

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the July 22, 2004/Asadha 31, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Communications and Information Technology; External Affairs; Labour and Employment; Non-Resident Indians Affairs; Ocean Development; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Science and Technology; Shipping; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation))

Total number of questions — 126

Promoting rural industries

†901. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote rural industries under any special scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government would make any changes in education policy in order to make the said scheme successful; and

(c) if so, the format thereof?

Jobs for youth in villages

902. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVIBARUPAL:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to put an end to the migration of people from rural to urban areas and decided to

provide jobs to youth in villages including those in the far-flung areas and put an end to Inspector Raj;

(b) if so, the concrete proposals worked out in this regard; and

(c) by what time they are likely to be implemented?

Labourers in agro and rural industries

†903. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come to know through any survey about the number of labourers that have been working in the existing agro and rural industries;

(b) if so, total number of labourers engaged in this sector;

(c) whether there is possibility for more employment generation in this sector; and

(d) if so, the possibilities and the plan proposed by Government for realising the same?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Expansion of rural industries

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

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified those agro and rural industries in the States which still have sufficient possibility for development and expansion at local level;

(b) if so, the names of those ten industries which are likely to be developed to the maximum along with names of the respective States;

(c) the average annual value of production generated by these industries in each State; and

(d) the percentage of increase likely to be achieved after their expansion?

Demand of Khadi goods by Railway

†905. SHRI PYARE LAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has proposed to procure Khadi goods from Khadi and Village Industries Commission as per the declaration of Minister of Railways to use khadi in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission is capable to meet this big order;

(d) if so, the extent to which such a big purchase would affect Khadi and Village Industries Commission in respect of employment generation etc. and the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by Khadi and Village Industries Commission to get this order from Railways?

Export of Coir products

906. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increasing global demand for natural fibres;

(b) if so, the details of the coir products exported for the last three years and the foreign exchange earned for the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether the minimum export price for coir products is scrapped during the regime of the last Government;

(d) whether action would be taken to restore the minimum export price for coir products;

(e) if so, details thereof;

(f) if not, reasons therefor; and

(g) the total employees associated with coir industry, as on date, State-wise?

Coverage of mobile telephone services in Uttaranchal

†907. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that coverage of the mobile telephone service is very limited and their standard is very poor in most of the districts of Uttaranchal State;

(b) whether there is any proposal to instal new towers to improve the standard of mobile telephone services and to expand their coverage in the State; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the number of towers to be installed in the State location district-wise and by when, this work would be completed?

Electronic telephone exchanges in Nagaland

908. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the electronic telephone exchanges set up during the last three years in the State of Nagaland;

(b) the details of the electronic telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during the next two years; and

(c) by when, these telephone exchanges would be set up in the State and what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

Functioning of telephones in Nagaland

909. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones functioning properly in the State of Nagaland;

(b) the number of persons are in the waiting list, district-wise, as on the 30th June, 2004;

(c) by when, the waiting list would be cleared; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Expansion of Postal Communication network in Nagaland

910. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for expansion of Postal Communication network in the State of Nagaland;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Telephone exchanges in Nagaland

911. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Nagaland as on the 30th June, 2004;

(b) the details of the telephone exchanges proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges in the State; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to open more telephone exchanges with latest technology in the State?

Telephone connections to ADC and SDO

912. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a policy to provide telephone

connections to all the ADCs and SDOs Civil Headquarters in the North East; and

(b) if so, by when, this policy would be implemented *in toto*?

Performance of MTNL and BSNL

913. SHRI PYARE LAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had made any comparative study and assessment of the performance of MTNL, BSNL, *vis-a-vis* Reliance, Airtel, Hutch, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is need for any study to ascertain as to why consumers are compelled to surrender the landline telephones; and

(d) the details of surrendered telephones in Delhi and Mumbai during the last three years?

Charges of money orders

914. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the postal department charges exorbitant rates for money orders;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the money order charges are usually higher than the cost of demand draft from banks;

(c) what are the reasons for the post office charging un-competitive rates for money orders;

(d) whether any steps would be taken to reduce such charges; and

(e) the details of other steps Government propose to initiate to help those people who do not have any access to banks?

In-accessibility of computers to rural areas

915. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that representations have been made over the high cost of computers in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that noted organizations like the Forum on Social Justice have continuously demanded that Government address the in-accessibility of Computers to rural areas and poor sections;

(c) whether by any meeting Government was called to discuss this issue; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to address issues raised on this subject of high-cost computers?

