

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the November 22, 2001/Agrahayana 1, 1923 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions-155

Unsold stocks of KVIC

439. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that KVIC continued to incur huge losses due to unsold stocks and lack of credit policies;

(b) whether unsold stocks increased from 30.96 crore in 1994-95 to 49.02 crore by the end of March, 2000;

(c) whether KVIC was not able to furnish age/item-wise break-up of closing stocks; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken against the officers of KVIC for this mess?

Misuse of funds by KVIC

440. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that KVIC is habitual in misusing Government funds;

(b) whether administrative expenditure exceeded the sanctioned amount by 118 per cent;

(c) whether KVIC diverted Rs. 135.21

crore from Plan to Non-Plan funds without Governments prior approval; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Mining rights along coastal area of Kerala

441. SHRIN.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any applications from private companies through the State Government of Kerala seeking approval for getting lease for mining right to mine the mineral resources along the coastal area of Kerala;

(b) if so, the number of such applications and the details of such private companies;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on the applications;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the action proposed to be taken on the same; and

(e) Governments reaction to lease out the coastal area having immense mineral wealth of strategic importance to private companies for mining operations?

Rare earth mineral deposits in Kerala

442. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the expected quantity of rare earth mineral deposits in the coastal area of Kollam and Alleppey Districts of Kerala;
- (b) whether Government have conducted any study in this regard;
- (c) if so, the findings thereof;
- (d) whether Government have received any applications seeking order for high level probe into the alleged move of leasing out the mining rights to a particles company;
- (e) if so, the action taken in the matter and details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the action proposed to be taken in the mater?

Improvement of facilities by Nuclear Fuel Corporation

443. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Nuclear Fuel Corporation has drawn a strategy to improve its facilities to meet the increasing demand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Department of Atomic Energy has set up a target of 20,000 M.W. power generation by 2020; and
- (d) if so, the measures taken to achieve the target?

Security measures in and around nuclear installations

444. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER
KAUSHIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken high security measures in and around the nuclear installations in the country in view of the International Atomic Energy Agency's alert call about the potential nuclear terrorism;
- (b) whether there have been cases of theft or trafficking of nuclear materials and radio active resources in the country during past five years; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Mobile phone subscribers

445. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Mobile Phones Subscribers as on the September, 2001 and their number in the five metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Kolkata;
- (b) the number of cellular operators and their names in the above cities; and
- (c) the growth rate of subscribers base in the first six months of the current financial year?

MTNL-Broadcasters tie up

446. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether MTNL propose to tie up with broadcasters for entering the cable television segment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the advantage of convergence with the Prasar Bharati in this regard?

Telephone lines

447. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COM-MUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are making a strategy to achieve 100 million telephone lines by 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) out of the above, how many would be contributed by the private operators; and

(d) what is the likely investment in this plan?

Computerisation/Modernization of post offices in A.P.

448. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COM-MUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a programme for computerisation and modernization of post offices in Andhra Pradesh to keep pace with the present days requirements of the customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of post offices in the States that stand computerised as on date and how many are proposed to be computerised during the next two years?

Shortage of manpower in telecom sector

449. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether understaffing is the main cause for poor performance of the telecom sector in the country;

(b) if so, the category-wise shortaga of

manpower and the steps being taken to man the Department with optimum strength; and

(c) the compelling reasons for the Department remaining under staffed and the measures initiated to overcome the situation?

Dual charge for telephone engineers at Idgah Exchange

†450. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COM-MUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those Zonal Engineers/ Sub-Zonal Engineers working in Idgah Telephone Exchange of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited who have double charges of Sub-Zonal Engineers (Field) as well as cabel and the details of those having not any charge;

(b) the reasons for entrusting double charge to some engineers and keeping others idle; and

(c) by when the additional charge from the Engineers having double charge would be taken back and handed over to the Engineers sitting idle?

Disputes before TRAI

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

Will the Minister of COM-MUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disputes came before Telephone Regulatory Authority of India since its inception in 1997;

(b) what is the jurisdiction of TRAI;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of cases solved, year-wise; and

(d) the number of cases pending for more than one year?

Anthrax letters' complaints

452. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of anthrax letters' complaints received upto date;

(b) the number of anthrax letters and the number of suspected anthrax letters received so far before and after the Afghan war; and

(c) the measures taken up to identify suspected letters before their distribution?

Short distance mobile telephone services

453. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has decided to accept the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) recommendations allowing basic telecom operators to offer short-distance mobile telephone services based on Wireless in Local Loop (WILL) technology; and

(b) if so, to what extent the current cellular telephone rates would be cheaper?

Caller identification facilities

454. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

introduce Caller identification facilities at all telephone exchanges in all major cities;

(b) by when Caller identification facilities would be available at all telephone exchanges throughout the country; and

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to provide the facility free of charge to subscribers?

Telephone connection in fake names

†455. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy loss is incurred by the telephone department due to releasing telephones in fake names at several places in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step till now to investigate in the matter; and

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

Achievements of telecom revolution in villages

456. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Private Firms, which are supposed to bring telecom revolution in rural areas, have achieved only 0.6% of the target;

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

(c) what action is being initiated to ensure achievement of target at the earliest?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Modernisation of Telecommunication network in Orissa

457. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that modernisation of telecommunication network in Orissa is lagging far behind the other States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the specific plan formulated for modernisation of Telecommunication network in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) the steps taken to modernise telecommunication network in the State; and

(e) the funds earmarked for Bhubaneswar circle.

