

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, the November 22, 2002/Agrahayana 1, 1924 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and Forests;  
Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development; Ocean  
Development; Railways; Science and Technology; Steel; Youth  
Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions—124

#### Oilseeds production and price

331. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and price per quintal of various oilseeds in the country during the period 1991—2001, year-wise;

(b) the details of edible oil imported into the country during the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of oilseeds registered a continuous fall during this period;

(d) if so, whether the lifting of QRS has resulted in the fall of prices; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### Accidents in agriculture sector

332. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central or State Scheme for insurance or payment of compensation to the victims of accidents in the agriculture sector is in operation in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of farmer victims of accidents who were compensated during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise?

#### Deporting breeding cattle imported by A.P.

333. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had asked the Andhra Pradesh Government to deport 200 breeding cattle, imported from Australia in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the contention of the Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard?

#### Crop insurance scheme in H.P.

334. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited by Crop Insurance Scheme in Himachal Pradesh, District-wise;

(b) whether there had been some meetings between farmers and Government during the last one year to implement the said scheme in the State, if so, what are the outcome thereof; and

(c) what are the items covered under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme?

#### **Unit for measuring crop loss under NAIS**

335. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make provision to take panchayat as a unit for assessment of the crop loss, instead of block as a unit, as it is there now for the purpose of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS); and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

#### **Coconut Technology Mission**

336. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, during his stay at Kumarakam in Kerala, offered to set up a Coconut Technology Mission;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far, to establish the same;

(c) the present status of the project; and

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

#### **Target of foodgrain production**

337. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) targets for growth of foodgrains *vis-a-vis* agriculture set under the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) what have been the achievements against the target set; and

(c) the targets set and strategy adopted for the Tenth Five Year Plan?

#### **Allocation by Planning Commission**

338. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for several years less than 50 per cent of the amount requested has been allocated by the Planning Commission for agriculture;

(b) if so, how Government propose to double agro production in ten years, as envisaged, with only fifty per cent of the funds required to undertake schemes to increase production; and

(c) the fund allocated for agro production for the last three years, State-wise?

#### **Nets for agriculture**

339. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experiments conducted by Punjab Agriculture University have proved that crops cultivated under the canopy a net have a much higher yield and do not require pesticides; and

(b) whether Government would take initiatives to spread such a method in other parts of the country?

#### **KVKs in U.P.**

340. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for opening KVKs in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the places for this purpose have been identified; and

(c) if so, the names of such places?

#### **Drought in Karnataka**

341. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount sought by Karnataka to tackle the drought;

(b) the amount released so far, during 2002-2003; and

(c) the amount recommended by the Central team for Karnataka to tackle the drought?

#### **Contingent plan against drought in A.P.**

342. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the status of drought situation in Andhra Pradesh this year, giving the details of District-wise scanty and deficient rainfall in the State;

(b) whether Andhra Pradesh Government had drawn up contingent plan for alternate crops and resowing and supply of drinking water and fodder;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the assistance provided to the State?

#### **Facilities for drought hit farmers in A.P.**

343. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether special facilities were extended by Government to the farmers of

Andhra Pradesh, who were affected by recent drought conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role played by the State Government in this regard?

#### **Setting up of Agriculture Finance Corporation**

344. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of formulating agricultural policy with 20 per cent as budgetary support and 25 per cent of the total loans earmarked for the sector by commercial banks;

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

(c) whether Government are also thinking of setting up of an Agricultural Finance Corporation in each State; and

(d) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed corporation?

#### **Promoting use of Bio-fertilizers**

345. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to undertake concrete steps to promote use of Bio-fertilizer, Bio-manure, micro-nutrients, as a supplement to chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons for closing down operation of eight Bio-fertilizer units under Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division (FP & ARD) of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation;

(c) whether Ministry propose to take

over the above units and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under HFC; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Drought in A.P.**

346. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a nine-member Central team visited Hyderabad, to assess the damage caused to crops and loss of employment to agriculture labour, as a result of severe drought in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the team has since given its report to Government and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken, so far, on the recommendations made by the Central team and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any amount has been released so far, to the State from the National Calamity Contingency Fund and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Loans to farmer in drought hit areas**

347. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the current year drought is very wide spread and worst in the past 50 years and worst sufferers are farmers;

(b) if so, the details of farmers/people affected loss of money and cattle in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the farmers are provided with additional crop loans by NABARD and other Co-operation and Regional Banks to the drought hit people; and

(d) if so, the details of additional crop loans advanced, State-wise?