Decline in the use of Post Offices

916. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have noted the decline in the use of Post Offices by the public;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that in cities like Mumbai and Delhi there has been steep decline in the number of postal articles handled in the year 2003-04 by the postal department;

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

(d) whether there is a proposal to make

better commercial use of the space occupied by post offices; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Optical Fibre Cable in Tamil Nadu

917. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the progress and the details of laying of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) by when, laying of optical fibre cable would be completed in the State?

Software Technology Parks of India in Tamil Nadu

918. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a Software Technology Park of India at Hosur in Tamil Nadu considering vast scope for setting up of a park there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Commemorative postal stamp on Kuvempu and Keladi Chennamma

919. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring out stamps on Kuvempu and Keladi Chennamma who fought against foreign rule in Karnataka; and

(b) if not, whether Government would consider bringing out stamps on them?

I.T.I. Bangalore

920. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore, has made any profit or incurred loss during the years 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many employees have been given VRS so far;

(d) whether there is any proposal to close down the above unit; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to revive the same?

Poor quality of Mobile Services

†921. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that users of mobile phones are not able to get quality service as a result of mutual business competition among several mobile telephone service providers in private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner, an assured situation for better services would be achieved?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Private telecom companies

†922. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private telecom companies providing services in the country;

(b) the details of telecom services being provided by those companies in rural areas of various States;

(c) the number of W.L.L. and cable telephone connections provided to the urban and rural subscribers in Bihar from the year 2003 till the 30th June, 2004 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited; and

(d) the target fixed for the years 2004-05?

V.P.Ts in Jharkhand

923. *SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private basic service operators have not fulfilled their contractual obligation to provide VPTs in Jharkhand, so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of VPTs yet to be provided and by when, these would be provided?

Laying of cable in sea by VSNL

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

(a) whether V.S.N.L. is contemplating

any plan to lay cables in the sea in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, this project would be completed?

Criteria for opening of branch Post Offices

†925. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to State:

(a) whether relaxation is given in criteria fixed for opening of branch Post Offices in remote, hilly and border States like Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of branch Post Offices targeted to be opened or upgraded in Himachal Pradesh in the Ninth Five Year Plan period and whether the target has been achieved, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan period together with the action plan to achieve the same?

Development of technology in wireless sectors

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

(a) the steps being taken to develop technology in wireless sector to spread net connectivity;

(b) whether any joint research is being carried out for providing newer services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Telephone density in urban and rural areas of Tamil Nadu

927. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the average telephone connection per family in urban and rural settlements in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details regarding the rural settlements in Tamil Nadu which do not have telephone facility; and

(c) the targets for providing telephone facility in the rural/urban areas of Tamil Nadu for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05?

Fulfilment of obligation by private operators

928. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the licence agreement with private operators stipulated that basic telecom service operators were to provide a minimum of 10 per cent of their total commitments as VPTs;

(b) if so, whether the private operators have fulfilled their obligations since the operation commenced;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the loss incurred by Government in this respect along with the action taken against the defaulting operators; and

(e) the details thereof?

STD/ISD/PCO in Assam

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

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCOs running in various districts of Assam at present;

(b) the number of booths proposed to be installed during the current year;

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose and the amount released, so far;

(d) whether the waiting list for PCOs is on the increase; and

(e) if so, by when, the waiting list would be cleared?

Budget allocation for communication facilities to Assam

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

(a) whether the budgetary allocation for Assam for the achievement of communication facilities during the last three years has been very low in comparison to other States;

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

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

**Retirement/pensionary dues in BSNL/
MTNL**

931. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKARREDDY:
SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:

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

(a) whether complaints have been received that the employees of BSNL and MTNL are facing problems in getting retirement/pensionary dues at the time of their retirement;

(b) the details of officers and staff of BSNL and MTNL retired between the 1st January to the 30th June, 2004 and the dates of the payments made to them;

(c) whether responsibility for the delay in the payment would be fixed and the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to curb all administrative delays to ensure timely payment to the retiring officials in future?

**Ban of ISD facility in Jammu and
Kashmir**

932. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISD facility in Jammu and Kashmir was banned after attack on Parliament and as a result of which a large number of PCO owners lost their business;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government propose to compensate such PCO owners?

