

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 23, 2001/Agrahayana 2, 1923 (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—155

Filling up the post of D.G. ICAR

594. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of D.G. ICAR has
been lying vacant since August last;

(b) whether there have been procedural
differences within ICAR about the
appointment of the DG to fill up the
vacancy;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;
and

(d) what steps have been taken to
resolve the differences so as to fill up the
vacancy?

Growth of agriculture sector

595. SHRI B. J. PANDA : Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased
to state:

(a) what is the expected growth of
agriculture in terms of foodgrains in the
current financial year based on the
production estimate till date;

(b) what would be the expected growth
of agriculture including allied sector; and

(c) what has been the recommendations
of the Standing Committee of Chief
Ministers, with the Agriculture Minister
as convener for reforms in the Agriculture
sector?

Depression in A. P.

596. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-
CHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons killed,
displaced and missing as a result of the
recent depression in the Bay of Bengal
district-wise in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of damage caused to
roads, bridges and other loss suffered in
the State; and

(c) the details of financial and other
assistance to be provided to Andhra
Pradesh Government in this regard?

Scientists in Central Institute of Fisheries Education

597. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 41 per cent posts of scientists in the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai were lying vacant as on 31st March, 2000 and the activities of the Institute are hampered due to acute shortage of scientists;

(b) whether the building work of the deemed University planned in 1986 at a cost of Rs. 6.67 crore has not commenced yet;

(c) whether against annual demand of 200 fisheries scientists, only 221 have passed out from 1995 to 2000;

(d) if so, the reasons for these failures; and

(e) what steps are being taken to remedy these shortcomings?

Assistance to Himachal Pradesh for natural calamities

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

(a) the estimated damage to human beings, cattle and other properties caused by floods and lightning that hit Himachal Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise and area-wise; and

(b) the details of financial assistance extended by the Union Government by way of loans, advances and grant for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people in the State?

Assistance to Southern States for drought and fodder shortage

599. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious drought conditions and acute shortage of fodder in Karnataka and other Southern States; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of assistance given by Government to Karnataka Government so far to meet the situation besides strengthening the fodder bank and the fodder seed production?

Recommendations of Committee on capital formation in Agriculture

600. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an eight member expert Committee on capital formation in agriculture has been set up by Government to look into the problem of drop in real investment in this sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the recommendations of the Committee, if any?

Horticulture Research Centre in NER

601. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated by Government to set up Horticulture Research Centre in North Eastern Region; and

(b) the details of amount spent on the said schemes during the last three years?

Stopping the flow of terminator seeds

602. SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR: SHRI P.N. SIVA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a

decision to stop the flow of terminator seeds into the Indian Market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Strategy for crop diversification

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for encouraging farmers to diversify from traditional crops;

(b) if so, whether those crops have been identified;

(c) whether any region-wise strategy has been chalked out for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Benefits of Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana

604. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the benefits of Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana;

(b) the number of farmers availing of this scheme;

(c) the target of Government in the next three years; and

(d) the steps being taken to spread its message so that more and more farmers are benefited?

Watershed programme in Maharashtra

605. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked for Maharashtra during 2000-2001 and

2001-2002 under the Watershed Development Fund;

(b) the districts of Maharashtra covered by this scheme; and

(c) the achievements of Maharashtra Government in implementing Watershed Programme?

Relief measures to flood-ravaged A.P.

606. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought grants as relief measures in flood-ravaged districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance given in this regard?

Procurement of Ball copra from Karnataka

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

(a) the details of production of Ball Copra in Karnataka for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the amount released by the Central Government for procurement of Ball Copra Under Minimum Support Price for the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and the quantum of copra purchased;

(c) whether any guidelines have been prescribed by Government about purchase of Copra; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the procurement would continue further; if so, the details in this regard?

Wiping out Foot and Mouth disease from Kashmir

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

(a) whether Foot and Mouth disease has been commonly prevalent in Kashmir since 1980;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to wipe out this disease from the State;

(c) the estimate of affected livestock in the State since 1980; and

(d) whether Government have taken any concrete steps in this regard; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Agricultural Technology information centres in Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh

609. SHRI ANIL SHARMA:
SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL
VAHADANE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Agricultural Technology information centres set up in Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra district-wise;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred by the Central Government for the said work in those States during the last three years; and

(c) the necessary action taken by Government to impart training to farmers so that they can get knowledge of the said Technology?

Improvement of crop insurance policy

†610. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve the present crop insurance policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken so far by the Central Government to improve and strengthen the condition of Indian farmers who provide foodgrains to the country?