Modernisation of telephone exchanges in Jamnagar and Palanpur

458. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some telephone exchanges in Jamnagar and Palanpur to be modernised and provided with STD/ISD facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far; and

(d) by when, the work would be completed?

Telephone facilities

†459. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2398,

given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th December, 2000 and state:

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

(b) whether the targets for the year 2001 have been achieved and what measures are being taken to achieve the targets for the entire State by March, 2002?

Receipt of anthrax letter

†460. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments of the country and many persons including many ministers of Central and State Government have received letters/envelops/packets containing anthrax powder;

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

(c) the details of the action taken by Government to stop this tendency and what concrete steps have been taken against the culprits to check such incidents?

Sanchar Kranti

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

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cellular telephone service has been started after declaration of the Sanchar Kranti in the country;

(b) if so, the number of subscribers by the end of the September 2001 in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

country, who are using cellular telephone service; and

(c) the State-wise number of such subscribers?

Replacement of existing telephone technology in villages

†462. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision during the last few years to replace the existing telephone technology in the villages in order to streamline functioning of telephones;

(b) if so, the number of villages required to be provided with the new technology;

(c) the number of villages already provided with this technology upto September 2001; and

(d) by when the remaining villages are targeted to be covered?

Private cellular Licencees in West Bengal Circle

463. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that existing private cellular licencees are not operating in the West Bengal Circle;

(b) if so, the names of such companies, the reasons for their inaction, the status of the project and the remedial/punitive action initiated by Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the absence of competition in launching of

cellular service in the circle by BSNL would be commercially a very lucrative proposition; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposed roll out plan?

Introduction of WLL based system by the BSNL

464. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that WLL based system with limited mobility would be introduced by BSNL with priority on covering uncovered villages and inaccessible areas;

(b) if so, the role out plan for this for 2001-02 and 2002-03, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the waiting list, registered demand, uncovered villages in absolute and percentage terms and teledensity for 31st March, 1999, 31st March, 2000, 31st March, 2001 and 1st November, 2001, circle-wise?

Complaints regarding shifting of telephone

465. SHRI ANIL SHARMA:
SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL
VAHADANE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received from the telephone subscribers for shifting of their telephones to sector 5, Basundhara in Mohan Nagar Karamchari Sarkari Samiti from their previous residences in New Delhi/Delhi/Ghaziabad District during the period from 1st January, 2000 to date, month-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether all such telephones have been shifted indicating the dates of shifting in each case;

(c) if not, by when all such telephones are likely to be shifted; and

(d) the reasons for not shifting so far?

Registration for telephone connections in H.P.

†466. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have got registered their names for telephone connections since 1st January, 2000 till now in the districts of Mandi and Kangra of Himachal Pradesh and number of persons who have got the telephone connections; and

(b) by when the remaining persons would get the telephone connections?

Defaulters to BSNL

467. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CAG has listed some defaulters who owe crores of rupees of BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps Government are taking to realise the amount from these defaulters?

MTNL Officers/Workers in Vigilance Wing

†468. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the officers/employees working in Vigilance Wing in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi and Mumbai for three or more years; and

(b) by when, such officers and employees would be transferred to some other places?

Complaints of Telephone subscribers

†469. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that defective telephones are not repaired for long in many parts of the country inspite of the complaints registered by the consumers;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take effective steps to repair the telephones well in time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

BSNL's services to other countries

470. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is taking to look beyond the country;

(b) whether Government propose to launch its services to SAARC countries;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the manner in which Government plan to spread its reach to other developing countries in Asia; and

(d) whether any strategic joint alliances are being contemplated?

Uniform scam in MTNL

†471. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2486 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th August, 2001 and state:

(a) whether C.B.I. has unearthed any Uniform scam involving crores of rupees and has also registered a case;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that arrests have been made only from amongst the Union leaders and not from the officials whereas both are equally responsible;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being contemplated by Government to punish and terminate services of all the guilty employees/officers involved in the scam and to derecognise the Union?

Telephones in the villages

472. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many out of six lakh villages in the country have been brought under telephone communications till date, State-wise; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to remove the deficiencies in North-Eastern Region as regards providing telephone connections in the villages?

Introduction of cellular telephones in Karnataka by BSNL

473. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cellular telephones have been introduced in Karnataka by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited;

(b) if not, by when, the same would be introduced; and

(c) the places where this facility would be provided?

Scrapping of Telecom Advisory Panels

474. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have since scrapped Telecom Advisory Panels;

(b) if so, the names thereof and the date since when these have been scrapped;

(c) the expenditure per annum which is likely to be saved as a result thereof; and

(d) what concrete steps Government have taken so that such Advisory panels are not constituted/formed in future?

Telephone facilities in villages

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

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target was fixed to provide telephones in all the villages of the country by March, 2002;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of the villages, State-wise which have been provided with telephones, upto September, 2001; and

(c) the number of such villages which are yet to be provided with telephones, State-wise?

