

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the July 23, 2004/Sravana 1, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Consumer Affairs, Food
and Public Distribution; Environment and Forests; Food Processing Industries;
Health and Family Welfare; Railways; Steel)

Total number of questions—132

Farmer friendly schemes

1027. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to adopt some new farmer-friendly measures like introduction of comprehensive crop insurance scheme and prevention of sale of spurious seeds in the near future; and

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

Use of organic fertilizer

1028. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging the use of organic fertilizers in preference to nitrogen-based fertilizers; and

(b) whether it is planned to establish organic-based fertilizer plants in Government sector?

Status of Litchi Development and Research Centre

†1029. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the up to date position of Litchi Development and Research Centre to be established in Mujaffarpur of Bihar; and

(b) by when, it would start functioning?

Promoting cold water fisheries

†1030. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the measures being taken for increasing production of cold water fisheries;

(b) whether Government have assessed the capacity for the production of the said variety on the basis of the survey of various hill States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken for encouraging the production of such variety of fish in the States which are yielding lesser than their capacity?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Spurious fertilizers and pesticides

1031. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any action to curb the menace of unscrupulous manufacturers dealing in spurious seeds of foodgrains including cotton seeds, fertilizers and pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would assure of taking concrete measures to curb the growing menace of spurious seeds of foodgrains including cotton seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, affecting adversely, the agriculture sector?

Production cost of agro produces

†1032. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the production cost of agro-produces in the country;

(b) if so, the average production cost at national level assessed for wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds and pulses for the year 2002-2003;

(c) what was the production cost for the same five years ago; and

(d) the reasons for rise in the production cost during the said period?

Developing bio-control agents as pesticides

†1033. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Agriculture Research Institutes are engaged

in research for developing bio-control agents as pesticides; and

(b) if so, the progress made thereon?

MSP for cotton

1034. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum support price of cotton fixed this year by Maharashtra Government and other State Governments;

(b) the Agriculture Costs and Prices Commission's recommendation in this regard, indicating the cost of production of cotton in different areas; and

(c) how far the farmer's interests have been safeguarded thereby?

International Seed Treaty

1035. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have welcomed the International Seed Treaty;

(b) if so, whether there are scrap patents on 64 major food crops;

(c) whether this treaty will end disputes over genetic resources;

(d) if so, to what extent small farmers in developing nations will gain from this treaty; and

(e) to what extent, it has been helpful for India?

New Agricultural policy

†1036. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a new Agriculture Policy; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Economic opportunities in Agriculture

1037. PROF. ALKA BALRAM

KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI

REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of recently held conference on US-India partnership Creating Economic Opportunities in Agriculture organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry;

(b) if so, the main points discussed in the conference; and

(c) the steps both countries have taken to improve agricultural tie-up?

Rural godowns

1038. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had formulated a scheme for construction/expansion/renovation of rural godowns to create scientific storage for the benefit of farmers for storing their farm produce;

(b) if so, the number of godowns which were developed during the last five years and the number of farmers that have been benefited, year-wise; and

(c) the number of the farmers who are still deprived of the facility whose farm produce is getting spoiled due to lack of proper storage facilities ?

Vegetable oil production

1039. SHRIMATI PREMA

CARIAPPA:

SHRIMOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vegetable oil seeds production is expected to make a smart recovery by the end of this fiscal year;

(b) if so, the estimated production of vegetable oils as compared to last year;

(c) whether the production of Soyabean is also likely to jump this year because of good monsoon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Drought in Maharashtra

1040. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of persistent drought situation in several districts of Maharashtra, the Maharashtra Government has requested for allocation of funds for relief and mitigation measures;

(b) whether other drought hit States like Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have also made similar demands; and

(c) if so, the details of the drought hit districts, indicating the population thereof and the relief and mitigation funds sought by each State during 2002-03 and 2003-04 and the extent of such aid granted by Central Government?