Conversion of Agricultural land

611. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to stop large scale Agricultural land reclamation for industrial and urban use;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of conversion of such lands during the last ten years; and

(d) whether Government would ban such conversion?

Schemes for development of fisheries and aquaculture

612. SHRI BACHANILEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the centrally sponsored schemes for development of fisheries and aquaculture;

(b) the funds allotted to each State/ Union Territory for these schemes during 2000-2001; and

(c) the details of funds utilised by them?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Employment opportunities for
agricultural degree holders**

613. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of diploma/
graduate and post-graduate degree holders
from Agriculture Universities/Institutions
are facing the problem of unemployment
due to scarce employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have chalked
out any work plan to provide sufficient
employment opportunities to them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps
taken to implement the same?

Fishing harbours in Orissa

614. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased
to state:

(a) the number of fishing harbours set
up in Orissa;

(b) the places where these have been
set up;

(c) whether Government have a plan to
clear the proposal to upgrade the existing
fishing harbour at paradip; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that
direction?

Increasing the wheat production

615. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering
to fill up the existing gap of 1.5 to two
tonnes per hectare in wheat production;

(b) if so, whether Government have
decided to empower the extension
functionaries with the latest knowledge in
crop husbandry and by making inputs
available, it would be possible to bridge
this yield gap;

(c) whether Government are giving
encouragement to researchers to ensure that
future wheat varieties, apart from being high
yielding should also have acceptable quality
for end-use product development; and

(d) if so, what steps Government
propose to take to improve the wheat
output?

Drought assistance to A.P.

616. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Chief
Minister has expressed unhappiness over
Centre's lack of response to the drought
situation in the State;

(b) whether inspite of the Central team's
visit to the State, not even single rupee has
been made available to drought affected
areas;

(c) the recommendations made by the
Central team; and

(d) the extent to which State
Government was provided help and
assistance and also to what extent "food
for work" programme has been
implemented in the State?

**Comprehensive agro management
programmes**

†617. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) what are the aims, objectives and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

role of comprehensive agro management and the type of assistance being provided to State Governments, in conformity with their action plans, purposes and targets;

(b) whether the regional preferences for identifying the areas under comprehensive management, with a view to clubbing all such plans falling under control of and monitored by the States could be taken into consideration; and

(c) the rules and the terms and conditions which would be binding on the Centre and the States under the comprehensive management programme?

Technical orientation of agricultural scientists

†618. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many agricultural scientists have been sent abroad for technical orientation, under the Human Resource Development Scheme of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of the total income derived from and expenditure incurred on it;

(c) what benefit students have derived from it in their academic activities; and

(d) the details of the process of selection and the rules and regulations under the said scheme?

Institute of Fisheries Education-a Centre of excellence

619. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recommendations of Quinquennial Review Team in 1993, to make the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, a centre of excellence and to attain international competence have not been implemented;

(b) if so, what are the details of those recommendations;

(c) the reasons for not implementing them; and

(d) by when these are likely to be implemented?

Boosting Mushroom cultivation

†620. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States in which the Central level schemes have been started to boost the cultivation of mushroom;

(b) whether the central scheme which includes pasturised compost unit and local production unit and training to farmers, has been implemented in Uttaranchal also; and

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

Production of foodgrains

621. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of foodgrains produced in the country during this year so far;

(b) what is the increase/decrease in production, as compared to last year; and

(c) what steps are being taken to export the excess production of foodgrains?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Ecologically sustainable farming systems in Southern States

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

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan to promote ecologically sustainable farming systems in Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States, to substantially increase food production there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Study of starvation in the country

623. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government sent any team for an on-the-spot study of situation leading to over twenty starvation deaths in Kashipur in Orissa and to study of situation in other prime starvation areas of Orissa and elsewhere;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the total foodgrain stocks rotting in different Government warehouses and stores, as on September 1, 2001?

ICDP in Gujarat

624. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) has been implemented in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the Central allocation made and State Government's share in the scheme during each of the last two years;

(d) the achievement made in the State during the said period;

(e) whether this scheme is being extended to non-traditional but potential States also; and

(f) if so, the names of States and the progress made there in implementing the scheme?

Milk export proposal of Karnataka

625. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Karnataka Milk Federation has asked the Cooperative Societies not to purchase more milk from producers, due to its high production in the State;

(b) whether any request has been received from Karnataka Government for help in export of excess milk and milk products to the neighbouring countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the assistance proposed to be extended to KMF in this regard?

Assistance for controlling Foot and Mouth disease in Karnataka

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

(a) whether Government have received any request from Karnataka Government for providing financial support to control the foot and mouth disease, which is fast spreading among the animals in the State; and

(b) if so, the assistance provided to the State Government for the purpose?