#### **Compensation to drought affected cultivators**

348. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the foodgrains production has been reduced this time on account of severe drought in different parts of the country;

(b) the number of cultivators falling prey to drought;

(c) the compensation extended to the affected cultivators and the amount thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the details of extent of efforts made and assistance accorded for alternative crops?

#### **Set back in Kharif season by drought**

349. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:  
SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was serious set back in agricultural operations during the recent Kharif season due to widespread and prolonged dry spell in the country;

(b) if so, the details regarding extent of crop loss, loss of livestock and human lives and shortfall in Kharif production thereby State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the details of Central assistance sought by various State Governments for relief works; and

(d) the relief measures taken by Government and the details of Central assistance provided, State-wise?

### **Contingency plan to tackle drought**

350. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any contingency plan to tackle the devastating drought, witnessed in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made so far, to help the States affected by drought;

(d) whether Government thought of any permanent policy to tackle recurring drought year after year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **MSP for paddy and other crops**

351. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab and other State Governments had demanded early announcement of Minimum Support Price for paddy and other crops and other concessions for farmers in drought hit States;

(b) if so, the demands made by different State Governments; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

### **MSP policy of agricultural products**

† 352. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minimum Support Price policy is in force in the country;

(b) if so, the details of Minimum Support

Prices for all agricultural products and foodgrains earmarked during the last three years;

(c) the measures taken by Government to protect the interests of the farmers in case the prices fall below Minimum Support Price level; and

(d) the details of the crops of which prices have fallen below Minimum Support Price during the last three years?

### **Paying drought compensation to farmers**

† 353. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the Commission on Agriculture Cost and Price (C.A.C.P.) to recommend to pay the compensation in cash and other forms to the farmers in view of drought;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the commission in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers from whom Government don't purchase grain at all would be deprived from getting this benefit in case the commission announces bonus apart from M.S.P.; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

### **Cost of agricultural goods**

† 354. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of agricultural goods have been declining while the cost of agricultural production is rising day by day;

(b) whether cheaper agricultural goods have been flooding the country after lifting

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of quantitative ban on import by Government;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in order to improve the conditions of farmers; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the plan outlay on agriculture in order to complete the pending agricultural schemes in the country?

#### **Measures to deal with water crisis**

†355. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken various short term and long term measures to deal with the water crisis that has arisen in some States due to drought on account of scanty rainfall;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) to what extent the water crisis is likely to be solved by the short term measures; and

(d) the names of the States which have been benefited so far?

#### **Yield rate per acre**

†356. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite taking all measures the rate of yield per acre in India is very low as compared to that of rest of the countries in the world;

(b) if so, what is the detail of the yield per acre in India in comparison to countries like China, America and Russia;

(c) the reasons for less yield per acre; and

(d) what measures Government are taking to increase the yield per acre in India?

#### **Delay in announcing MSP for paddy**

†357. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the reason of delay in the announcement of Minimum Support Price of paddy inspite of taking a decision;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government agencies are not buying the paddy arriving in the market inspite of their willingness; and

(c) whether Government would prefer to buy paddy through middlemen; if not, by when Government would declare the Minimum Support Price in order to get rid the farmers of this problem and save them from the clutches of middlemen?

#### **Ambitious plan for drought**

†358. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has first time witnessed the worst drought during the last twelve years;

(b) if so, the names of the States most affected by the drought;

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided by the Central Government to the drought affected States;

(d) whether Government have formulated any ambitious scheme to prevent the drought; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Central teams on drought and floods**

359. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:  
DR. ABRAR AHMED:  
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED  
KHAN (DURRU):  
PROF. M. SANKARA-  
LINGAM:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
'LALAN':  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central teams which were sent to various drought affected States to study the damage done to crops and its impact on farmers have submitted their reports to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof in respect of each State;

(c) the nature of assistance provided to affected States, so far; and

(d) whether the Central teams were sent to flood hit States including Assam and Bihar also; if so, the findings thereof and the Central aid sought and given to each of these two States?

**Deficient rainfall in the States**

360. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the impact of deficient rainfall in the country; and

(b) what assistance has been provided to different States?

**Meeting of Ministers of drought affected States with PM**

361. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Ministers and other Ministers of different drought hit States called on the Prime Minister in the first week of August, 2002 to seek adequate Central aid to help fight drought and provide aid and support to the affected farmers;

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

(c) the Central Government's response thereto?

**Prices of wheat, paddy, cotton and sugarcane**

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of wheat, paddy (rice), cotton and sugarcane has been continuously decreasing for the last two decades in several countries of the world;

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

(c) the details of the respective prices of the said items at the beginning of the eighty's and at the end of the Ninety's, and

(d) what were the reasons for decrease in prices of these items in other countries?