**Use of telephone lines by terrorist
network**

933. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL and other Government organizations' telephone lines in the category of 'dedicated lines' and 'empty spaces' are being used by terrorist network and international criminals without paying for them and thereby 'by passing fraud';

(b) if so, to what extent, according to Government's estimate, they have suffered losses during the last three years, year-wise and organization-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the concerned organizations to tackle the problem?

**Telegraph offices/PCOs in the
villages**

934. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKARREDDY:

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

(a) whether only one-third of the villages have access to a telegraph office or PCO within 2 Kms.; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to improve the situation?

**Waiting list of telephone connections
in Shimla**

†935. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) year-wise number of the persons who are in waiting list for telephone connections in Tehsil Chirgaon under Rohdoo telephone exchange Shimla;

(b) whether it is a fact that people living in Bhatwari, Jangla-Torasa, Devighar and Masali panchayats under Chirgaon Tehsil, who have deposited money for telephone connections for several years, are being pressurised by the officials of the Telecommunication Department to withdraw their amount;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of people whose names are in the list and for whom telephones have been sanctioned under Member of Parliament and Minister's quota year-wise?

**Waiting list of telephone connections
in Jammu and Kashmir**

936. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for landline telephone connections in Jammu and Kashmir as on the 31st June, 2004, region-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to clear the mounting backlog of waiting list keeping in view Government's policy to provide telephone connection in every village?

Telephone frauds in Britain

†937. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Indian companies have been found guilty in the cases of telephone frauds in Britain and several big companies have been asked to pay penalty in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take any action against such companies involved in frauds in Britain; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Bilateral talks with Pakistan

938. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan recently held Secretary level two bilateral talks on issues pending before the countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof including boundary dispute;

(c) whether required modalities on lifting of ban of flying aircrafts in air space, providing of new rail lines, resumption of bus services between India and Pakistan have been worked out successfully; and

(d) if so, what advantages are likely to accrue to India?

**Foreign visits of Minister of External
Affairs**

939. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of countries recently visited by the Minister of External Affairs;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of official talks held by India with them to solve the pending disputes/issues including boundary disputes; and

(c) the outcome of such talks, particularly with China?

FBI report on murder of Daniel Pearl

940. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the FBI report that the murder of Daniel Pearl in Pakistan had some link with the hijacking of IC-814; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Monitoring of functioning of Indian Embassies

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

(a) whether there is any system of monitoring the functioning of Indian Embassies/High Commissions abroad;

(b) if so, the details of latest study/review conducted in this regard;

(c) whether it has been found that Indian Embassy abroad, do not take-up the causes/grievances of Indians working abroad with the respective local Governments; and

(d) whether Government would look into this matter and take necessary steps?

Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan

†942. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have offered a proposal for Secretary level talks with Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details of the talks held, so far, along with the matters discussed?

Malfunctioning of International Indian School, Jeddah

943. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been initiated on representations submitted during April, 2004 to the Council General, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia regarding malfunctioning of the Managing Committee and Chairman, International Indian School, Jeddah;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Indian Community at Jeddah has requested for dissolving the present Managing Committee of above school;

(e) if so, the action taken thereon;

(f) whether Indian Embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intervened during the year 2004 on the removal of Director, International Indian School, Jeddah; and

(g) if so, the details of the procedure adopted for above?

Kashmir issue in SAARC Conference

944. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Prime Minister and his counterpart Pakistani Prime Minister did not raise the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Kashmir issue during SAARC Conference in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether both sides have agreed to overlook Kashmir issue for confidence building?

Visit by Jewish delegation

945. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of American Jewish lobby visited New Delhi for India-Israel friendship last month;

(b) the Ministers and officials whom they met; and

(c) whether there is a change in Government's policy with relation to Israel?

Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service

946. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service was of the peace initiatives by Government for promoting peace between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether this proposal has been postponed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) how far its postponement has come as a set back to the peace process between the two countries; and

(e) whether this proposal is proposed to be revived?

Depiction of Junagarh and Manavadar as part of Pakistan in a Pakistani publication

947. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has published a booklet named "Pakistan Basic Facts" wherein the parts of Gujarat has been shown as part of Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to see that those parts of Junagarh and Manavadar do not become a point of dispute and the Pakistan do not publish such matter which create controversies;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Gujarat has written to the Prime Minister in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken?

Indians in foreign jails

948. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian citizens working abroad and languishing in jails there;

(b) the reasons for their punishment; and

(c) the action taken by Government to get innocent persons released from jails?