Pulling out from Sankhya Vahini Project of BSNL

476. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Carnegie Mellon University has decided to pull out from the so called SANKHYA VAHINI PROJECT OF BSNL; *i.e.* to establish a broad band data network in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and details of the losses Government are likely to suffer; and

(c) what are the steps taken to give a fillip to the communication infrastructure?

Safety of postal employees from Anthrax infection

477. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Anthrax laced mail has been received in the country recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what precautionary measures have been taken by Government to save the postal employees from being infected by Anthrax?

Telephone connections

478. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections provided during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of cellular telephone subscribers provided during the last three years; and

(c) what was the target for telephone connections for the year 2000-2001?

Production and import of oilseeds

479. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the production and import figures of oilseeds during the last three financial years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken to increase production of oilseeds in the country; and

(c) the countries from where oilseeds are imported and their percentage share during the last financial year?

Storage capacity of FCI in Andhra Pradesh

480. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged to take necessary measures to increase storage capacity of FCI in the State for adequate procurement of rice; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to acquire additional storage capacity of 15 lakh tonnes in the State?

Wheat at export price to bakers of Maharashtra

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

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for allocation of wheat at export price rate @ Rs. 415/- per quintal, to the bakers in Maharashtra to enable them to distribute Pav/Bread at reduced price to substantial number of poor people in urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering their proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Revival of sugar industry

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

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar industry in the country is in trouble due to wrong policies, particularly, the monthly release mechanism of sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to revive the sugar industry; and

(d) whether Government propose to exempt sugar from the Essential Commodities Act and also atleast the smaller units from the clutches of release mechanism?

Construction of FCI godowns at Jiribam

483. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) by when construction work of FCI godown at Jiribam would be completed;

(b) the amount released so far for the purpose;

(c) whether it is a fact that the weight bridge of FCI has not been constructed even now at Jiribam; and

(d) if so, how the weighing of foodgrains is done there?

Supply of kerosene through PDS

484. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restrict supply of Kerosene through Public Distribution System to below the poverty line population only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the savings in subsidy as a result thereof?

Hallmarking scheme of BIS

485. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the jewellers in the country sell gold not of the claimed purity;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in this regard recently;

(c) if so, outcome of the survey;

(d) the number of jewellers who have adopted Hallmarking Scheme of BIS so far all over the country, State-wise; and

(e) the fresh steps taken by Government for strict implementation of Hallmarking Scheme of BIS?

Current stock of wheat & rice

486. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the current stock of wheat and rice compared with the buffer stock norms;

(b) the cost of storage of these stocks during the year;

(c) the carrying cost for year 2001-2002; and

(d) the value of the damaged stocks during the last three years, year-wise?

Import of sugar

487. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the heavy sugar stocks in the country, Government propose to stop import of sugar; and

(b) if so, the countries where from sugar is presently being imported and the likely impact on the contractual obligations in the event of stoppage of sugar imports?

Strategy to prevent starvation deaths

488. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider to formulate a strategy involving

the State Governments to ensure that the tragedy of starvation deaths is not perpetuated by natural disasters like droughts and floods especially when the grainaries are overflowing; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this direction?

Distribution of foodgrains to starving farmers

489. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers have raided FCI godowns in the drought hit areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to distribute food stocks lying with Government to starving farmers; and

(c) the number of starvation deaths reported during the Kharif season in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa?

Rotting wheat in FCI godowns

490. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that stink of rotting wheat is emanating from the FCI godowns in certain places like Anantpur in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that rotten foodgrains are not supplied for Public Distribution System?

Expansion of Public Distribution System

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

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to avoid the starvation deaths[†] by expanding the PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of starvation deaths reported because of the delay in identifying BPL card holders; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to ensure foodgrains for the poor?

Off take of PDS foodgrains

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

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase the off take of PDS foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is pending before Government to decrease issue prices of PDS foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Financial irregularities in Super Bazar

493. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an inquiry was conducted by the Central Registrar under section 9 of the Multi-State

Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 into the financial irregularities and mismanagement of the Super Bazar in Delhi by certain top executives both in Board of Directors as well as Administration; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof and the action taken, if any, against the guilty persons?

Families living Below Poverty Line

†494. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families living Below Poverty Line in various States of the country; State-wise;

(b) the rate at which foodgrains are being provided to such families;

(c) whether Government have taken any effective steps to reduce prices of foodgrains being supplied to these families; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Utilization of excess foodgrains

495. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that excess procured foodgrains are rotting in various FCI godowns;

(b) if so, the excess quantity in these godowns;

(c) what steps are being taken to distribute such stocks to the Below Poverty Line people; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating any policy to utilise these excess food grains for distribution or export?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Closure of Super Bazars in Delhi

496. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down Super Bazars in Delhi;

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

(c) whether the workers have been paid arrears of their wages and gratuity, P.F. etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the dues on these accounts and reasons for not paying these dues?