**Foodgrain production**

†363. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of rice and wheat by the year 2020 is expected to be around 26 crore tonnes which is likely to be doubled as compared to the demand of the year 2000;

(b) what steps have been taken by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government to increase the production of foodgrains;

(c) what is the target set for increasing their annual production in the next five years; and

(d) what concrete arrangement is being made by Government for ensuring support prices to the goods produced by the farmers?

#### **Holding up drought assistance to States**

364. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the assessment of Government of the recent drought in various States, especially in Orissa;

(b) how much assistance/relief has been sanctioned/released by Government to various States affected with drought, State-wise; and

(c) in case release is held up in respect of some States, the reasons therefor?

#### **Fertilizer Policy**

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

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared a long term policy for chemical fertilizers, which would be brought into force from the next financial year;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the salient features of this policy as a result of which the interest of the consumers, manufacturers and traders is likely to be protected to a greater extent?

#### **Wage revision in Namrup Fertilizer Unit**

366. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is thinking about wage revision of workers after bifurcation of Namrup Fertilizer Unit from HFC;

(b) if so, when it would be affected;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the revamping of Namrup Unit has been completed and whether production by all three plants has been started?

#### **Closure of FCI and HFC**

367. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided for closure of FCI and HFC and to extend Voluntary Separation Scheme to the employees numbering more than 12,000;

(b) whether VSS would cost Rs. 730 crore;

(c) if so, the source of funding; and

(d) how many of these units could be revived through infusion of this amount as promoter's contribution as equity of 30 per cent and remaining 70 per cent as debt from FIs/Banks?

#### **Fertilizer Policy**

368. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to offer

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



twelve per cent return on net worth, under the new good pricing schemes, being considered as the part of long-term fertilizer policy;

(b) whether the retention-pricing scheme of fertilizer companies has already been abolished;

(c) if so, who would be the ultimate beneficiary of change of scheme of fertilizer policy;

(d) whether farmers would get benefit out of it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Relief package for FACT and MFL**

369. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering relief packages for Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) and Madras Fertilizer Ltd. (MFL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **White Paper on Union Carbide**

370. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bhopal Gas tragedy affected people have demanded a White Paper on criminal proceedings against the Union Carbide and immediate distribution of Rs. 1500 crore compensation still left with the Central and the State Governments through a memorandum submitted to Prime Minister on 29th October, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details of their demands and Government's reaction thereto?

#### **Closure of sick units of HFCL and FCI**

371. SHRI GAYA SINGH:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down three sick units of the Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the financial status of these units the number of employees employed in each of these units and the amount due to these employees by way of arrears of wages and alongwith other statutory dues; and

(c) the steps being taken to pay these arrears and the compensation proposed to be paid, if any?

#### **UN convention on climate change**

372. SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations Convention on climate changes was held in India recently for adoption of mechanisms to combat climate changes;

(b) if so, what are the complete details of the deliberations of the Convention;

(c) what are the suggestions made by the Indian Government in the above Convention; and

(d) whether Government propose to implement it?

### **Johannesburg Earth Summit**

373. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the major issues considered by the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (the Earth Summit) held in Johannesburg recently;

(b) the assessment of the progress made on various issues since the last Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, with highlights of the contentious issues involved and the Indian view point thereon; and

(c) the final resolutions adopted by the Summit and the follow up action required to be taken by India?

### **Special environment court in Orissa**

374. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued instructions to Open Special Court in Orissa, for quick disposal of environmental cases;

(b) if so, what steps has been taken by Government; and

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

### **Environmental permission for hotel at Puri**

375. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Private Company or foreign investors have been permitted by the Orissa Pollution Control Board, the Central Pollution Control Board to construct

a big hotel near Konark Temple on Puri-Konark Sea Road; and

(b) if so, what understanding has been given by the proposed hotel authorities to discharge waste water and garbage?

### **Status of removal of River-Princess from Condolim Beach**

376. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the status of removal of River Princess from Condolim Beach; and

(b) the chances of the ship being completely broken and spoiling the beautiful beach in the next five years?

### **Idol immersion in rivers and ponds**

377. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board proposes to amend the existing Pollution Control Laws, to stop the practice of idol immersion in rivers and ponds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons suggested by the Central Pollution Control Board to arrest rising water pollution in the country?

### **Exclusion of tea gardens from forest cover in Assam**

378. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which tea gardens are excluded from forest cover in Assam;

(b) the reasons for eviction of peasants from forest land in this State; and

(c) whether there is enough forest cover in the State for ecological purpose?