Payment of high rentals by Indian Missions

949. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian Missions in other countries are paying phenomenally high rentals for the chancery office buildings etc. while the plots of lands leased there, are lying vacant

for varying periods extending, reportedly, even up to forty four years and the financial allocations made therefor have been surrendered repeatedly year after year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of revised phased programmes drawn up to speed up the process of construction of own buildings, wherever feasible and the monitoring mechanism set up, if any, to complete these projects?

Joint working group to counter terrorism

950. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Tajikistan have agreed to set up a joint working group to counter terrorism; and

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

Passports issued by RPO, Bangalore

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

(a) the number of passports newly issued in Karnataka by the Passport Office, Bangalore from January to December, 2003;

(b) the number of passport applications pending, till date, in the above office;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large number of people simply take passports but not utilising it; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to curb the number of such persons?

Prisoners of war in Pakistani jails

†952. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian prisoners in Pakistans jails;

(b) the number of prisoners of war out of them;

(c) the number of prisoners of war out of them who have not been released so far despite completion of their sentence; and

(d) what measures Government are taking to get them released?

PoWs in Pakistan's Aatk Kila

953. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of Indian Army personnel are still lodged in Pakistan's Aatk Kila as PoWs; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for their release?

Prisoners released by India and Pakistan

954. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: SHRIMOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prisoners released by India and Pakistan during the last one year;

(b) the number of Indian and Pakistani prisoners in jails as per the information available with Government;

(c) whether any counsellor services are being provided to the prisoners and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of Pakistani prisoners

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

facing trial in various courts of the country, and whether any special courts have been set up for speedy trials, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Visas to foreigners and their over-stay in India

955. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of visas issued to foreigners to visit India during the last three years;

(b) how many cases have been reported regarding the foreigners over-stay in the country after the expiry of the allowed date endorsed in those visas; and

(c) the action taken by Government in these over-stay cases?

Bilateral discussion with United Kingdom

956. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to discuss with British Government a set of proposals forwarded by UK to discuss the bilateral ties in the key strategic and economic issues;

(b) whether British Government has suggested greater inter-action at different levels on issues such as terrorism, illegal immigration and other international agreements;

(c) if so, to what extent Government have reached an agreement on this issue; and

(d) to what extent both countries have taken steps in this regard?

Extradition treaty with Philippines

957. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Philippines have signed an extradition treaty;

(b) if so, the details of the areas where both the countries have agreed to co-operate to fight against trans-national crime and terrorism;

(c) whether such treaties with other countries are also under consideration to counter world terrorism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Restoration of a temple in Cambodia

958. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to restore 12th century temple in Cambodia;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether it would be funded by our country or any other agency would also share its cost;

(d) if so, the details of the action plan;

(e) whether such types of our ancient historical monuments in other lands are also proposed to be restored by our country in a similar fashion; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Recall of Indian diplomat from Mauritius

959. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of

Mauritius had at any time requested for the recall of an Indian diplomat from the Indian High Commission in that country for misconduct and activities not in consonance with his diplomatic status;

(b) whether the diplomat concerned had been recalled;

(c) whether allegations against the officer were investigated;

(d) whether the official had been found culpable; and

(e) if so, the action taken against him?

Demands of Indian Diaspora in Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas

960. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRIRAMA MUNIREDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Diaspora, which took part in Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas celebrations, sought visa via internet, besides a better platform for networking amongst the Diaspora, creation of SEZ, etc.;

(b) if so, what are the other suggestions made by the Indian Diaspora; and

(c) the action that has been contemplated by Government on those recommendations?

Efforts to get permanent seat in Security Council

961. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts India is making to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council;

(b) whether South Africa has extended its support to India;

(c) if so, which are the other countries that are supporting and which are the countries that are opposing India becoming a permanent member of the Security Council; and

(d) what is the US stand on this matter and whether US has offered any conditional support to India?

Talks with Iran and Pakistan with regard to Indo-Iran gas pipeline

962. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to initiate talks with Iran and Pakistan to establish a gas pipeline to meet the energy crisis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Expansion of Security Council

963. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the emergence of hegemonic domination and attempts to impose a unipolar world, there is a need to re-structure United Nations and expand the Security Council by including developing democratic countries and non-aligned countries; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to work with China and non-aligned countries together to restructure the United Nations?

Exploitation of Indian labourers in Iraq

964. SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian labourers and other workers are held captive and exploited in Iraq;

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

(c) the action taken by Government to rescue the strangled Indian workers; and

(d) the reason for the delayed response to the crisis?

