay Commission Cell

†3094. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any study/survey report of Ex-Chairman (Maj. Gen. Surjeet Singh) of Fifth Pay Commission Cell in the Army Headquarters and according to which the average age of Army Officer and personnel is 72 to 59 years respectively;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of Government with regard to the said report;

(d) the steps Government are taking to improve the conditions of the Armymen; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Report on Delhi

3095. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the survey of 127 cities of world by The Economist's Intelligent Unit, National Capital Delhi has been ranked 108 on livability on account of threat of terrorism, civil unrest and military conflict with questionable quality of public transport, minimal health care indicators and generally filled with corrupt people;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the image and ranking of national capital?

Mine-proof vehicles for CRPF

3096. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Naxals active in some States are using landmines in large scale;

(b) if so, whether the Central Forces deployed in these States do not have Mine-proof vehicles;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) how many vehicles of CRPF have been damaged and number of CRPF personnel died in such landmine blasts; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide Mine-proof vehicles to Central Paramilitary Forces?

Ex-servicemen's Corporation for Chandigarh

3097. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether like the State of Punjab, the Union Territory of Chandigarh does not have an Ex-servicemen's Corporation as on date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

Cases of child sacrifice

3098. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case of child sacrifice has been reported anywhere in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many culprits had been convicted during the last five years, State-wise?

Fencing at Indo-Bangla border

3099. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fencing work had been suspended at several places along the Bangladesh border early this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether fencing work along Bangladesh border has since been resumed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and by when this fencing work is likely to be resumed?

Fake currency notes

†3100. SHRI DEVDAS APTE:
SHRI R.K. ANAND :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake currency notes are being sent to India *via* Bangladesh;

(b) whether there is connivance of Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles in this work; and

(c) whether Bangladesh has refuted the news regarding fake currency notes?

Rural electrification programme

3101. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government wants to share responsibility for rural electrification programme;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make amendments in the Electricity Act, 2003;

(c) if so, the salient features of the proposed amendments in the Electricity Act; and

(d) by when these amendments in the Electricity Act, 2003 are likely to be made?

Issuing of tourist visa by private agencies

3102. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ease visa regulations for tourists from abroad, by outsourcing the visa issuing process to private agencies;

(b) whether in order to save on the cost of establishing consulates in many US cities for issue of visas, Government propose to appoint private agencies in these cities to dispense visas; and

(c) whether US, UK and Australia have outsourced their visa centres for Indian tourists to private companies in Indian cities?

Loss of lives during robbery in Delhi

3103. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons, both civilian and police personnel, who lost their lives and were injured in a glaring robbery and shoot out case in Ashok Vihar area of Delhi in June last;

(b) the number of culprits involved in the case apprehended; and

(c) whether any compensation/awards have been paid to the policemen and civilians who helped to nab the culprits, if so, the details thereof?

Training of BSF personnel in foreign countries

3104. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received by the Home Ministry from Border Security Force for permission to train BSF personnel in some friendly foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken on this proposal?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Modalities for facing natural disasters

3105. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 813 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 2005 and state:

(a) whether Government had taken the financial assistance from World Bank and ADB;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent for each training?

Demand for Central aid for modernisation of police

3106. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and different States including Delhi Government have sought Central aid for augmenting and modernising the police force;

(b) if so, the details of the aid sought; and

(c) the Central Government's response thereto?

Supply of weapons to naxal groups

3107. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the weapons supplied by Pakistan's ISI to Assam's outfit ULFA are finding their way to naxal groups spread across 11 States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps to be taken by Government to stop such activities in future?

Setting up of NIFT and IIHT in Tamil Nadu

3108. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open National Institute of Fashion Technology and Indian Institute of Handloom Technology in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the places where these institutions are proposed to be set up and the time by which they are likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Schemes for Integrated Textile Parks in Madhya Pradesh

†3109. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes of Ministry of Textile for Madhya Pradesh under 'Schemes for Integrated Textile Parks'; and

(b) progress of these schemes in the State during last three years alongwith the programmes for ensuing three years?