#### **Anarchy in Ranthambore wild life sanctuary**

† 379. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether great anarchy prevails in the world famous Ranthambore wild life sanctuary due to which death of the animals, reduction in the number of tourists and abnormal situation thereof continue;

(b) whether there is a much more irregularity in the assistance received from the World Bank for the protection of environment and development of the sanctuary; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to take any effective steps to protect animals, to increase the number of tourists and to restore normalcy alongwith to examine the financial position; if so, the details thereof?

#### **Studies on rivers under National River Action Plan**

† 380. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many studies by different institutions have been conducted on Beas, Sutlej and Yamuna rivers and also on rejuvenation of Rivalsar lake in district Mandi in Himachal Pradesh under the National River Action Plan alongwith field testing laboratory sanitation survey etc., and how many proposals are pending with the

Central Government for the allocation of funds for them and since when;

(b) what are the reasons for non-allocation of funds for them so far; and

(c) by when funds would be allocated for them?

#### **Plantation programmes in Orissa**

381. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how much funds have been provided to Orissa Government after the Super Cyclone, to take up plantation work on the coastal belt and what amount has been utilised, till now, by the State Government;

(b) whether 25 MLAs of Orissa have written to take up plantation work by a private agency, with accountability, and the bill may be paid after survival of trees; and

(c) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard by the State Government?

#### **Clearance to environmental projects in Assam**

382. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects from Assam Government for getting environmental clearance pending with the Central Government;

(b) the details of specific reasons for delay in giving the environmental clearance, project-wise; and

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

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Illegal encroachments on forests land**

383. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been number of cases reported of illegal encroachments on forests land in the country, despite Supreme Court order issued in 1996;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to tackle this problem;

(c) whether Government realize this as the main cause of animal species becoming extinct; and

(d) if so, what plan Government would draw to tackle this problem in future?

**Japanese assistance to clean Ganga**

384. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government with the assistance of Japan International Cooperation propose to take up a project to improve the quality of water in the river Ganga;

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

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

**Impact of Delhi Declaration on climate change on industry**

385. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi draft declaration

on climate change skipped any mention of the Kyoto Protocol, considered central to retard the current rate of climate change;

(b) whether there was any decision related to building the capacity of the countries that of the least developed one to tackle the adverse impact of the climate change;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the impact of the draft declaration on climate change on the Indian industry?

**Penalty on States for negligence towards environment**

†386. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have been penalised by the Supreme Court during the last one year for neglecting and showing indifference towards environment;

(b) whether these States have assured to follow the environment related rules in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have issued or propose to issue any guideline in this regard?

**Growth target for FPIs**

387. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

set a target of 8 per cent growth in the Tenth Five Year Plan for the food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government are going to bring the National Food Processing Bill/the Processed Food Development Bill before Parliament?

#### **FDI in food processing industry sector**

†388. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given sanction to the proposals received for foreign direct investment during March, 1998 to September, 2002 in the food processing industry sector;

(b) if so, the amount of total capital investment from these sanctioned proposals; and

(c) the actual capital investment made under these proposals so far?

#### **Setting up of/assistance to FPIs**

389. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Food Processing Units set up/or financially assisted by Government throughout the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of agriculturists benefited by those units, State-wise; and

(c) the details of proposed food processing units with the financial assistance of Government likely to be set up in our country in the near future, State-wise?

#### **Changes in IIT curriculum**

390. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the kind of changes IIT Delhi propose to bring about in their curriculum to help students to reduce their work load and stress, as reported in the 'Times of India' of 16th August, 2002;

(b) the proposals for fresh areas of exposure; and

(c) whether the changes carry the overall approval of students?

#### **Work load of university teachers**

391. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.G.C. has recently called upon the university teachers to increase their teaching workload;

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

(c) whether the Delhi University has implemented the U.G.C. formula in this regard?

#### **Accountability of IIT**

392. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to make Indian Institute of Technology accountable and release of grants by their performance level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any formula has been

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

evolved to evaluate the performance of individual IIT's;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) idea behind this change in funding pattern?

#### **Track on teachers**

393. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report captioned "Government plans to track its schools on the Internet in Delhi," reported in the 'Times of India' of 17th September, 2002;

(b) if so, what is this innovative idea of keeping a track on teachers' performance to ensure accountability;

(c) whether this applies to Government schools or all the schools in Delhi are covered under this initiative; and

(d) the details of the agency that would be involved to keep a tab on non-performing teaching staff?