Dubey Committee Report

1041. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dubey Committee submitted its recommendations on the case of Endosulfon in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Dubey Committee Report was based on the analysis of Indian Institute of Bio-Technology and Toxicology (IIBT);

(d) whether it is a fact that the Lab Report of IIBT revealed existence of Endosulfon residues in the blood sample of children in the affected areas; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that this finding is not mentioned in the report submitted?

Drought in Uttaranchal

†1042. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central study team has assessed the situation of unprecedented drought in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the total estimate with regard to loss suffered due to drought in the State;

(c) whether State Government have sought any assistance to deal with this situation;

(d) if so, the details with regard to assistance sought; and

(e) the financial assistance provided by the Central Government so far, under the various heads to deal with the situation?

Production and consumption of oilseeds

†1043. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the exact gap between gross

production and consumption of oilseeds in the country and details of the steps being taken to bridge this gap;

(b) whether Government propose to stop import of edible oil with a view to encourage domestic oilseed growers; and

(c) if not, the quantity of edible oil proposed to be imported during this year?

Fishing harbour at Malpe, Karnataka

1044. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had accorded approval for construction of the 2nd stage of the fishing harbour at Malpe, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Government intimated revised estimates of the project and sought Centre's approval for the same; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the present status with regard to release of its share towards the project?

MSP for paddy

1045. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started the process for fixing the minimum support price for paddy for 2004-05 by soliciting comments from the States on the recommendations of the Commission of Agriculture Costs and Prices to freeze it at Rs. 550 a quintal;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether States have submitted their views on this issue;

(c) whether for the third year in succession, CACP has recommended a freeze to the MSP of paddy at Rs. 550 and Rs. 580 a quintal for the common and fine grades respectively;

(d) if so, whether Government have received views of the State Governments; and

(e) by when, a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Task Force on application of Bio-technology in agriculture

1046. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 80 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether Government have accepted all the recommendations of the Task Force on application of bio-technology in agriculture; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement them?

Technology Mission

1047. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of fund for Technology Mission already earmarked;

(b) the States where Technology Mission is operational;

(c) the allocation of fund under it; State-wise; and

(d) the Technology Mission being a very important and necessary scheme for the backward North East States whether Government plan for intensive and extensive implementation of the same?

Reimbursement of excise duty on HSD

1048. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have mooted a scheme whereby the Central excise duty on HSD used by the fishermen to operate their mechanised fishing boats is reimbursed;

(b) if so, the details thereof with allocations made during the last three years to various States/UTs;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Karnataka Government has requested for continuation of the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan and release of Centre's outstanding dues; and

(d) if so, the Centre's reaction thereto and the current status thereof?

National Livestock Policy

†1049. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to formulate a National Livestock Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main features of the said Policy?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Procurement under MIS

1050. SHRINANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation of funds to various States for procurement of various agricultural products under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02;

(b) whether Government have to settle huge amounts of money incurred by State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other Southern States during procurement operations; and

(c) if so, the details of amounts pending with Government to be released to these States for that period and when the amounts are likely to be released?

MRP of drugs

1051. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that in Karnataka, customers are being exploited in the name of local taxes and that the maximum retail price (MRP) of drugs was exclusive of taxes; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider restructuring of MRP to include all taxes on medicines in Karnataka?

Imported formulations

1052. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a price control on imported formulations;

(b) if so, Government's policy in this regard and the products which have been

granted price approval of import of formulations;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Ely Lilly, Nicholas, Sun have flouted the DPCO fully in case of finished formulations prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Effect of TRIPS on prices of drugs

1053. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study of the US-based National Bureau of Economic Research, the TRIPS will have detrimental effect on India and prices of drugs, including those of off-Patent will see a significant hike;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to this study; and

(c) how Government propose to protect the consumers from the enormous rise in prices of drugs from 2005?

Revival of IDPL

1054. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a package for revival of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) is long pending;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when IDPL will be revived?

Revival of FACT

1055. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any package relating to the

revival of FACT in Kerala is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the working capital required for the revival of the FACT and the mode by which Government propose to raise the requirement; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to import Naphtha for FACT and whether Government propose to undertake any step to modernise FACT?