Rotting foodgrains in Itarasi godowns

†497. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat worth rupees 36 crore has rotten in the godowns of Food Corporation of India in Itarasi which was purchased by Government from the farmers of Hoshangabad district and a part of it came from Punjab;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that two lakh tonne wheat worth more than rupees 185 crore has rotten and the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food and Civil Supplies has recommended that it should be thrown into the sea; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Disposal of sugar stocks

498. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER

AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that sugar worth Rs. 1,800 crores is lying in godowns of Karnataka;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has requested to help to clear the sugar stocks; and

(c) if so, the action Government have taken in the matter?

Increase in prices of onion and potato

499. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

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

(a) whether there has been a sudden spurt in the prices of onion and potato in the country, recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to contain the increase in their prices?

Procurement of foodgrains in Punjab

500. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the quantity of rice/wheat procured by the Food Corporation of India and other Government agencies from the farmers of Punjab recently alongwith the rates of each variety?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Prevention of sale of children

501. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 23rd September, 2001 under the heading "Nation's Name: Starving Orissa Family Sells children";

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such sordid sale of children for the reasons like penury and starvation?

Losses of Super Bazars

502. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

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

(a) whether Super Bazars, a chain of consumer stores, have been closed down permanently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the accumulated losses of Super Bazars at the time of closure;

(d) whether Government propose to conduct any inquiry to point and fix responsibility on persons responsible for huge losses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Protest against American war

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

(a) whether Government are aware that anti-war protest actions are taking place all over the world against the US war against Afghanistan and even the peace loving Americans too are coming out in thousands to oppose the imperialist chauvinism of their rulers; and

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

Training camps in PoK and Pakistan

504. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the blasts in America and the US declaration of war against global terrorism, Government have furnished a list of terrorists training camps and hide-outs in Pak-occupied-Kashmir and Pakistan, to the US Government;

(b) whether Pak-authorities have ordered the militants to vacate and leave these camps and to get mixed with the people in the villages around;

(c) whether any change in the strategy of the terrorists active in Jammu and Kashmir and other areas has been noticed, thereafter; and

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

Indo-Pak dialogue

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

(a) whether any summit level talk is going to be held in near future between

India and Pakistan for resolving the Kashmir issue;

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

Indians killed in New York and Washington attacks

506. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
DR. MANMOHAN SINGH:
DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI AHMED PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians and NRIs killed and seriously injured in New York and Washington due to WTC and Pentagon strikes in USA by terrorists indicating their names and profession;

(b) the number of Indians still missing and the steps being taken to locate them;

(c) whether the USA Government is providing necessary compensation/ financial help to the families of the Indians so killed and injured; and

(d) whether Government are also providing similar help to them in USA, if so, the details thereof?

Plans of Jehadi Organisations

507. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all Jehadi Organisations within and outside the Pakistan Afghan Defence

Council have informed Government agencies about their plans and the Pakistan Government has lauded the plans; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take at diplomatic level and otherwise in this regard?

Repatriation of Indian fishermen languishing in Pakistani Jails

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

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen in Pakistani Jails as on the 31st October, 2001;

(b) the number of Pakistani fishermen in the Indian Jails;

(c) the number of fishermen repatriated by Pakistan and India before the Agra Summit; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to get the Indian fishermen released?

Indo-Bangladesh relations

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

(a) what are Government's expectation with the installation of new Government in Bangladesh in respect of Indo-Bangladesh relations, security of the minority community, illegal migration of Bangladeshis into the country besides other related issues;

(b) whether Government have taken any initiative for betterment of Indo-Bangladesh relations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved so far?

British Prime Minister's India Visit

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

(a) whether the British Prime Minister has, recently, visited India and held discussions on several issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the agreements signed between both the countries during the visit; and

(d) the extent to which Britain have decided to extend assistance to India to combat terrorism?

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of India has, recently, visited Russia, USA and UK and held discussions with their Heads, particularly, on developments in Afghanistan and present global campaign against international terrorism;

(b) if so, the details/outcome of his discussions; with leaders of these countries in India and abroad; and

(c) whether any agreements/ declarations/MoUs have been signed with the above countries indicating the ones that are in favour of India's stand on Jammu and Kashmir and Afghanistan and other regional international issues?

Mechanism to decide Afghanistans future

511. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has written to the heads of many prominent countries about the post Taliban Government in Afghanistan and India's concern about it;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of such countries and their response thereto;

(c) whether Government, apart from this are using various diplomatic channels for the same objective; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Discussions on international terrorism and developments in Afghanistan

512. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Safeguarding interests of Indian fishermen

513. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards recent decision of the Indian Ocean Rim countries regarding penalties against small scale fish workers for illegal fishing;

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

(c) whether Government propose to initiate amendments in the Convention on the Laws of Sea and Declaration of Inclusive Economic Zone;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures to be undertaken to protect rights of the fish workers?

Construction of Chancery-cum-Embassy residences

514. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has not finalised the proposal for construction of Chancery-cum-Embassy residences etc. at Beijing, Doha, Muscat and Gaborone on the plots acquired for the purpose;

(b) whether an avoidable expenditure of Rs. 26.27 crore on hiring of accommodation has been incurred till 1999-2000;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in the decision; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the decision?

Attacks on Hindus during Durga Puja in Bangladesh

515. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindus in Bangladesh have lost freedom of human rights and practise their own religion as is evident from the 'Statesman' news dated 16th October, 2001 regarding Durga Puja Pandals and images of Hindu Gods and Goddesses damaged by attackers;

(b) whether the attack on the minorities in Bangladesh continues unabated; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to persuade the Bangladesh Government to take appropriate steps to stop violence against minorities?