#### **Violation of mid-day meal scheme**

394. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether violations of mid-day meal scheme for primary school children by certain States have been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that children get some cooked food invariably?

#### **Expenditure on mid-day meal scheme**

395. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools providing mid-day meals to students in different States;

(b) the kind of meals that are provided in different regions;

(c) whether these meals have been designed by nutritionists to ensure that children do not suffer from malnutrition; and

(d) the total expenditure on the mid-day meal scheme, State-wise?

#### **Bio-technology courses at Higher Secondary level**

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

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CBSE has introduced bio-technology for class XI;

(b) if so, the reasons for introduction of bio-technology for class XI;

(c) how many schools, as per the directions of the CBSE, have appointed bio-technology teachers for teaching the same to the students;

(d) whether it is also a fact that 50 per cent of the chapters on bio-technology are not being taught in schools; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken on such schools?

**Errors in social science text books**

397. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

SHRI ABANI ROY:

SHRI TARINI KANTA RAY:

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN  
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has  
been drawn to the news-item captioned  
"Errors galore in NCERT text books"  
reported in the 'Hindu' dated 5th October,  
2002;

(b) if so, whether teachers of various  
schools have found factual errors in the  
social science text books of VI and IX  
standards; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is rectifying  
the mistakes in the text books;

(d) whether, inspite of factual errors,  
Government have imposed deliberately  
books from the current year itself; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Fake certificates**

398. PROF. M. SANKARA-  
LINGAM:

SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently fake  
certificates have been recovered from a fake  
Central Board of Higher Education in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that they had set  
up their centres in various States;

(c) if so, the steps taken to curb such  
fake education centres from spreading its  
wings to destabilize the educational system  
in the country; and

(d) the details of the seizures in the above  
and such other cases, where forged  
education certificates have come into play?

**FDI for Madarsa**

399. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:  
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government  
have decided to allow FDI in the education  
sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether FDI would be allowed for  
Madarsas also; and

(d) if so, whether Government have  
taken into consideration the security angle  
and the role played by certain Madarsas in  
communal violence in the past?

**Drop-outs in college level  
correspondence courses**

400. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been  
a steady increase in the number of drop-  
outs in the 2nd and 3rd years of the  
correspondence courses at college level;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of drop-  
outs of correspondence courses at college  
level for the last five years; and

(c) what plans Government have to  
counter this?

**Review of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**

401. SHRI C.P. THIRUNA-  
VUKKARASU: Will the Minister of  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed  
the implementation of 'Sarva Shiksha  
Abhiyan' programme in States;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any survey has been conducted for creation of additional infrastructure to implement the programme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures to be undertaken by Government in this regard?

#### **Fake Universities in Uttar Pradesh**

†402. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Sub Se Jyada Furji Vishwa Vidyalaya Uttar Pradesh Main Chal Rahe Hain" appearing in 'Nav Bharat Times' dated 18th August, 2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of Government thereto?

#### **Introduction of new syllabus in schools**

†403. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:  
PROF. M. M. AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Secondary Education, Delhi has changed the courses and books for various classes, while six months of this academic year are already over;
- (b) if so, the main reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there seemed any difficulty in implementing the revised NCERT courses for various classes from the next academic year;

- (d) the decisions taken, so far, by Government in the interest of the students; and

(e) the name of States which have agreed in principle to implement the new syllabus?

#### **Adverse effect on education**

†404. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that quality of higher education is getting adversely affected or likely to be affected due to increasing intervention of the Ministry of Finance; and
- (b) what effective steps Government propose to take to maintain quality of higher education, its standard and all the pre-requisite parameters?

#### **UGC grants for building construction projects**

†405. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is provision of Grant of 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively from University Grants Commission and State Government for building construction projects of Universities and Colleges;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that often there is a delay in giving grants by States;
- (c) if so, whether University Grants Commission has submitted its proposal for giving hundred per cent grant amount; and
- (d) if so, what are the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



### Professional education

†406. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to impart professional education in all the schools/ colleges of the country based on the pattern of Japan;

(b) whether Government are taking any effective step to make education employment-oriented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of Government thereto?

### Old syllabus in Government schools

†407. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in 'Dainik Jagran', dated 26th October, 2002 under the caption "Sarkari Schoolon main purana pathyakram hi paraya jayega";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that as per the orders of the NCERT in IXth and XIth standard of public schools only the new syllabus of History and Hindi subjects would be taught;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what is Government's reaction thereto?