OTC sale of drugs

1056. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of drugs under Schedule-H;

(b) whether it is a fact that the multinational companies are demanding for OTC sale treatment for over twelve categories of drugs;

(c) if so, the details of drugs they are demanding for OTC sale;

(d) whether any committee has been constituted to look into this aspect; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Expenditure on R&D by pharmaceutical companies

1057. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ASSOCHAM has recommended for setting up of a fund

for promoting R&D in pharmaceutical sector;

(b) if so, the amount spent on R&D by Government and pharmaceutical companies during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the percentage of amount of the total turnover used on R&D by pharmaceutical companies during the last five years, year-wise?

Production rate of non-controlled medicines

†1058. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production rate of non-controlled medicines is many times more than the production rate of controlled medicines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number and production rate of controlled medicines?

Fertilizers producing units

†1059. DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that chemical fertilizers producing units of the country had been divided into six groups;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the year 2003-04, the production cost in these production units of said groups has been found to be different;

(c) if so, the production cost assessed

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

separately for each group during the said period; and

(d) the amount of subsidy provided on annual production to each production unit of the said groups?

Distribution of fertilizers

1060. PROF. ALKA BALRAM

KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI

REDDY:

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

(a) whether in view of ensuring equitable distribution of fertilizers, Government have reviewed the policy of allowing fertilizer producers to sell production in the open market in the new pricing norms introduced earlier;

(b) whether Government have now constituted a committee to examine issues pertaining to deregulation of fertilizer distribution which came into effect in 2003; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome of review and the final decision taken in this regard?

Determination of prices of drugs

†1061. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some norms have been stipulated by Government or by an institution designated by Government for determining the prices of drugs in the retail market in the country;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that consumer prices of many drugs in retail market have been placed at 100 per cent or 1000 per cent more than their production cost; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

Demand of fertilizers

1062. SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of chemical fertilizers in the country is met with domestic production;

(b) if not, the percentage of average annual demand met by imported fertilizers;

(c) whether Government have fixed any target for making the country self-dependent in respect of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the time-limit fixed for achieving the target?

Recovery of overcharged amount

1063. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has sent notices to drug manufacturing companies for overcharging;

(b) if so, the details of notices sent and the amount overcharged by each of the manufacturers along with names of drugs; and

(c) the details of amount deposited by these companies?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bulk drugs production

1064. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of bulk drugs in terms of tonnage has declined during the last five years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that major drug companies have been allowed entry without setting up bulk drug production plants;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of bulk drugs producers have closed down their units;

(d) if so, whether Government are rectifying by making linkage of bulk drugs production to formulation production mandatory;

(e) whether bulk drug production units are proposed to be set up in Bihar; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Fertilizer project in Tripura

1065. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Tripura has been continuously pursuing with the Central Government with a proposal for setting up a gas-based fertilizer project in the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a Mumbai-based company, namely, North-East Petrochemicals Private Limited has shown keen interest in the matter;

(c) if so, the role of the Central Government in providing support to this important project in Tripura; and

(d) by when the proposal will be approved?

Decontrolling drug sector

1066. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decontrol the drug-sector; and

(b) if so, the manner in which Government propose to monitor the drug prices?

Per capita foodgrain consumption

1067. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the average quantity of per capita foodgrain consumption in the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04; and

(b) the average consumption of food in terms of calorie-potential for one adult person in the country as compared to the average in the world scale of consumption during 2003-04?

Stock and distribution of foodgrains

†1068. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains available together with the quantum thereof which gets rotten every year in the country; and

(b) the quantum of foodgrains made available every year to the persons living below poverty line?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sugar Development Fund benefits

1069. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government maintains a Sugar Development Fund to aid and assist sugar factories by way of grant of loans from the Fund;

(b) if so, the details of the Fund and its *modus operandi*;

(c) the number and details of loan applications from sugar factories approved and sponsored by the Maharashtra Government and other State Governments for grant of loans;

(d) the number and extent of loans granted against such applications;

(e) the details of the sugar factory loans from Maharashtra pending with Government; and

(f) whether the Sugar Development Fund benefits are extended to the sugar cane growers also; if so, the details thereof?