Decline in Hindus population in North-East

†3110. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the population of Hindus is constantly on the decline due to conversion and other reasons in North-Eastern States for the last many decades;

(b) if so, the figures of census of 1991 and 2001; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if not, targets of Government in this regard and the steps being taken by Government to know the realities in this regard?

Death of a doctor at Safdarjung hospital, New Delhi

3111. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of inquiry, if conducted, into the death of an intern female doctor, whose body was found under mysterious circumstances in the premises of Safdarjung hospital in New Delhi in June last; and

(b) the action taken in regard thereto?

Recovery of intoxicants in Delhi

†3112. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cocaine, a poisonous intoxicant has also been found in capital city of Delhi like Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether any arrests have been made in this regard and whether any arrest have also been made in Mumbai;

(c) whether Government are considering to bring stringent law to stop dealings related to this poisonous intoxicants; and

(d) if not, the details of laws under which such crimes are being dealt with?

Law for refugees

3113. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had received a proposal for creation of a

national law to protect refugees in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India has not signed the 1951 convention relating to the status of Refugees or its 1967 protocol; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Forming of own disaster response forces

3114. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had advised all the States to form their own disaster response forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the State Governments in this regard;

(d) the share of Centre and States proposed; and

(e) the decision arrived at, so far?

Shortage of teachers

3115. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schools run by both the Delhi Administration and the Municipal Corporation are facing acute shortage of teachers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the sanctioned and the actual strength of teachers in these schools, cadre-wise as on 1-4-2005; and

(d) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to fill the vacancies expeditiously?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Threats to senior citizens

3116. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many complaints have been received from senior citizens living in South Extension, South Delhi for threats from unwanted elements;

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

(c) what steps Government have taken on the complaints of senior citizens and provide them adequate security?

Receiving of foreign funds for rehabilitation of Tsunami victims

3117. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many organisations received foreign fund for rehabilitation of Tsunami victims after December 2004; and

(b) if so, the details of such organizations that received foreign funds including the total amount received as on date, organization-wise, category-wise and State-wise during the year 2005?

Accidents on Delhi roads

3118. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1800 people were killed on Delhi roads during 2004 and 50 per cent of those were pedestrian and 25 per cent cyclists etc.;

(b) if so, whether the present Police strength of 4000 and vehicles being more than 44 lakhs, capable of adequately managing the traffic;

(c) if not, what steps apart from

increasing the police strength, are being taken to minimize the fatal accidents; and

(d) whether any co-ordinated approach being adopted for constructing over bridges and underpasses in Delhi to reduce the accident rate?

Killing of infiltrators

3119. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of infiltrators killed or captured by security forces during 2005 (till October);

(b) their affiliation to terrorist groups in India and steps being taken to liquidate them; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that youths from terrorist affected States are motivated not to join terrorist cadres?

Police raid on massage parlours

3120. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether massage parlours in Delhi have been found indulging in sex trade and hence police have raided a few of them and caught red-handed the culprits;

(b) if so, the details thereof, during past three years;

(c) the extent and ramification of sex-racket being operated by these psuedo massage parlours;

(d) whether girls of foreign origin have also been found indulging in these nefarious activities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what steps Government contemplate to take to curb such illegal, immoral, anti-

social activities of massage parlours in Delhi?

Construction of bunkers by Pakistan

†3121. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the bordering areas of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner, Pakistan has constructed many new bunkers and set up army posts;

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

(c) what action has been taken in the above said region keeping in view the security aspect?

Crime in trains

†3122. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of robbery, dacoity and poisoning in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar bound trains have increased during the last few years;

(b) if so, the data of the incidents that took place during the last one year;

(c) whether Government are considering to make strongest security arrangements in trains to bring down the occurrence of such incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Raising of new battalions

3123. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government

has agreed to provide land to the Border Security Force to raise its new battalion;

(b) if so, the extent of land that the Karnataka Government has agreed to sanction; and

(c) whether Government have taken action to take the land and to raise the new battalion of Border Security Force?