### Legislation to ban bogus foreign universities

408. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

enact a legislation to ban operation of bogus foreign universities in India; and

(b) if so, the names of such universities and by when a legislation is proposed to be enacted?

### Computer education centre in Government Schools in Assam

409. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any schemes to establish a computer education centre in each Government School of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

### Vocational training schools in Assam

410. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government funded vocational training schools functioning at present in Assam;

(b) the details of financial assistance given to these schools during the last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

### KVs and NVs in Assam

411. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria fixed by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government to open Central Schools/ Navodaya Vidyalayas and Open schools in Assam;

(b) whether Government propose to set up new Central Schools/Navodaya Vidyalayas and Open schools in Assam during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **FDI in education Sector**

†412. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding more foreign capital investment in the education sector of the country is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the names of the departments of the education sector wherein foreign capital investment is likely to be permitted under the proposal togetherwith the percentage of the investment thereof; and

(c) the names of the areas of the education in the country wherein foreign capital has been invested in real sense togetherwith the quantum of capital thereof?

#### **Evaluation of books by religious leaders**

†413. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some of the books published recently by NCERT had a lot of errors;

(b) whether it is also a fact that inspite of

the reported removal of errors by NCERT a number of errors are still existing;

(c) whether it is a fact that now the scholars of NCERT are getting their books evaluated and supported by the spiritual leaders; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government on these incidents?

#### **Number of Children in Primary Schools**

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

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) at present the number of children in the age group of 6 to 14 years in the country are deprived of education;

(b) whether Government propose to include the education under Fundamental Rights to impart it to the children of age group of 6 to 14 years;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and steps Government are taking to provide this facility to these children?

#### **Schools for Primary education**

†415. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the fact that according to the Planning Commission the number of non-school going children in the age group of 6 to 14 years is 80 million;

(b) if so, whether Government confirms this figure;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the assessment of Government in this regard; and

(d) the number of schools or classes required to be introduced in the country for such children?

**Supreme Court order on Mid-day meal scheme**

416. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given threat to stop Central funds to State Governments for failing to provide cooked mid-day meals for primary school children;

(b) if so, whether the Court gave its final verdict on this issue on 9th September, 2002;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of State Governments in this regard; and

(d) whether any concrete steps have been taken by the Centre for implementation of the scheme as proposed by the Supreme Court?

**Hiring historians for writing text books**

417. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give up hiring historians and sponsoring or publishing text books and hand over the same to the experts and the NCERT;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

**Relief to Rajdhani Express accident victims**

418. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent accident of Rajdhani Express near Gaya in September last revealed some serious lapses with regard to relief and rescue operations for the accident victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the reasons for the lapses have been identified;

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to drawn up a plan for remedial and corrective action for tackling such contingencies;

(e) whether there is a proposal to acquire helicopters for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

**Funds for rail projects in Tamil Nadu**

419. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Railways is allocating very meagre amount for the ongoing railway projects in Tamil Nadu including HRTS of Gauge conversion as compared to other States;

(b) if so, whether Government would allot sufficient funds to speed up the railway projects in the State in future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

### **Model railway stations**

420. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of stations developed as model stations, as on date;

(b) whether the Indian Railways have recently selected some railway stations to be upgraded as model stations with better amenities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the fund allocations made therefor?

### **Extension of Hampi Express**

421. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government would take steps to extend the Hubli-Bangalore Hampi Express to Mysore since Hampi and Mysore are famous heritage centres?

### **Heritage status to Darjeeling train**

422. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small train, which runs upto Darjeeling, has been declared as heritage train by UN;

(b) if so, what are the advantages thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for setting up an authority for managing the upkeep and funds etc. of the train; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider it?

### **Stampede at Lucknow railway station**

423. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the enquiry instituted into causes for stampede at the Lucknow railway station in September, 2002 has been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the enquiry has also taken into account the harassment and ill-treatment meted out to passengers by unruly and ticket-less crowd in trains passing through Lucknow on that day;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what is the policy of Government to prevent ticket-less mob entering into trains unchecked, to take part in political rallies?

### **Scrapping of Railway Projects**

424. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan has been drawn up to scrap a large number of Railway projects which were approved over ten years ago but have not yet been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the investments made in these specific projects;

(c) whether it is a fact that many of these projects were formulated without detailed project reports, pre-project activities or a proper tie-up of financial resources; and

(d) if so, the details of such projects and the compulsions/reasons for undertaking them without following the established sound project management practices?