Assistance to State sugar industries

1070. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that last year the Central Government had offered special assistance to sugar industry to help it come out of the critical situation, manifest in accumulation of huge arrears of payments due to sugarcane growers in different States;

(b) if so, to which States such assistance was offered and to what extent; and

(c) whether such assistance was denied to certain other sugar producing States, including Maharashtra; if so, the reasons

therefor, indicating the contribution of Maharashtra and other States to the sugar production in the country?

Transit loss of FCI

1071. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that thousands of crores of rupees are lost on account of transit of foodgrains and shortages found in FCI stocks which are later regularized by purchase of sub-standard foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the reasons for having no accounts for three years and disappearing of grains in transit etc.;

(c) whether Government have made any enquiry into these matters and if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to check the bungling in the FCI and streamlining its functioning?

Exports by FCI

1072. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has been exporting foodgrains at the rates below the BPL rate, as a result of this subsidy provided by Government is being passed on to foreign importers;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review this policy;

(c) the quantum, rate and value of food grains of various categories exported during the last three years and during 2003-2004; and

(d) the extent of loss suffered by Government each year due to low export prices, year-wise?

International consultancy services for FCI

1073. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a consultancy firm of international level to look into the working of Food Corporation of India and suggest measures for its improvement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount to be paid to this international company for their work; and

(d) by when, the company is likely to submit its report?

Working Groups on Consumer Welfare

1074. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

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

(a) whether Government have set up six working groups to look into different areas of consumer welfare;

(b) whether this has been considered

by Government after the recommendations of the Central Consumer Protection Council;

(c) if so, the terms of reference of these groups;

(d) by when these groups will submit their recommendations to Government; and

(e) to what extent these would help in protecting consumers?

Making sugar industry a priority lending sector

1075. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar industry including the sugar co-operative industry of Maharashtra has been pressing a proposal to make the sugar industry eligible for priority sector lending by the commercial banks; and

(b) if so, what decision has since been taken by Government in this regard?

Procurement of sub-standard paddy and rice

1076. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sub-standard paddy and rice have been procured;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken in the matter; and

(d) the steps taken to procure standard quality of paddy and rice?

Onion, as an essential commodity

†1077. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that onion is not being considered as an essential commodity for the consumption of common poor people in the country by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the availability and production of onion have been assessed by Government before taking the decision to put the onion out of the purview of Essential Commodity Act; and

(d) if so, the details of the average production as well as Consumption during the last three years?

Shortage of storage

1078. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foodgrains have to be kept lying in open even during monsoon due to shortage of storage space in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of loss suffered on this account last year and the steps taken till date to avoid/minimize such loss during the current year;

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India and Central Ware Housing Corporation constructed any more godowns for storage of foodgrains particularly in Punjab and Maharashtra; and

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

Rice at BPL rate to Andhra Pradesh

1079. SHRINANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken and proposed to be taken in response to Andhra Pradesh Government's recent request to allot a quantity of 6 lakhs tonnes of rice at BPL rate for supply to BPL families in the drought affected areas @ 20 kgs. per month per family over and above the PDS entitlement who do not have purchasing capacity, and looking for employment opportunities; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not having taken a decision, so far?

Diverting the forest land for construction of transmission line

1080. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to divert 27.72 Ha. of forest land for construction of 220 KV DC transmission line from Hubli to Narendra in Dharwad District of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the present status of the proposals?

Management of game sanctuaries under State Governments

1081. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will initiate steps to take a more direct and effective interest in the management of game sanctuaries under the control of State Government;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that sanctuaries under the control of State Governments are not getting the type and standards of management required;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such sanctuaries are deteriorating very rapidly; and

(d) the steps proposed to involve Central Government in the management of game sanctuaries all over the country?