Raising of Indian Reserve Police Battalion

3124. SHRI LALHMINGLIANA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India has recently given sanction for raising Indian Reserve Police Battalion to certain States; and

(b) if so, to which States, amount of money and the break-up of sanctioned amount for each of the battalion?

Withdrawal of BSF from Jammu and Kashmir

3125. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSF has totally withdrawn from Srinagar and Anantnag and made way for CRPF to handle anti-terrorist activities;

(b) whether withdrawing of BSF personnel from Srinagar is a part of conciliatory measure from Government of India to facilitate dialogue process in the State;

(c) the details of areas that are still under the control of BSF in the State; and

(d) whether the withdrawal is a part of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

recommendations made by the Group of Ministers which set up to look into the internal security?

Monitoring of activities of NGOs

†3126. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government monitor the activities of those NGOs which are getting money from foreign countries;

(b) the names of the NGOs and the amount each of them received from foreign countries during the last three years alongwith the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that some of the NGOs are working against the national interest in the name of environment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to impose a ban on such organisations?

Dual citizenship

3127. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started giving dual citizenship to Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, by when this process of giving dual citizenship to Non-Resident Indians is likely to start;

(d) the salient features of the scheme of dual citizenship to Non-Resident Indians; and

(e) the formalities to be completed by

Non-Resident Indians for getting the dual citizenship?

Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2004

3128. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) since how many months the Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2004 is pending with Home Ministry for its approval;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per instructions from Home Ministry, Gujarat Government has made necessary amendments in the Bill;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it is on the lines of MOCCA applicable in Maharashtra; and

(d) what are the reasons that Home Ministry is delaying for its approval since long?

Arrests of ISI agents

†3129. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that arrests of Pakistani spys (ISI agents) are continuously being made for the last few days and one such spy was arrested in Delhi while operating cyber cafe;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the fact that such spys enter in the country through Nepal and Bihar; and

(c) if so, action being taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Impact of blockade by All Naga Students Association

3130. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tense situation and hardships to the common man, generated by agitation by way of enforcing since mid-June '05 of economic blockade by All Naga Students Association (ANSA), continue to prevail in Manipur as restoration of normal life in the State has largely remained a far cry; and

(b) the details of steps taken and initiated by Government, including those by the State Government, especially in the light of the agitation mentioned in (a) for restoration of rule of law with a view to creating conducive environment for pursuing economic development in the State?

China's help in eliminating Maoist activities in India

†3131. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has extended any sort of help in doing away with the ongoing Maoist activities in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Central Government in this regard; and

(d) the consequential effect on Indo-Nepal relations, if India takes help from China?

Kerala's assistance to Tsunami victims of Andaman

†3132. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Kerala had donated sufficient number of bamboos, for construction of intermediate shelter for earthquake and Tsunami affected people of A & N Islands; and

(b) what is the number of bamboos actually donated by the State Government of Kerala and what was the price of each such bamboo in the market at Kerala at the relevant point of time?

Shelters to Tsunami victims

3133. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tsunami victims have been provided with intermediate shelters at Chouldari, Namunaghar and bamboo flat areas in A and N Islands; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government of India to provide permanent shelter to all the tsunami victims living in the intermediate shelters of Chouldari, Namunaghar and Bamboo flat areas in A & N Islands?

Increased naxal-movement in tribal areas

3134. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have done any study on the increasing popularity of naxal-movement in tribal areas, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of tribal who have been arrested or killed on nationals counts including naxal-violence in different parts

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of the country with the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to when win away tribal from these violent movements and activities?

Cases of criminal offences referred by Goa Government

3135. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Goa have proposed to referred any cases involving suspected criminal offences related to civil and other works executed by the Goa Infrastructure Development Corporation and other authorities in Goa during the International Film Festival held in Panaji, Goa in the year 2004 to Central Bureau of Investigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the CBI have consented to take up the cases?

Blowing up of Mines Protective Vehicle by Naxalites

†3136. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) as per information received, recently the naxalites had blown-up the Mines Protective Vehicle (MPV) of police with bomb;

(b) whether it is a fact that according to the experts/technicians of the Hyderabad based factory where the said vehicle had been manufactured, vehicle had several lacunae;

(c) whether Government are going to provide the same type of vehicle again; and

(d) if not, the action being taken by Government to bring modifications in it?