### **Disaster management infrastructure in Railways**

425. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh review has been undertaken to assess the disaster

management infrastructure and its effectiveness on the Indian Railways, especially in the wake of the recent Rajdhani Express accident;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the additional relief and emergency facilities proposed to be created in the disaster management units in the different zones; and

(c) the details of the similar disaster management machinery working in other countries like Britain, USA etc.

**Encroachment of railway land in Andhra Pradesh**

426. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large portions of the railway land have been encroached upon in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Vijayawada;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad rail line**

427. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked this year for completion of Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad rail line project in the backward region; and

(b) by when, it is likely to be completed?

**Probe team for Rajdhani Express accident**

428. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways has attributed sabotage as the cause for accident of the Rajdhani Express in September, 2002 in Bihar;

(b) if so, the findings of the inquiry committee;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Prime Minister had promised an impartial inquiry by a high level and technically well-equipped team, as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 4th October, 2002; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the composition and terms of reference of the new probe team?

**Setting up of disaster response team in the Railways**

429. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item captioned "CRS report a bad procedure, says forensic expert" which appeared in 'Hindu' dated 9th October, 2002;

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

(c) whether Government propose to set up an independent transport accidents investigation commission and a disaster response team at National level;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Unmanned railway crossings**

430. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unmanned railway level crossings, State-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals with Government to have manned railways/level crossings in order to avert the accidents; and

(c) the estimated cost for this proposal, State-wise?

**Completion of Gadwal-Raichur rail line**

431. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked this year for completion of Gadwal-Raichur rail line under South Central Railway; and

(b) by when the project would be completed?

**Investigation of rail accident of Rajdhani Express**

432. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether preliminary investigations into the cause of Howrah-Delhi Rajdhani Express train accident near Aurangabad, Bihar, in September, 2002 have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of passengers killed or injured and the property damaged, as a result of the accident;

(d) whether the relief and rescue operations were not conducted properly, resulting in more casualties; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to avoid such accidents in future?

**Fish plates causing accidents**

433. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in Times of India dated 3rd October, 2002 under the caption "Rail Safety report gathering dust";

(b) if so, whether the second volume of the Justice Khanna Railways Safety Review Committee report submitted in 2001, which provides a long term perspective on safe rail travel has not been accepted by the Railways;

(c) what is holding up implementation of these recommendations;

(d) whether two rail accidents, one in May and another in September, 2002, occurred due to missing of fish-plates;

(e) if so, whether the Ministry constituted five member high-level committee to go into the rail accident of Rajdhani Express; and

(f) if so, the action taken on the Report?

**Rail link for backward regions**

434. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the backward districts in the country, especially Ramanathapuram and Sivaganga districts in Tamil Nadu, are not properly connected with rail routes; and

(b) if so, the details of Government's proposal to have rail links in all backward regions of our country?

### **Repair of distressed railway bridges**

435. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways spent Rs. 650 crore during the Ninth Five Year Plan for rebuilding distressed bridges;

(b) if so, the number of bridges rebuilt/ repaired so far, in this period; and

(c) the details of expenses incurred on each of these bridges?

### **Untraced Passengers in the Rajdhani Express accident**

†436. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the respective number of passengers killed, hurt and those who survived in the Howrah-New Delhi 2301 UP Rajdhani Express accident at Rafiganj due to breaking down of the bridge on Dhaba river;

(b) the total number of passengers who boarded the train at Howrah station, before its departure;

(c) whether there is any difference in the number of the total passengers and those of the killed, hurt and survived;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of passengers who are yet to be traced; and

(f) what measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

### **Duty hours of railway drivers**

†437. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the maximum hours of duty for railway drivers as per rule;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards news-item published in 'Dainik Jagran' dated 15th September, 2002 under the caption "Neend ki halat mein chalak ne Dehradun Express ko Mugal-sarai Pahunchaya";

(c) if so, what were the reasons for forcing drivers for doing more than 10 hours duty; and

(d) who would be responsible for the mishap in such circumstances?

### **CAG report on signalling and telecommunication**

†438. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has criticized Railways Department for not giving due importance to the modernisation of signalling and telecom; and

(b) if so, the reasons and details thereof?

### **Probe into Rajdhani express accident**

†439. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:  
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have ordered a probe into the accident of Rajdhani Express coming to New Delhi from Howrah, due to collapse of bridge on the Dhabe river at Rafiganj;

(b) if so, whether Government have since received the enquiry report;

(c) if so, what was the prime reason of the accident; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to prevent such accidents in future?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Metre gauge lines in Tamil Nadu**

440. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in length of metre gauge rail lines are more in Tamil Nadu especially in Thujavous region, as compared to other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the proposals of Government and the financial allocations for early conversion of those meter gauges rail lines into broad gauge?