Harassment of minorities in Bangladesh

516. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of harassment of the minorities in Bangladesh;

(b) the number of people who have migrated/shifted to India as a result of such harassment;

(c) whether Government would allow such people to remain in India and help their settlement here;

(d) whether the Bangladesh Government have assured safety of minorities in Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, how far they have implemented such assurance?

Indian killed in WTC attack

517. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 5000 Indians were working at the World Trade Centre USA which was attacked by the terrorist;

(b) if so, the number of Indians who have been killed in the attacks in US;

(c) whether the US Government have also supplied the list of the Indians killed;

(d) whether Indian had also protested to the US Government on attacks on Sikhs community in US; and

(e) if so, the safeguard measures taken so far?

Pakistani intrusion across the LoC

518. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a significant Pakistani intrusion across the LoC into Indian Territory in Rajasthan region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Mobilising support against Pakistan supported terrorism

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to mobilise international community against Pakistan sponsored terrorism due to failure of its foreign policy;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that our existing foreign policy is influenced by America?

Service of militants by Indian Youth in Gulf

520. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'The Times of India' dated the 26th September, 2001, under the heading "Indian youth in Gulf made to serve militants"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto and what corrective steps

have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Discussion with Pakistan regarding casualties in Jammu & Kashmir

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

(a) the number of persons including paramilitary forces killed as a result of attack by militants and Pak Forces in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three months;

(b) whether the matter was taken up with the Government of Pakistan particularly the incident which resulted in the death of certain employees of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council; and

(c) if so, what was reaction of the Pakistani Government and the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

Visit of Prime Minister's Principal Secretary to Bangladesh

522. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Principal Secretary; to the Prime Minister has recently visited Bangladesh;

(b) what were the issues discussed during the visit alongwith outcome thereof;

(c) whether outflow of refugees from Bangladesh to India has also figured in his discussions with the Government of Bangladesh;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, what assurances were given by Bangladesh in this regard;

(e) whether review of the Ganga water treaty of 1996 was demanded by the Bangladesh Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Harassment of Sikhs in America after WTC attacks

523. PROF. M SANKARA-LINGAM:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the World Trade Centre attacks, Sikhs in America were subjected to harassment and mistaken target;

(b) if so, the details of the affected Sikhs and other Indian citizens in America after the WTC attack;

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to safeguard the Sikhs and other Indian citizens in America and UK;

(d) whether any assurance has been given by the USA Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Yasser Arafat's New Delhi visit

524. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether President Yasser Arafat arrived New Delhi on 22nd August, 2001 to keep India informed of the development in his region; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held at the meet?

Visit of Russian Deputy Prime Minister

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Russian Deputy Prime Minister visited India recently;

(b) if so, the purpose of his visit;

(c) whether he called for any joint efforts to combat terrorism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Withdrawal of sanctions imposed by America

526. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has withdrawn sanctions against various entities in India in the aftermath of the Nuclear Tests of May, 1998, and imposed such sanctions against the Chinese and Pakistani entities for transfer of Missile technology by China to Pakistan, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of such developments since September this year;

(c) whether UK, Japan and other big powers have also since withdrawn such sanction; and

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

Indians apprehended in connection with aviation blasts in America

527. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any person of Indian origin or Indians have been apprehended in Texas, USA or elsewhere, for alleged hand in September 11, 2001 aviation blasts in New York and Washington;

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

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Arrest of Pak High Commissions official

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an official of Pakistan High Commission has been arrested on the charge of taking secret documents from two employees of the Indian Navy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to check such incidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Violence against Hindus in Bangladesh

†529. PROF. R.B.S. VERMA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following the recent elections in Bangladesh, the minorities particularly the Hindus have been subjected to harassment and violence;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps so far in this regard for protection of life and property of the minorities and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Bangladesh have been apprised of the Indian Government's reaction to the brutal and inhuman killings of the minorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of Indian Embassy building in Brazil

530. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of Brazil had gifted a land in 1965 to the Indian Embassy in Brasilia for construction of an Embassy complex;

(b) whether the Embassy complex had been constructed on the gifted land;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) how much amount was paid as rent of leased Buildings, expenditure on property taxes local taxes etc. as on the 31st March, 2000?

Migration of minorities from Bangladesh

531. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA
NAHATA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people belonging to minority communities are coming to India due to fear, after

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

installation of new Government in neighbouring country of Bangladesh;

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

(c) the action taken to express Government's concern over deterioration in situation following attacks on minorities;

(d) whether Government had sent any envoy to draw attention of the Bangladesh Government; and

(e) if so, his name and the results of the dialogue held?

Musharraf's reported statement about freedom of Jammu and Kashmir

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Musharraf sees freedom for Jammu and Kashmir", appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 23rd August, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan President has praised Kashmiris who died fighting Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir and said freedom is around the corner for its people; and

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

Exposure of Pak sponsored terrorism before the World fraternity

533. SHRI AHMED PATEL:
DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken

diplomatic steps to expose Pakistan's nefarious design of aiding and abetting terrorism in Kashmir before the world fraternity and isolating it on this count after the terrorist attacks in USA in September this year;

(b) if so, to what extent Government have succeeded in this regard;

(c) the countries with whom this was the subject of discussion alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) the results achieved therefrom?