Downfall in cultivation of oilseeds

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a 40 per cent downfall in the cultivation of oilseeds;

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

(c) whether Government are going to provide all the facilities to the agriculture based industries, alongwith other concessions, for massive investment in the field of oilseeds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Agricultural growth

628. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural growth assures food security, direct and indirect exports, lower level prices and generates growing demand for industrial goods and services in the Indian economy;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of any specific measures, to increase agricultural growth by adopting composite measures like R&D inputs, high-yielding variety seeds, improved irrigation facilities, easy availability of mechanical aids for agricultural operations, low-interest rate finance, etc.; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the likely percentage of growth through application of such measures?

Sufferings of cotton growers

629. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton growers of Punjab had been suffering crop failure for the past many years, which have rendered them penniless and even forced them to end their lives;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cotton growers in many cotton producing areas of Punjab have been struck by the dreaded American Boll Warm (Heliothis disease); and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to remove the sufferings of the cotton growers especially of Punjab?

Salary without work at fertilizer plant in Gorakhpur

†630. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer plant in Gorakhpur is closed and its employees are being paid salary without any work;

(b) the details of amount being spent annually towards salary, etc. of the employees;

(c) whether Government are considering to restart the plant; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Prices of Rifampicin

631. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by keeping Rifampicin and its intermediates in the negative list, the consumer is made to pay high prices;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that price of Rifampicin and its intermediates was concocted/tailored by the BICP and his Ministry and poor TB patients have been looted;

(c) what is the import price and indigenous price of Rifa-s and Rifa-sv and what is the actual ratio of imports, from the date price was fixed; and

(d) how many producers have violated this ratio and with what results?

Fertilizers under Government control

632. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the fertilizers which are under price distribution and movement control of the Central Government;

(b) what is the Maximum Retail Price (MRP);

(c) which are decontrolled fertilizers and chemicals with their MRP; and

(d) which of the fertilizers are subsidised, with percentage of subsidy?

Demand and Supply of N.P.K. & D.A.P.

†633. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the current position of total demand and supply of N.P.K. and D.A.P. fertilizers in the country;

(b) whether there have been any gaps in the demand and supply of fertilizers during each of the last three years; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Search for strategic partner for IDPL

634. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) was searching for a strategic partner to prevent closure;

(b) if so, the offers, if any, received in this regard; and

(c) the decision taken in the matter?

Valuation of assets of Baroda Plant of IPCL

635. SHRI KHAGEN DAS:
SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 854, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 2001 and state:

(a) whether valuation of the Plant and assets of Baroda Unit of IPCL was fixed at Rs. 1,300 crores by the valuation company;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether a similar valuation was done by the IOC also and this valuation was put at Rs. 600 crores minus Rs. 300 crores for a pipeline to Gandhar;

(d) if so, the reasons for wide variation in valuation by IOC and IPCL; and

(e) if not, the actual status of Baroda Plant of IPCL *vis-a-vis* IOC?

Production level of fertilizer plants

636. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Public and

Private Sector Fertilizer plants, as on date, State-wise and the total production capacity of each, year-wise during the last three years;

(b) whether the total production level of the above plants was able to meet the requirement of Urea every year;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to import Urea so as to meet existing demand in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are paying any subsidy/concessions to fertilizer industry at present; and

(f) if so, what is the total amount of subsidy paid this year, as compared to 1996-97?

Rationalising the concessions for fertilizer industry

637. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a scheme to simplify and rationalise the procedure relating to mode of payment of concessions to the fertilizer industry after its de-control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have undertaken any cost study of fertilizer units to work out concessions;

(d) if so, the outcome of the study;

(e) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(f) the measures suggested by Government to increase efficiency and overall performance of the units?

Poor quality phosphatic fertilizer manufacture subsidy receivers

638. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy on fertilizers paid to phosphatic fertilizer producers during the last three years;

(b) whether any complaints have been received against phosphatic fertilizer producers for the poor quality of the products and bogus claims for subsidy;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the defaulters; and

(d) the procedure adopted to verify the claims for subsidy?

Export of Anthrax medicines to USA

639. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA needs medicines to quell the Anthrax crisis; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Indian Pharmaceutical firms to export medicines available in plenty in India?

Low priced fertilizers for drought prone areas

640. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to sell fertilizers at lower rates to farmers in drought and famine prone area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Financial concessions to fertilizer industries

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer manufacturing industries are being provided financial assistance under incentives schemes, in the form of concessions;

(b) if so, the quantum of financial assistance provided during 1997-1998, 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the benefits derived by the fertilizer industries, as a result of these concessions?