Allocation of funds for tackling naxalism

†3137. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had allocated amount to each district during current year for making special arrangements in all the districts of the country affected by naxalism;

(b) if so, the average amount allocated to each district;

(c) whether this allocated amount has been spent till September; and

(d) if so, the percentage of this expenditure?

Shortlisting of buildings in Delhi for making them quakeproof

3138. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P.
GOYAL:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have shortlisted some important buildings to protect from earthquake and plans to make them quake-proof in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are doing this at State levels also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Potential of wind energy in Kerala

3139. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total potential of wind energy in Kerala;
- (b) the quantity tapped so far with details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to exploit the total potential?

Companies producing wind energy

3140. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the installed capacity of wind energy in the country, State-wise;
- (b) what are the names of companies who are producing wind energy with installed capacity;
- (c) whether Government are encouraging the setting up of wind power projects and is giving incentives; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Solar energy

3141. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether solar energy is being used in various fields;
- (b) if so, what is the percentage of energy saving;
- (c) whether incentives are being given to popularize solar energy;

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

Implementation of small wind energy and hybrid system in Tamil Nadu

3142. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of State Nodal Agency looking after the implementation of Small Wind Energy and Hybrid System in Tamil Nadu; and
- (b) the details of wind mills sanctioned and installed in the State during the last four years and the location thereof?

Electrification of villages

3143. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that majority of villages do not have electricity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have adopted a policy to cover one lakh villages, presently deprived of electricity, with electricity relying mostly on non-conventional sources of energy especially for the benefit of villages in the remote areas;
- (d) the details thereof;
- (e) the number of projects for covering villages in Jharkhand identified if any, so far indicating number of instances where Draft Project Report (DPR) have been received and lying pending; and
- (f) present status of implementation of the said policy in Jharkhand, including implementation of pending Draft Project Reports?

Percentage of T & D Loss

‡3144. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in case the percentage of loss in distribution and transmission in power sector in the country is brought down by 20 per cent or less than this, it would make operation of power projects profitable;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) names of States in the country where the said loss is less than 20 per cent and whether they are running on loss?

Settlement of Tehri Dam's families

3145. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tehri has been finally submerged under Bhagirathi, following closure of the Tehri Dam's last tunnel;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far and progress made towards commencement of power generation; and

(c) the progress made so far towards rehabilitation and resettlement of dam oustees indicating the number of families ousted thereby and those resettled and to be resettled?

Private and foreign investment in power sector

3146. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the private and foreign investment in power sector in last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to increase private and foreign investment in power sector?

Private participation in Power transmission

3147. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Power Grid Corporation has sought the entry of private players into the power transmission business;

(b) the details of the efforts of Power Grid Corporation to involve private companies in power transmission;

(c) what step does Power Grid Corporation propose to dilute its stake in this business;

(d) whether Power Grid Corporation has also offered to sell some of its existing transmission network; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Replacement of words in Electricity Act

3148. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has sent a set of proposals to various Ministries for replacing certain words in the Electricity Act to reduce the independence and powers of regulator;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposals have been vetted by the Law Ministry; and

(d) if so, what are the comments made by the Law Ministry?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Provision made under RGGVY for
Uttaranchal**

3149. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana for the State of Uttaranchal;

(b) the amount sanctioned/likely to be sanctioned to the State during last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government have identified those district of this hilly State where the rural electrification is quite low in comparison to national average;

(d) if so, district-wise details thereof and the number of villages targeted to be electrified under this Yojana; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station

3150. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NTPC has totally disagreed to take over the Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station (BTPS), Assam and no policy to revive the same is undertaken by Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no such policy was finalized to instal new power project at the same place during the recent meeting of Chief Minister of Assam and Prime Minister as appeared in the print media; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Complex problems in Power sector

3151. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Sector continues to suffer from complex problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

**Heavy fees charged by private
distribution companies**

3152. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private distribution companies in the Capital are charging very heavy fees for transfer of names consequent upon the change in transfer of properties;

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

(c) what steps Government propose to take to simplify the transfer procedure and reduce the fees in the Capital?