Indian Missions in rented premises

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Missions in some countries like Brazil, China, Botswana, Qatar etc. have been continually paying high rents for tenanted premises although they had bought/were in possession of big land plots between 10 to 36 years back to build embassy structures but no construction activity has been undertaken despite considerable costs incurred on consultants, etc.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of each such tenanted property/ purchased or gifted land showing rental outgo over the years/time frame fixed for construction and the proposals with their present status?

Hindus and Sikhs stranded in Afghanistan or Pakistan

535. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH:
SARDAR GURCHARAN
SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH
LIBRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL

AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindus and Sikhs of Afghanistan still stranded in Afghanistan or Pakistan; and

(b) the steps being taken to grant visas to enable these unfortunate persons to migrate to India?

Use of IT for social development

536. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposals to make use of information technology for the social development of the poor people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement these proposals?

Media Lab Asia

537. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently set up the Media Lab Asia (MLA) on the lines of the Indian Institute of Information Technology to deploy information technology in the every day life of the common man;

(b) if so, the details of the organization reportedly registered under Section 25 of the Indian Companies Act, main objectives, structure, faculty, source of funding, etc.; and

(c) the time frame to operationalise the Media Lab Asia?

Smart card

538. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set up a group for examining the standards and identifying the sectors for smart card applications in India;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have accepted the recommendations; and

(e) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Restriction on membership of the Trade Unions

539. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restrict membership of the trade unions to employees only and restrict outside members in trade unions; and

(b) if so, by when, a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

MOF stand on labour reforms

540. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "MOF stand may further delay labour reforms" appearing in 'The Economic Times' dated the 22nd October, 2001;

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

(c) the details of the stand taken by the Ministry of Finance which is likely to delay the labour reforms; and

(d) the steps taken to resolve the objections raised so as to expedite implementation of the labour reforms?

Pending cases in labour courts and industrial tribunals

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

(a) the number of cases pending as on March 1, 2001 in the labour courts and industrial tribunals under the Central Government, State-wise and U.T.-wise;

(b) the number of cases registered during the last three years region-wise;

(c) the number of cases disposed off by the presiding officers on the basis of merits and demerits during the aforesaid period; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken by Government to dispose off the pending cases?

Agricultural labourers

542. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of agricultural labourers in the country as on the 31st March, 2001 State-wise;

(b) whether Government are planning to improve the lot of the agricultural labourers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Number of unemployed youths

†543. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed youths in the country is on the increase;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to increase employment opportunities; and

(d) whether Government are considering to give financial assistance to those unemployed youths until they get employment, if so, the details thereof?

Welfare fund for overseas workers

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

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a welfare fund for the Indian overseas workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the other measures Government are taking or proposed to take to protect interests of the Indian workers abroad?

Child labour abolition programme

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

(a) the district in the country where child labour abolition programme is being implemented;

(b) whether Government propose to include other districts of different States under this programme;

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

(d) to what extent Government have achieved success as a result of implementation of this programme?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Model hospitals of ESIC

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

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has decided to set up a model hospital in each district of the country;

(b) if so, the number of ESI hospitals to be computerised during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken to extend ESI hospital facilities to workers in unorganised sector *i.e.*, agriculture, construction, house-based workers and beedi workers?

Persons registered in Employment Exchanges

547. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered as on date in Employment Exchanges, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that unemployment situation is growing rapidly in the country;

(c) what are the reasons for this growth of unemployment in the country; and

(d) what steps are being taken to contain unemployment in the country?

Exploitation of labourers

†548. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the labourers working in private enterprises with contractors and on shops are regularly exploited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would take concrete steps to save the labourers working in Non-Governmental Organisations from exploitation and to provide them justice at low cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when; and

(e) whether the labourers working in agricultural sector would also be included in that scheme?

Number of Unemployed persons

†549. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons at present in the country together with the number of unemployed engineers, doctor, graduate and technical persons separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government would provide employment to ten crore people despite the decreasing employment opportunities and despite of increasing unemployment in the country day by day; and

(c) if so, by when and in what manner?

Compensation payable to workers

550. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of compensation payable to the workers under the Workmen's Compensation Act in the case of death and permanent total disability;

(b) whether the minimum amount of compensation is likely to be raised in the case of death and permanent total disability;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Need for labour reforms

551. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, at the meeting of the Council of Trade and Industry held in New Delhi on September, 7, 2001, stressed on the need for speedy labour reforms;

(b) if so, the objectives contemplated for such labour reforms and in what precise context and background these observations were made; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

Welfare boards for workers

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

(a) whether Government propose to set up Welfare Boards for building and other construction workers at the Centre and States level in order to provide specific welfare facilities to construction workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the Building and other Construction Workers, Act, 1996 in all the States?

Contract Labour Policy

553. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a detailed Contract Labour Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) what steps are being taken to project the labour in this policy?

Changes in EPF Act

554. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering some changes in the Employees Provident Fund Act to help the employees; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed changes and by when these are likely to be brought about?