#### **Completion of Talcher Bimalagarh Rail line**

441. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work of the proposed Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail line has been completed;

(b) whether this rail line would go through ST, SC and OBC populated areas; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take up the work on this line at the earliest?

#### **Railway bridges in use**

442. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway bridges throughout the country which are in daily use as on date;

(b) the total number of railway bridges which are averaged and crying for large scale repair;

(c) whether the bridge over the river Dhabe near Rafiganj where the accident of the Rajdhani Express took place on the night of 9th September, 2002 is one of them; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking adequate precaution before

permitting the Rajdhani Express to move on the bridge?

#### **Fast trains between Madgaon and Mumbai**

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are considering to introduce the fastest train in the country, to link Madgaon and Mumbai;

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

(c) by when the Ministry propose to introduce the train;

(d) whether the Ministry propose to extend the same to other cities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **ROBs/RUBs in Uttar Pradesh**

†444. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of over bridges and under bridges being constructed on the Railway lines passing through Uttar Pradesh for the last three years and the number of such bridges constructed so far; and

(b) by when the remaining bridges are likely to be constructed?

#### **Opposition of creation of railway zones**

445. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the move to create additional

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



railway zones was consistently opposed by the Railway Board on financial, administrative and technical grounds from the very inception, till as late as November last year;

(b) whether the move was also opposed by the Standing Parliamentary Committee of Railways for self-same reasons; and

(c) if so, the reasons for creating the zones in the wake of professional and technical opposition from all quarters?

#### **Conversion of Rail lines in Rajasthan**

446. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received fresh proposals from the Rajasthan Government for conversion of Rail lines, from meter gauge to broad gauge;

(b) if so, by when would these proposals be finalized; and

(c) funds required for the proposed conversion projects?

#### **Multi mode transport system**

447. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways in collaboration with the State Government have developed a multi-mode transport system to decongest traffic in Hyderabad city;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an MoU has been signed in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the proposed multi-mode transport system is likely to become operational?

#### **Improving the meteorological department**

448. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:  
Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Meteorological department failed in prediction of Monsoon this year which caused great loss to farmers of the country particularly to the Karnataka farmers;

(b) if so, the details of steps Government propose to take to improve meteorological department; and

(c) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) can predict the climatic changes; if so, the details thereof?

#### **Experiments about monsoon failure**

449. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Meteorological Department's experts have examined the causes for the failure of the just concluded summer monsoon in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the results of experiment conducted jointly by several organisations in the Arabian Sea between June, 15 and August, 15 to gather ocean and atmospheric observations have been examined;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures to be adopted for long range month-wise prediction of the Monsoon in future?

#### **Import-Export of HR Coils**

450. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though Indian Steel Companies have adequate stock and

production capacity to meet the domestic demand, import of HR Coils, to the extent of 2/3 of the country's demand, is allowed;

(b) whether it is a fact that exports of Indian HR Coils has stopped due to high anti-dumping and countervailing duties imposed in the USA, EU and Canada; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to provide relief to Indian manufacturers and contain resentment among them?

**Conspiracy relating to doping test for Sunita Rani**

451. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian athlete Sunita Rani has been tested positive in doping test at the Asian Games in Busan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Sunita Rani has denied any knowledge of having taken any drug;

(c) if so, whether the case has been investigated from the conspiracy angle;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed on the manager and the doctor of the team?

**Promotion of accountants in NYKs**

452. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accountants in Nehru Yuvak Kendras, zone-wise, who did not get promotions despite having rendered twenty years or more service;

(b) the criteria for their promotion, as co-ordinators; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure their promotions as co-ordinators or any other posts in view of long services rendered?

**Enquiry of doping scandal against Sunita Rani**

453. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a one-man enquiry team was sufficient to investigate in the recent doping case involving Sunita Rani at the Asian Games;

(b) if so, what has been the result of the enquiry;

(c) whether Government have made any effort on their own to find out that the dismissal of the coach was not a case of passing the buck; and

(d) whether Government have ample explanations to prove the same otherwise?

**Sports complex in Tamil Nadu**

454. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government for construction of sports complexes at Thanjarvur, Thiruvavur and Nagappattinam districts of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, at which places the proposed complexes are to be constructed, alongwith the details of financial allocation made therefor?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 16th November, 2002*  
*Kartika 25, 1924 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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(Ministry-wise)

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<b>Science and Technology</b>	:	448, 449,
<b>Steel</b>	:	450,
<b>Youth Affairs and Sports</b>	:	451, 452, 453, 454.