SAARC task force for IT sector

965. SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to set up a task force to monitor and map development in the IT sector under the SAARC Secretariat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the SAARC member countries to the proposal?

Sending troops to Iraq

966. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRIMANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are all set to reconsider its earlier decision on the question of sending troops to Iraq;

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

(c) whether Government are aware of the unanimous resolution adopted in both Houses of Parliament in this regard?

Damage to shrines in Najaf and Karbala

967. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of reports regarding holi shrines of Muslims being damaged in Najaf and Karbala which has agitated Indians generally and Shia Muslims particularly; and

(b) whether Government have enquired about the protection of these shrines as they are of great concern to Indian Muslims?

Death of Indians in Iraqi blasts

968. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many foreigners have been killed in various blasts in Iraq;

(b) whether any Indian has also fallen victim in such incidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the compensation paid, if any, to the next of kin of the deceased; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure safety of Indians living in Iraq?

Indian ex-servicemen in Iraq

†969. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

any decision to send Indian troops to Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether placement agencies are sending ex-servicemen to Iraq illegally; and

(d) if Government are aware of it, the action being taken in this regard?

Unemployment in Maharashtra and Punjab

970. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of educated, uneducated, skilled and unskilled, unemployed persons registered in employment exchanges in the country, particularly in the States of Maharashtra and Punjab as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have, so far, identified industries and other areas to provide employment to such persons;

(c) if so, the details of the area identified and the number of persons likely to be provided employment in such areas; and

(d) the strategies Government have adopted so far, to tackle an alarmingly increase in the rate of unemployment in the country as a whole and particularly in Punjab and Maharashtra?

Policy for unemployed persons

†971. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated and uneducated unemployed in the country;

(b) whether Government are considering to call a meeting of Labour Ministers and Chief Ministers for formulating a new

comprehensive policy about unemployed persons;

(c) whether Government are going to provide any special assistance to the States like Uttaranchal to deal with this problem where average number of educated unemployed persons is very large; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Child labour project of Maharashtra

972. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has been submitting project-proposals for Child Labour Education and Rehabilitation under the National Child Labour Project ;

(b) if so, the number of child labour to be covered and the amount of Central aid sought for the same in the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and the current year and the aid granted against the demand; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearance of the proposals and grants-in-aid this year?

Labour Ministers Conference

973. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-day Conference of Labour Ministers was held from October 16 to 18, 2003;

(b) if so, what were the main observations and the decisions made at the Conference; and

(c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra made a number of recommendations for promotion and protection of interests of the unorganised

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

sector of labour including the farm labour, if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

Conditions of bonded labourers

974. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conditions of bonded labourers in the country has gone from bad to worse, if so, what steps are planned for, to tackle this problem;

(b) where this problem exists out of eighteen States; and

(c) whether eleven States are not following directives of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure compliances of the directives of NHRC in this regard;

Deposit of PF share

975. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States, which are not depositing their PF shares; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure timely deposit of PF share by the State Governments and the private companies?

Committees on labourers and their employment

†976. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVISHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committees under the Chairmanship of

two experts Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Mr. S.P. Gupta have been constituted by Government to conduct a Study regarding the number of labourers and their employment and unemployment position during the last years;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that both the Committees have submitted their reports separately regarding employment generation and the number of unemployed persons at present as well as in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the report which has been considered more authentic by Government out of the two reports?

Core Group on Common Minimum Programme

†977. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Core Group has been constituted by Government under the Chairmanship of Labour Secretary to implement and monitor the Common Minimum Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering a comprehensive change in labour policies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the Common Minimum Programme and working area of the Core Group?

Right to strike for Government employees

978. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ILO came in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for pointed criticism on the the ruling of the Supreme Court in the year 2003, extinguishing right to strike for Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the experts in industrial relation law seeking in ILO, has sought a clear affirmation from Government that there would be no long-term damage to workers' interest from the Supreme Court's excathedra denunciation of the right to strike;

(d) if so, the action taken, if any, to protect the right to strike; and

(e) whether ILO conventions 87 and 98 would be ratified?

Social Security Scheme for women bamboo workers

979. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether women bamboo workers are covered under any Social Security Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the National Commission for Women has studied their condition and sent recommendations to Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to provide social security to women like pension, insurance and health?