Irregularities in EPFO

555. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial irregularities amounting to several crores of rupees in acquisition of land and construction of office buildings/staff quarters in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation have come to Government's notice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken in the matter?

Labour reforms

556. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Statesman' dated the 12th October, 2001 under the caption "Sharad Jolt to labour reforms";

(b) if so, the objections raised regarding the proposed labour reforms;

(c) the report of the Committee of Secretaries in the matter; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken to amend the relevant Acts?

overcome the difficulties for early declaration of results;

(e) by when these results would be declared and successful candidates recommended for appointment;

(f) the reason for declaring final results for some of the categories when the examination was combined; and

(g) the detailed criteria for post-wise/ zone-wise allocation of successful candidates?

Selection of tribal candidates for IAS/IPS/IFS

557. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribal candidates selected for IAS/IPS/IFS cadres during the last three years, year-wise and cadre-wise;

(b) the number of tribal candidates selected for the next year training; and

(c) the number of tribal officers posted to the highest ranks in the Central Government?

Delay in result of Graduate Level Examination 1999 conducted by SSC

558. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether final results of certain categories of combined main (Graduate Level) Examination 1999, conducted by SSC, are yet to be declared;

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

(c) the specific reason (s) for delay in declaring the final results;

(d) the action/steps taken by SSC to

Revision of GDP growth rate

559. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to revise GDP growth target downward from the earlier stipulated growth rate of 6.5 per cent per annum; and

(b) the latest trends of GDP growth since the first year of Ninth Plan?

Task force on employment opportunities

560. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted any task force for creation of employment opportunities in the country and whether the said task force has submitted any report;

(b) if so, the suggestions made in the report;

(c) whether it is a fact that after implementation of this report, unemployment would increase to such an extent that it would become difficult for

the people to survive and therefore, a demand has been made to reject this report; and

(d) if so, Government's decision on rejection or implementation of this report?

Speedy development of backward regions

561. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiatives to ensure speedy development of the identified backward regions in the country by providing additional resources to cover the backlog of development during the current plan period; and

(b) if so, the details of the regions identified for the purpose and the funds allocated during the plan period alongwith the physical achievements?

Schemes of Himachal Pradesh

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

(a) the details of various schemes of Himachal Pradesh which are pending with Government for approval;

(b) the action taken thereon by Government so far; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken on these schemes?

Economic projections of Tenth Plan

†563. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the basis for economic projections of the Tenth Five Year Plan are not in line with the annual budget estimates of the year 2001-02;

(b) if so, the basis fixed for the economic projections of the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the reasons for not taking the budget-estimates as its basis?

Monitoring and evaluation system for social sector development schemes

564. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group has recommended the adoption of monitoring and evaluation system for social sector development schemes for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the merits of the system and how it is different from present evaluation process; and

(c) the other measures to be adopted by Government to bring transparency in development activities?

Utilisation of Central Road Fund

565. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pace of utilisation of money accruing to the State Governments from the Central Road Fund for upgradation of State roads, is at slow pace;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken for speedy completion of road projects by the State Governments?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Private sector participation in construction of highways

566. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the internal/external private sector companies having shown interest for investment in highways during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) whether Government have, till date, announced any special incentives for private sectors who are desirous of investment in highways;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in road accidents

†567. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks third in world in the matter of road accidents;

(b) whether track cards are not demanded from 87 per cent of the drivers and the transport departments do not test their knowledge about the steps to be taken in case of an emergency;

(c) if so, whether the increase in the number of road accidents in the country is due to untrained drivers; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this direction?

Road projects in Orissa

568. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals submitted by the State Government of Orissa during the last

three years for development of roads in the State out of the Central Road Fund;

(b) how many of those projects are now being implemented in the State with the Central Road Fund;

(c) the estimated cost of those projects and the funds released for the purpose; and

(d) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

Four laning of roads in Gujarat

569. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the National Highways in Gujarat where four laning has been completed;

(b) the other sections in the State where four laning is in progress; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for this work and the amount spent so far?

Construction of roads and bridges

†570. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways and bridges on which construction work was commenced during the Ninth Five Year Plan State-wise;

(b) the details of the amount allocated for the said purpose;

(c) the percentage of work completed so far; and

(d) whether the entire work is likely to be completed by the end of the plan?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Assessment of NH-91

571. DR. SWAMI SAKSHI JI MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether condition of NH-91 has been assessed;
- (b) if so, the details of the assessment and follow-up action;
- (c) whether it needs widening/improvement; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken in the matter so far?

Construction of Highways passing through tribal areas

572. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether earlier National Highway No. 8 passes through Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat;
- (b) whether another National Highway would be constructed from Delhi to Mumbai *via* Shamlaji to Vadodara, Rajpipla to Songadh, Virar to Vapi which are tribal areas;
- (c) if so, by when the work would start and finish; and
- (d) the length of the existing National Highway No. 8 and the newly suggested Highway?

Loan facilities to SSI

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

- (a) whether Government propose to chalkout any scheme to provide loan

facilities to Small Scale Industries in order to improve their economic condition; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it would benefit the Small Scale Industries in the country?