New power tariff policy

3153. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are preparing a new power tariff policy for the country;

(b) if so, does it not dilute the Electricity Act, 2003;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have scaled down the power generation target from 41,110 M.W. to 36,956 M.W.;

(d) the reasons for bringing it down;

(e) whether the new tariff policy has anything to do with power generation target; and

(f) how the new tariff helps in saving electricity, supply of power to consumers

at reasonable rates and reducing the shortage of power?

Tariff plan

3154. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by the proposed tariff plan, Government is going to incorporate crucial changes, whereby new power plants, especially those set up by the private sector will not require to follow the cost plus formula for determining the tariffs;

(b) whether the policy can also make the public sector companies to follow competitive market driven tariff structure for the incremental capacity addition to their existing plan;

(c) whether the Committee of Secretaries has finalised the proposed policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Electrification of villages/hamlets in Karnataka

3155. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sent any proposal to the Government for electrification of 150 villages and over 16,000 hamlets in the State which are currently not covered by the power grid;

(b) if so, by when the proposal was received; and

(c) the present status of the above proposal?

Setting up new power projects in Punjab

3156. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government propose to provide financial and technical expertise to the Punjab Government to set up new power projects to meet the power shortage in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Naphtha Jhakri Hydel Project on Sutlej river in Himachal Pradesh

3157. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 1,500 M.W. Naphtha Jhakri Hydel Project on Sutlej river in Himachal Pradesh is crippled by unexpectedly huge amount of silt coming into its turbines thus forcing its closure for long periods during the peak generating hours;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has led to losses of over Rs. 750 crore since its commissioning in 2003;

(c) if so, whether rapid deglaciation in Sutlej catchments area in China is responsible for the river's unexpected behaviour; and

(d) if so, whether Government have made any investigations in this regard?

Ongoing power projects in Andhra Pradesh

3158. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of various ongoing

medium and minor power projects in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the reasons for delay, if any, in according approval to the proposals received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last two years for setting up new power projects in Andhra Pradesh, project-wise separately; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to give approval to all the power projects related proposals of Andhra Pradesh Government?

Power tariff

†3159. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn towards newsitem published under the caption 'Sankatgrast Rajyon Ko Mahangi Bijli Bechne Valon Ke Khilaf Muhim';

(b) if so, the tariff at which power was sold to power scarce States by power surplus States during last three years;

(c) the action, if any, taken by Government in this regard; and

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

Amount granted for rural electrification in Assam

†3160. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be granted to Assam for rural electrification during the year 2005-06 alongwith the percentage of subsidy to be provided;

(b) the amount released so far during the current financial year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Demand and supply of electricity in North Eastern States

†3161. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demand and supply of electricity in North Eastern States of the country specially in Arunachal Pradesh at present; and

(b) the details of the current power projects in these States alongwith the amount invested in this regard?

Uninterrupted power supply to the Metro

†3162. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to fluctuation in the voltage and tripping of power, the Metro Trains had stopped plying for a while in Delhi on 3rd October, 2005;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any concrete steps to provide uninterrupted power supply to Metro;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Safety of the Tehri Dam

†3163. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent Tehri Dam is safe keeping in view the earthquakes experienced earlier in Tehri area;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that specialists have opined that in the event of any crack the dam might get emptied *in toto* within minutes;

(c) if so, the precautionary measures taken by Government to deal with such a situation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Institutions in power sector

†3164. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different institutions are engaged at different levels in power industry;

(b) if so, the number of institutions working at different levels right from production of power to its distribution to the consumers in this industry;

(c) whether the profit earned by these institutions is fixed; and

(d) if so, the names of above institutions alongwith the average amount of profit earned by them separately?

Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Project (WORLP)

†3165. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Project (WORLP) has been implemented in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of blocks in which it has been implemented;

(c) what are the main objectives of this

project and year-wise details of funds sanctioned and released since the inception of this project till date; and

(d) the extent of achievement made by the project in the above area since its inception?