Plight of mine child workers in Rajasthan

†980. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a report issued by NGOs-named 'Gramin Vikas

Vigyan Samiti' and 'Headcon' the plight of the children working in various mines in Rajasthan has been highlighted;

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

(c) the number of children under fourteen years of age working in these mines along with their working hours and the wages being paid to them; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to improve their condition ?

Elimination of child labour

981. SHRI RAVISHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are committed to eliminate child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan to tackle this complex socio-economic problem and the number of child labour likely to be benefited; and

(c) the total number of child labour in the country and to what extent country has been able to control this menace?

Social security for unorganised sector

982. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Social Security Scheme for the unorganised sector was launched in January, 2004;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the estimated number of workers in the unorganised sector in the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(d) whether Government propose to review the question of contribution by workers towards the Scheme; and

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

Unemployment problem in Jammu and Kashmir

983. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for resolving the unemployment problem in Jammu and Kashmir during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas which would provide these jobs;

(d) whether any time frame has been set to create/generate the jobs in consultation with the State Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

One crore job per year

984. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons on live register as on the 31st March, 2000 and 31st March, 2004;

(b) whether previous Government had actually given one crore of job each year during their period; and

(c) if not, the actual position in this regard?

Rehabilitation of rescued bonded labourers

985. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in a recent judgement has expressed utter disappointment about the rehabilitation of the rescued bonded labourers and has directed Government to pay adequate attention thereto;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken with regard thereto?

Number of unemployed youths

986. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed youths as per employment exchange registers in the years 2000-01 and 2003-04;

(b) the number of persons losing jobs in Government and non-Government recognised establishment in both organised and unorganised sectors in the years 2000-01 and 2003-04;

(c) the number of unemployed youths in the category of pre-matriculation, under-graduate, graduate, post graduate professional diploma holders, professional degree holders; and

(d) the status of the work-force in the rural areas outside the enrolment of the employment exchange in regard to job opportunity?

**Employment exchanges in
Jharkhand**

987. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Employment Exchanges at regional and sub-regional/district levels in Jharkhand;

(b) whether it is a fact that women job seekers are not registering their names in the Employment Exchanges, due to ignorance of the facility available; and

(c) what action is being taken to increase the number of employment exchanges in the State and also to create awareness among women job seekers?

Racket in sending of girls/boys to Gulf countries

988. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket of sending poor girls/boys from various parts of the country to Gulf countries on the pretext of providing lucrative jobs has come to Government's notice;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported till date particularly from Punjab and Maharashtra;

(c) whether Government have held any enquiry to unearth such rackets and agencies involved therein particularly in Punjab and Maharashtra; and

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

Creation of economic zones for NRIs

989. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of NON-RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 453 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the view points of the various State Governments have been elicited in regard to creation of economic zones for NRIs and if so, there reaction thereto; and

(b) the package of incentives and concessions proposed to be offered to the NRIs for the purpose?

SC/ST/OBC in Government services

†990. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in Group 'A' 'B' and 'C' category in Government services;

(b) whether the number of persons belonging to the reserved category is low on the basis of Constitution; and

(c) if so, whether Government would launch a special drive to fill the backlog?

Vacant posts of SCs/STs

†991. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which are lying vacant in various Departments of Central Government for more than one year, Ministry-wise;

(b) whether Government have issued any directions for filling up of the said vacant posts; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, by when the above posts are proposed to be filled up?

Purchase of computers by Kendriya Bhandar

992. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kendriya Bhandar is still purchasing computers, HP cartridges and other branded items at higher prices from retailers instead of manufacturers and authorised distributors in contravention of the revised purchase policy-2003; and

(b) if so, whether the matter has been investigated and what action has been taken against the persons responsible for violating the purchase policy and to find the vested interest?

Enactment of Whistleblower's Protection Act

993. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has directed the Union Government to enact Whistleblower's Protection Act by making the CVC as the guardian authority;

(b) if so, the details of the direction given by the Supreme Court to Government;

(c) the action that has been contemplated by Government in this respect;

(d) whether Government have prepared any draft legislation on this;

(e) if so, the proposed authority is going to cover the Prime Minister; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

LTC to visit Srinagar

994. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to re-imburse the airfare for all Group A and Group B employees who utilise their LTC (Leave Travel Concession) to visit Srinagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose behind taking such a decision; and

(d) what specific measures have been taken by Government to ensure safety of the Government employees visiting Srinagar on LTC?