Price fixation policy for fertilizers

†642. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have examined the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission with regard to price fixation policy for fertilizers;

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

(c) whether concerned Ministries, State Governments and Fertilizer Industry have been consulted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the main observations made by the State Governments with regard to new pricing policy; and

(e) by when the new pricing policy is likely to be announced?

Fertilizer Policy

643. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:

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

(a) whether Government of India are thinking of introducing a fertilizer policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details and the terms of reference given to the committee?

Restructuring scheme for IDPL

644. SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA
KALA PANDEY:

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

(a) whether any revival/restructuring scheme has been approved by Government for IDPL and its subsidiary, UPDPL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the relief and concessions extended by Government, Banks and other agencies would form a guideline for revival of other sick CPSUs in pharmaceutical sector; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Prices of chemical fertilizers in international market

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that international prices of chemical fertilizers are less than the prices in India;

(b) if so, what were prices of all the chemical fertilizers in the international market during the first six months of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) to what extent these prices were more or less than the prices of chemical fertilizers sold to farmers in India?

Illegal trade in Ozone depleting substances

646. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an independent international agency has declared India as a home for illegal trade in Ozone depleting substances;

(b) whether it is also a fact that hundreds of tonnes of ODS was smuggled into India last year; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken to protect the environment?

Unpaid staffs of Palamau and Simlipal reserve forests

647. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of Palamau and Simlipal reserve forests are not paid salaries on time; and

(b) whether the Union Government are not sending funds in the tiger reserves in time?

Karnataka rivers under National River Conservation Programme

648. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked to be spent under the National River Conservation Programme during 2000-2001 to rehabilitate and clean rivers;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has requested to include any of its polluted rivers under this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Indo-Australia seminar on pollution

649. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an interactive seminar between the Australian and Indian industrialists took place in Delhi in March, 2001; if so, whether Government have received any tips from Australia on fighting pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have spread the message or lessons, learnt in the seminar from Australia, all over the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Conservation of forests and wildlife in Andhra Pradesh

650. SHRI SOLIPETA. RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes taken up by Andhra Pradesh Government during the last three years, year-wise, for conservation of forests, wildlife and environment in the State;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided by the World Bank and the Government for the purpose, year-wise; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide more financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Killing of tigers in Nallamala Forest

651. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the press reports about killing of tigers in Nallamala Forest in Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailem Wild Life Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any report from the Andhra Pradesh Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the officials to nab the poachers responsible for the killing of tigers?

Poaching in Corbett National Park

652. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that so much poaching is going on unabated in the Corbett National Park, that the Deputy Ranger was killed and some forest guards were injured by the poachers some time in the last week of August, 2001;

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

(c) what are the reasons for the failure of measures taken so far and the security arrangements, to check poaching of protected animals in various parts of the country; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to tackle the ever-growing poaching problem in the country?

Felling green trees in Delhi

†653. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that green trees have been cut for an office in Delhi where people are already struggling against the environment problem;

(b) whether Government would conduct any enquiry into this incident; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Task force for enhancing the forest cover

654. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a Greening

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

India Task Force was set up in 1998 by the Planning Commission, to enhance the Forest Cover to 33 per cent, at a cost of Rs. 48,000 crores; if so, the findings of the task force;

(b) whether the finance for this project was to be covered by Food for Work Scheme and 10 crore people were to be involved;

(c) whether half of the cost was to be covered by the Food for Work Scheme and the balance was to be covered through Central and State Schemes; and

(d) if so, what is the progress of this programme?

Linking tiger reserves to WWF

655. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to link five tiger reserves and seven wildlife sanctuaries, alongwith forests, in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, through the World Wildlife Fund for nature (WWF);

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

(c) by when the project is likely to take shape?

Environmental clearance for development projects

656. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number, location and details of development projects pending with Government for environmental clearance, State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost and physical benefits;

(c) whether any radical changes are needed in the Central Legislation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken in this regard; and

(f) by when those projects would be cleared?

Deaths due to pollution

†657. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about ten lakh people die every year due to degradation of environment, urban air pollution, shortage of clean water and the increasing pollution caused by toxic and chemical substances and wastes etc. emitted from the industrial factories;

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

(c) whether the scientists have expressed apprehensions about the likely major impact of bombardment on Taliban on the Indian environment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to tackle the situation?

Setting up of Processed Food Authority

658. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Processed Food Authority of India to establish standards for food in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of agencies exist already to ensure the standard and quality of food in the country; and

(d) if so, the necessity of setting up a new authority for the purpose?