Cadastral survey map in Orissa

3166. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa Government has undertaken computerization/digitization of cadastral survey map at 100 per cent Central assistance and an amount of Rs. 123.26 lakhs has been released by the Centre which has been utilized by the State;

(b) whether the State Government has requested for sanction and release of further funds for the survey maps of Mayurbhanj district and it is pending with the Centre; and

(c) if so, the time-frame within which it would be sanctioned and amount released to the State for execution of the above project?

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

3167. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for leveraging the annual allocation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for Rs. 900 crores;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons for inordinate delay in clearing the above said proposal; and

(d) the time by when this request of the Andhra Pradesh Government is likely to be approved?

Setting up of laboratories for water testing in Tamil Nadu

3168. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up water quality monitoring and surveillance system;

(b) if so, whether Government are providing any assistance for setting up stationery as well as mobile water testing laboratories in all district headquarters;

(c) if so, the details of such laboratory set up in Tamil Nadu along with the funds provided by Central Government; and

(d) the guidelines issued by Central Government to State Governments for routine analysis of water samples for their physio-chemical and microbial quality?

Amount for rural development to NES

†3169. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided for rural development to North-Eastern States during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(b) the names of the schemes/programmes for rural development implemented in these States?

Criteria for declaring NGOs/registered bodies as Central Government Institutions

3170. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria/guidelines followed by Government for declaring NGOs/registered bodies working in various social sphere as Central Government institutions and taking them over to further their cause and reach to benefit the targeted groups;

(b) such cases of NGOs/registered bodies at present under consideration of Government;

(c) whether a representation in this regard by Tapsil, Jati, Praktan Sainik, Krishi Bikash Shilpa Kendra, a registered society of Burdwan, West Bengal is pending;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken/progress made in the matter; and

(e) by when the body is likely to be declared as a Central Government Institution?

Computerisation of land records in Maharashtra

3171. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many districts of Maharashtra have computerized their land records;

(b) how much money has been sanctioned by Central Government so far and how much money has been utilized by the Maharashtra Government so far;

(c) the reason for slow pace of Centrally Sponsored Scheme on computerization in Maharashtra; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) how Government are monitoring the same with the results thereof?

Funds for Rural Sanitation Programme in Orissa

†3172. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released by Government as Central grant to the State Government during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 under the Rural Sanitation Programme to improve the living standard of the rural people of Orissa;

(b) whether Government would consider to release additional Central grant to Orissa Government to achieve the target; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Providing drinking water through tube wells in Orissa

†3173. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government to provide drinking water in Western Orissa;

(b) whether Government have any plans to provide drinking water in Orissa through tube wells; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Distribution of loans under SGSY Scheme

3174. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a serious shortfall in achievements of the targets fixed for distribution of loans under

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) and the measures taken to achieve the objective of bringing BPL persons above the poverty line;

(b) the details of the targets fixed for credit mobilization and actual achievements made during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure distribution of loans to achieve the targets set under the SGSY Scheme?

Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission

3175. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocations have been made for the Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana in the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission during the Tenth Plan and Eleventh Plan; and

(b) the percentage of coverage under the Mission for these States for providing potable water to the people?

Safe drinking water in villages

3176. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 5000 villages have no source of safe drinking water; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to make arrangements therefor?

Proposal for revival of sub-mission programme and projects

*3177. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Ministry had received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for revival of sub-mission programme and projects worth Rs. 685 crore to provide safe drinking water to 2,682 inhabitations;

(b) if so, the status of the above said proposal; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to clear the above said proposal of the State?

Implementation of land reforms

‡3178. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the identified land reforms in the Tenth Plan have been construed as important policy measure for poverty alleviation in the rural areas;

(b) if so, what progress has been made in this regard in the Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if the progress is not satisfactory, what steps are being taken by Government for this purpose?

Implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

3179. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent any instructions to States and Union Territories to finalise the list of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households based on 2002 Census, to the proper implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) whether BPL families included as per 1997 Census be considered while preparing the fresh list; and

(c) what will be the role of Gram Panchayats in this regard?