Separate laws for SSI

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

- (a) what steps have been taken to reduce the Inspector Raj and help to promote 'single point inspection' of Small Scale Industries; and

(b) whether Government propose to make separate self-contained laws for these industries to facilitate long term policy measures for healthy growth of the Small Scale Industries?

Subsidy on cost of registration of bar coding

575. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering a scheme to provide subsidy on cost of registration and implementation of bar coding;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and
- (c) by when it is likely to be announced?

Deterioration of SSI due to dumping of foreign goods

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that state of the Small Scale Industries has been deteriorating day by day as a result of the dumping of foreign goods in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to revive the Small Scale Industries;

(c) whether Government propose to formulate a new policy for improving the state of these industries keeping in view the recession prevailing in the market; and

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

Satellite transmission

577. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present satellite transmission policy in the country;

(b) the salient features of this policy;

(c) how the satellite usages are decided by the Department of Space;

(d) whether it affects security of the country; and

(e) what steps are being taken to improve the quality of satellite transmission across the country?

Development of Dwarka as tourist spot

†578. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat have asked for economic help from the Central Government for development of Dwarka as tourist spot;

(b) if so, whether Government have given any thought on the demand of the State Government so far; and

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

Three pronged strategy to boost tourism

579. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three pronged strategy has been formulated recently in consultation with the representatives of the airlines, hotels and travel industry to give boost to tourism to counter the grim situation arising out of the recent terrorist attacks on the United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal for visa-on-arrival announced recently?

Low ranking in tourism sector

580. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranks 153 out of 160 countries in terms of Government spending on Tourism;

(b) whether as compared to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka only 2.64 million tourists came to India last year; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps taken at a recently held conference of Chief Ministers and Tourism Ministers in New Delhi for attraction of foreign tourists coordination between the States and Centre in this field to control variation in hotel tax from one State to another and to enact laws for 'cleanliness' as in other countries?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development of tourism in Assam

581. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be
pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to
develop tourism in some areas of Assam
with the foreign assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Tourism projects of Andhra Pradesh

582. DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have
prioritized any tourism projects of Andhra
Pradesh in consultation with the State
Government for the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current status of these projects;
and

(d) whether Government propose to
take any steps to promote tourism in
Andhra Pradesh?

India's share in global tourist traffic

583. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be
pleased to state:

(a) India's share in global tourist
traffic;

(b) whether it is a fact that this share
is very marginal;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken
by Government to make tourism sector
more attractive and sound?

Comprehensive tourism policy

584. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be
pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to
bring before Parliament a comprehensive
tourism policy to attract tourists in the
country;

(b) the salient features of the proposed
policy;

(c) to what extent the tourism industry
has suffered after the September 11th
attacks on the USA;

(d) whether Government have
identified any areas for drastic reforms
and modernisation to attract tourists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Seven point programme for promotion
of tourism**

585. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
have laid down a seven point programme for
promotion of Tourism in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of this new strategy
and implementation thereof?

Static flow of tourists in India

586. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for many
years now India's share of foreign tourists
has been static at 0.38 per cent;

(b) whether this has been attributed to lack of implementation effective governance and will; and

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

Rock garden in Karnataka

587. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal received from the Government of Karnataka under Government consideration to develop a rock garden on the pattern of Rock Garden of Chandigarh and Shilpamam of Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to help the State Government in the project?

Promotion of tourism in Karnataka

588. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the projects undertaken by Government for promotion of tourism in Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) the place selected for promotion of tourism in the State; and

(c) the investment made for these projects?

Steep fall in international tourists

589. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the steep downfall in international tourists

into the country which affected tourism industry;

(b) if so, the estimated loss of foreign exchange; and

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to assure foreign tourists about the security and other related aspects?

Development of pilgrim places in Maharashtra

590. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the Pilgrim places developed during the last three years in Maharashtra; and

(b) the amount of grants sanctioned for each such pilgrim place and the amounts utilised during the above period?

Visa-on-arrival scheme for foreign tourists

591. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the visa-on-arrival scheme for foreign tourists arriving at Indian ports has since been dispensed with;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the scheme proposed to be launched this year would effect the flow of foreign tourists traffic to India; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to augment arrival of the foreign tourists in the country?

National Tourism Advisory Council

592. SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to constitute a National Tourism Advisory Council at the Centre and State level;

(b) if so, the composition of the Council; and

(c) whether journalists promoting tourism through specialised tourism related magazines would also be included

in the proposed Council and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Impact of terrorism on tourism in
Karnataka**

593. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the impact on Tourist Traffic to India in the wake of the terrorist strikes in United States;

(b) whether it is a fact that tourism has suffered heavily in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the tourism industry in the State?

NEW DELHI;
The 16th November, 2001
Kartika 25, 1923 (Saka)

R. C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: 439, 440,
Atomic Energy	: 441, 442, 443, 444,
Communications	: 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502,
External Affairs	: 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535,
Information Technology	: 536, 537, 538,
Labour	: 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556,
Parliamentary Affairs	: —
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	: 557, 558,
Planning	: 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564,
Road Transport and Highways	: 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572,
Small Scale Industries	: 573, 574, 575, 576,
Space	: 577,
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —
Tourism	: 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593.