VRS to Central Government Employees

995. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to offer VRS to Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Payment of death-cum-retirement gratuity

996. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has held that the Central Government employees who retired between 01.01.1986 and 31.12.1995 are entitled to death-cum-retirement gratuity on the basis of last pay drawn plus full dearness allowance as admissible thereon;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued orders to that effect, if so, when; and

(c) if the decision of the Supreme Court has not been implemented so far, the reasons therefor?

Development and upgradation of Mumbai

997. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had last year submitted to the Prime Minister a blue print for realising the Prime Minister's vision to develop and upgrade Mumbai into a "Shanghai" of India;

(b) if so, the details of the different development schemes included in the blue print and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the Central Government aid sought therefor, and Government's response thereto?

UN Human Development Index

998. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India still belongs to the bottom fourth of the world's nations and ranks 127 out of 173 nations in the UN Human Development Index;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 56 per cent of our households have no power and 9 out of 10 pregnant Indian women are under-nourished and half of our children grow up stunted as per statistics captioned 'The growth mirage' of the National Herald of 7th May, 2004; and

(c) if so, how far these statistics are factually correct?

Writing off of outstanding loans

999. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has proposed to Government to write off the outstanding loans given to the State Governments on a one time basis and waive interest on outstanding loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other points contained in the proposal of the Planning Commission; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Expenditure on developmental and non-developmental projects

1000. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of amount proposed to be spent on developmental and non-developmental projects out of the total budget allocation for Tenth Plan;

(b) whether expenditure on non-developmental projects has been increased in comparison to Ninth Plan; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Promotion of growth, investment and employment in the country

1001. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA - CHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Common Minimum Programme, Government are committed to ensure promotion of growth, investment and employment generation; and

(b) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to create policy environment in these areas so as to ensure a rapid growth

of human development with special reference of the rural and the informal sectors?

Income limit for determining BPL

1002. SHRIMATILAL SARKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BPL families in the country and the population thereof;

(b) the existing income limit for determining BPL category and the year when this existing income limit had been in force;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance this income limit in view of the increase of the price-index;

(d) if so, the steps Government contemplate in changing the income limit; and

(e) the details of the benefits that BPL families deserve to avail?

New Policy for construction of National Highways

†1003. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to amend the present policy regarding the selection and construction of National Highways including Golden Quadrilateral Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the draft of the new policy has been prepared;

(c) whether the matter of connecting the States, which are not connected with the National capital with six-laned highways, would be considered by the Government; and

(d) if so, by when the road connecting Dehradun, the capital of Uttaranchal, would be converted into the six-lane road?

Use of plastic waste for road construction

1004. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI ROBERT
KHARSHIING:

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

(a) whether Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) has developed a technology for use of plastic waste in the construction of roads;

(b) whether the study conducted by the Bangalore University has found that the polymer blend with bitumen increases the life and strength of roads;

(c) in view of the clear advantages whether Government would consider application of this technology in the area of road construction in a big way in the country; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

BOT scheme for constructing express way

1005. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the proposed construction of expressway in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Build-Operative-Transfer (BOT) scheme has been involved in the construction of expressway; and

(c) if so, the details of the expressways constructed under BOT?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Banning of older vehicles on roads

1006. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering banning all motor vehicles which are more than fifteen years old from plying on the roads;

(b) if so, the details and the objective of the proposal; and

(c) whether it is proposed to exempt owners of such vehicles from payment of Excise Duty on purchase of new vehicles and if so, to what extent?

Standard time for different regions

1007. SHRI C. PERUMAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in many countries there is a different standard time for each region of the same country;

(b) if so, whether any need has been felt to set a different standard time for different regions in our country considering the geographical and climatic conditions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Proposal of Department of Biotechnology on DNA profile

1008. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the proposals sent by the Department of Biotechnology on the DNA profiles;

(b) if so, whether the experts on the DNA Profile Advisory Body has been

entrusted with the job of formulating guidelines on DNA profiling; and

(c) the details of representatives on the DNA Profile Advisory Committee?

Funds for Science and Technology

1009. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tenth Five Year Plan has a provision to provide additional funds for the development of Science and Technology in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Progress of bio-tech in country

1010. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps his Ministry have taken or proposed to take to simplify the regulatory procedures in biotechnology and ensure that the country is able to tap its potential to the maximum extent;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has emerged as one of the biotech leaders in the Asia-Pacific region according to the recently released global biotech report; and

(c) in what manner Government are thinking of making India a biotech outsourcing hub in the country?