Non-disbursement of funds by nationalised banks

3180. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 437 branches of nationalized banks have not extended assistance under SGSY;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Ministry on such banks?

Information and communication technology training to rural youths

3181. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need to impart training to rural youths in information and communication technology in order to reach them the benefit of globalization;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of funds earmarked for this in the Tenth Plan to achieve this end?

Safe drinking water

3182. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many villages are not having access to safe and fresh drinking water as on date;

(b) if so, the number of such villages

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

not having safe drinking water and per-capita fresh water availability in various States as on date, State-wise, category-wise; and

(c) the details of ground water contamination including the sources of contamination, region-wise as on date, category-wise and district-wise?

Drought Prone Areas Programme

3183. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified drought prone districts in Rajasthan for implementation of Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status and break-up of funds released under the DPAP for those drought prone districts?

Roads connectivity to villages in Bihar

3184. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages, district-wise and panchayat-wise, in the State of Bihar which have not been connected with the city roads;

(b) whether any scheme is under Government's consideration in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by when all the villages of the State will be connected with city roads to help the villagers?

IAY in Uttaranchal

3185. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the annual allocation of Government for promotion of rural housing through Indira Awaas Yojana during the last three years in Uttaranchal;

(b) the number of rural houses constructed under the programme during the last three years in Uttaranchal, district-wise and panchayat-wise;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for such scheme during the current year for this State; and

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

Achievement in SGSY

3186. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of achievements made by Government in the rural areas during the last three years in the different States under the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, State-wise?

Projects under Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana

3187. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Karnataka have sought financial assistance under Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana for Shimoga, Davangere, Uttara Kannada, Gadag, Dharwad, Belgam, Bijapur and Chamrajnagar districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the funds are likely to be released?

National Sample Survey regarding rural families having less than one acre of land

†3188. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per National Sample Survey 72 per cent rural families are having less than one acre of land;

(b) whether Government propose to enhance the financial support to rural farmers owing meagre agricultural land and who have been rendered financially miserable due to flood, drought and other calamities;

(c) whether almost all developed countries provide financial support of around 350 billion dollars, the financial support provided to the farmers since the last three years in India; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to see that agricultural vocation become beneficial?

Funds collected under NREGS

†3189. SHRI BALAVANT
ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds collected by Government under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) whether Government have released the first installment for the implementation of the said scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Loans provided by banks under SJGSY

†3190. DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Banks provide loan under Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the rate of interest charged by the Banks on this kind of loan;

(c) whether there is difference between number of applicants for the loan and number of actual recipients of the loan; and

(d) if so, the average difference between the two during last three years?

Textile Special Economic Zone at Hassan in Karnataka

3191. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval for the proposed Textile Special Economic Zone at Hassan in Karnataka;

(b) if so, when the approval was given;

(c) whether the work for the proposed Textile Special Economic Zone has commenced;

(d) what is the present status; and

(e) what type of assistance Government would provide for the setting up of the above Textile Special Economic Zone at Hassan?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Textile package

3192. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has drawn any textile package for textile industry and particularly for Southern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time likely to be taken to release the package; and

(d) the benefits likely to be accrued to textile industry?

Schemes being implemented in Assam

†3193. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in the country specially in Assam State;

(b) the amount allocated for developing textiles industry in the State during Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the amount utilised so far under these schemes?

Trade of textile items with USA

3194. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile exports are still facing non-tariff barriers from USA though tariff regulation have been withdrawn as far as India is concerned; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking for free trade of textile items with USA?

Progress of textile industry

3195. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether textile industry is making progress or not;

(b) what is the role of handloom sector and powerloom sector;

(c) whether handloom sector is in a bad shape;

(d) if so, reasons therefor; and

(e) what are the remedial measures planned?

Revival of NTC mills in Gujarat

3196. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation (NTC) had decided to revive some NTC mills in the State of Gujarat following the rehabilitation scheme approved by the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for textile mills;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of rehabilitation scheme approved by the BIFR; and

(c) to what extent the textile workers would be benefited from the rehabilitation programme for the NTC?

NEW DELHI;
The 15th December, 2005
Agrahayana 24, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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