Declaration against cruel and inhuman treatment of animals by PETA

1082. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'People for Ethical Treatment of Animals' (PETA), a foreign-based organisation, has issued a declaration against cruel and inhuman treatment of animals (especially cattle) during the slaughtering process in India;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take for controlling and enforcing prevention of cruelty to animals in the legal and illegal slaughter houses in the country; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to check illegal traffic of cattle to Bangladesh, where they are slaughtered in a most cruel and inhuman manner?

White paper on pollution in Delhi

1083. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Government had made public a white paper on tackling pollution in Delhi in the year 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the action taken in respect of the decisions Government had announced?

Funds to States under various schemes

1084. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released to States including Tamil Nadu under various schemes implemented by the Ministry during the last five years, year-wise; and

(b) the details and status of current proposals relating to Government of Tamil Nadu pending in the Ministry?

Loss of forest wealth by forest mafia

†1085. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of losses caused to the forest wealth every year by the forest mafia; and

(b) the steps Government propose to check the cutting of trees by illegal forest mafia?

Hydro-electric power project in Kerala

1086. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the sanction of Hydro-electric power project at 'Pathrakadavu' in Kerala is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the environmental implications of the project;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that rare species of fishes are likely to face the threat of extinction if the project is implemented;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the proposed project will destroy the Silent Valley National Park; and

(e) whether Government consider to conduct a detailed study into the matter?

Encroachment of forest land in Maharashtra

1087. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI SANJAY RAJARAM
RAUT:

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

(a) whether forest land in Maharashtra has been encroached on a large scale;

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

(c) the action being taken by Government to remove the encroachments?

Deforestation in Madhya Pradesh

†1088. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for inability on the part of Government to keep a check on rampant deforestation in Madhya Pradesh which has an abundance of forest wealth;

(b) the action being taken by Government in respect of adverse affect of deforestation on environment; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to keep a check on deforestation?

Clearance of water pollution projects in Tamil Nadu

1089. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects under way to clear pollution in the rivers and waterways in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the amount of funds which have been allocated for the clearance of water pollution in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the number of sewage treatment plants which have been constructed in Chennai city and how many of them are functioning?

Terror of leopards in Mumbai

†1090. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI SANJAY RAJARAM
RAUT:

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

(a) whether the terror of man-eating leopard is on the increase in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed by leopards during the last three years; and

(c) what are the reasons thereof and the action being taken by Government to subdue terror of the leopards?

Misuse of funds earmarked for clearing rivers

1091. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an urgent need of clearing up

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of important rivers like Yamuna, Ganga etc. in the country;

(b) whether any enquiry has, so far, been instituted to investigate into the alleged misuse of funds earmarked for clearing up Ganga and Yamuna rivers;

(c) if so, the details of the outcome thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the concrete measures Government propose to take or taken till date to ensure that funds earmarked in this regard are not misused?

Employment in FPIs

†1092. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the Food Processing Industries in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of people to whom employment has been provided in the industry during 2003-04 and likely to be provided in 2004-05, separately;

(c) whether any target for creation of jobs has been fixed for the said period and the measures taken to achieve this target; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Statutory body on integrating food laws

1093. SHRIDATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up or have set up a statutory body to integrate food laws and make them more stringent and prepare a new set of food laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition of the statutory body;

(d) whether this new body will also be responsible for accrediting and certifying labs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Food processing projects

1094. SHRIMATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing projects in the country in respect of products from milk-resources, fish-resources, flesh-resources, foodgrain-resources, fruit-resources and vegetable resources;

(b) the break-up of the food processing projects State-wise; and

(c) the number of projects forwarded by different State Governments for sanction of funds upto 2003-04, but lying pending with the Central Government?

National Population Policy

1095. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Population Policy was announced in the country in 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof including targets set together with the strategies and methodologies laid down to attain them; and

(c) the country's population as on 1st January, 2004 *vis-a-vis* the population as in 2000 when the new population policy was put in place?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.