Opportunities for outsourcing in genetic engineering

1011. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are ample opportunities for outsourcing in genetic engineering from USA and other advanced countries of the world;

(b) if so, in what manner his Ministry is planning to gear itself to meet the requirements of outsourcing;

(c) the total number of biotechnology seats at the Post Graduate level in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether Government are thinking of increasing the number of seats in the faculty of biotechnology; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Earthquake vulnerability of Delhi

1012. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have warned against earthquakes and called for review vulnerability map of Delhi to avert major disaster as reported in Tribune of 8th April, 2004;

(b) the ground situation thereof along with Seismic developments; and

(c) the brief summary of the disaster management for high rise buildings/flats and weak structures along with the likely fallout on unauthorised construction indulged?

Waterway for Allahabad, Kanpur and Patna

†1013. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures being taken by Government for the development of waterways;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the waterways are not fit for the use for want of proper maintenance;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of action taken by

Government on their announcement to commence transportation on Allahabad, Kanpur, Patna waterway?

Progress of Sagarmala Project

1014. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI ROBERT
KHARSHIING :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sagarmala Project announced by Government with a proposed outlay of Rs. 10,000 crores has not made any progress;

(b) what is the budget provision made for the project during the current year;

(c) what are the projects which are proposed to be taken up particularly in the initial stages; and

(d) whether the entire outlay is proposed to be funded by the Central Government from budgetary sources and if so how long would it take to complete the project?

International ship and port security code

1015. SHRIMATI JAMANA
DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive land policy for major port trusts has been finalized;

(b) if so, the features of this land policy;

(c) whether the domestic shipping

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

industry and the port sector are implementing the new international Ship and Port Security Code;

(d) if so, whether at the present rate of implementation of the code, the industry is likely to wrap up the process by May, 2004; and

(e) to what extent this new security code for ships would be helpful and beneficial?

SSI service institute in Tamil Nadu

1016. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up Small Scale Industries service institute at Hosur considering that there is a large number of Small Scale Industries located at Hosur in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Financial condition of SSIs

†1017. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any concrete steps to improve the financial condition of Small Scale Industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures likely to be taken by Government to promote Small Scale Industries?

SSI units in the country

1018. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SSI Units in the country;

(b) the number of SSI Units that are either sick or closed till 2003 and the total number of employees who lost their job; and

(c) the contribution of SSI in Gross Domestic Products (GDP) during the last three years?

Packages for SSIs

1019. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed new schemes as promotional packages for the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding the production and exports by SSIs sector during the last five years?

National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System

1020. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and USA propose to collaborate in the 'National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPDESS)', which would be used for remote sensing;

(b) if so, whether the system would be used to predict cyclones, help in disaster management, in areas of agriculture, fisheries, maritime, industries and other economic sectors; and

(c) if so, whether this project would have any defence implications?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Thematic Satellite

1021. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) by when, ISRO is going to develop the series of thematic satellites for communication and remote sensing application in education, health, map-making, ocean sensing research, etc;

(b) the details of other satellites which are part of the thematic satellites;

(c) whether it is a fact that ISRO is planning to set up an operational disaster management support services network as a part of this series; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Blast at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota

1022. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major blast occurred at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on the 23rd February 2004;

(b) if so, the number of persons who died and those seriously injured and the loss caused to Government property as a result thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been investigated;

(d) if so, by whom, and the findings of the inquiry and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to check recurrence of such incidents?

Air-breathing rocket propulsion system

1023. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO is working on air-breathing rocket propulsion system which would use hydrogen as fuel and the air from atmosphere as the oxidizer to burn hydrogen;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has conducted the tests in March, 2004; and

(c) if so, the results of the tests so conducted?

Unspent MPLAD fund

1024. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the unspent amount of MP Local Area Development (MPLAD) Fund has reached to a staggering amount of Rs. 2,352 crore;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is planning to give regular details of non-utilisation of funds in each session of Parliament; and

(c) if so, the details of how it would be done?

Health facilities in West Bengal

1025. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether food, health, health care and water facilities have not reached people in the remote areas like Amlashol in Midnapore (West Bengal) where starvation deaths have been reported in June, 2004; and

(b) the measures taken to alleviate rural distress on a national level?

Increasing of MPLAD fund

1026. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry are considering the proposal to increase the amount of rupees two crores under MPLAD;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 16th July, 2004

Asadha 25, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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