Navodaya/Kendriya Vidyalayas in Himachal Pradesh

†659. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Himachal Pradesh where approval for opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas/Kendriya Vidyalayas has not been given so far;

(b) the places where approval to open such Vidyalayas had been granted but they have not yet been opened;

(c) the reasons for not opening of these Vidyalayas; and

(d) by when such Vidyalayas would be opened?

Comparative literacy rates in States

660. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest decennial census figure about literacy has come to the Ministry; if so, how does it compare with literacy figures of NSS assessment of different States; and

(b) whether a study has been done about slower or stagnant literacy growth of a few states; if so, what are the factors responsible for it and how the Ministry is going to deal with the problem?

Globalisation of Indian education

†661. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any strategic initiatives on globalisation of Indian education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide career-based long term education to foreign students and the students of our country?

Replacement of history books

662. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCERT history textbooks, which the NCERT has decided to replace, have been reviewed by other experts on history;

(b) if so, the names of those experts and the details of their evaluation; and

(c) the grounds on which it has been decided to replace these books?

Working Women's hostels in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) the number of working women's hostels established in Andhra Pradesh, with the assistance of Central Government;

(b) the names and addresses of NGOs running working women's hostels in the State and the grants being given to each of them annually; and

(c) the number of working women staying in each hostel?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Change in Classes XI, XII textbooks

664. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has been following a policy of recommending a number of textbooks for each subject for Classes XI and XII;

(b) whether CBSE has been directed to introduce new syllabi and textbooks prepared by NCERT, from the academic year 2001-2002;

(c) whether the syllabi for various subjects for Classes XI-XII have been made available to private publishers to enable them to publish and submit to CBSE their new books for approval; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Teacher's day

665. DR. KARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of functions organised by Government to observe the Teacher's Day this year and the awards given in that connection; and

(b) the schemes and programmes, if any, initiated in that connection to promote values of morality?

Working Women's hostels in Gujarat

666. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of working women's hostels functioning at present in Gujarat, the details thereof, district-wise;

(b) the grants released to the State for this head during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether new hostels are in the offing in the State in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Work orders to Educational Consultants India, Ltd.

667. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of different work orders given to Educational Consultants India Limited, Noida by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and by other Instrumentalities of Government of India during the preceding three years;

(b) whether written bilateral agreements had been entered into in each case;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Teachers on contract in KVS

668. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan appoints teachers on contract;

(b) if so, the details of conditions of appointing such teachers; and

(c) the details of such teachers appointed during 2000-2001 in different Kendriya Vidyalayas of Dehradun, Vidyalaya-wise?

Employees on deputation in KVs & NVs

669. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI ABDUL GAIYUR
QURESHI:

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

(a) the number and details of posts of different categories of employees, principals and teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and its schools filled by deputation from among its own employees during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) the details of considerations/merits which prompted the Sangathan to introduce this practice;

(c) the details of deputationist principals of Navodaya Vidyalayas as on date; and

(d) whether NVs is considering appointment of its senior PGTs/Vice-Principals as Principals on-deputation, in NVs?

Drug abuse in Delhi University and JNU

670. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing use of drugs in the Delhi University Campus and in the JNU;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment of the problem;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to check it?

Early morning timings of Kendriya Vidyalayas

671. DR. SWAMI SAKSHI JI MAHARAJ : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the timings of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi Region were changed to 7.30 A.M., a few months back;

(b) whether various teachers residing at distant places have to leave for schools very early in the morning in darkness, which is highly unsafe, particularly for female teachers as they can become easy targets of criminals in duskiness; if so, whether Government propose to change the morning timings of Kendriya Vidyalayas, in view of the Winter season; and

(c) if so, by when?

Minimum Level of Learning Programme

672. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main objections of Minimum Levels of Learning Programme;

(b) the names of States where Programme has been introduced; and

(c) the progress made through these programme?

Operation Blackboard Scheme in Gujarat

673. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Operation Blackboard Scheme in Gujarat;

(b) whether any shortcomings have been noticed in implementation of the scheme in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to remove these shortcomings?

Land for new campus of SPA

674. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi purchased a plot of 20 acres of land near JNU campus from DDA in 1988, for establishment of the new campus within a period of two years;

(b) whether the project has not been executed even after a lapse of 13 years, resulting in idle investment of Rs. 1.99 crore till the end of March, 2000;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are Government's immediate plans in this regard?

Separate electrical connections for staff quarters in JNU

675. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a substantial loss of Rs. 1.63 crores was incurred during 1997—2000 in Jawaharlal Nehru University, by not providing separate electric connections for staff quarters in JNU campus;

(b) whether separate electric connections for staff quarters in JNU residential campus have since been provided;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Integrated Education Scheme

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

(a) the details of the allocation and utilisation of the amount allocated by Government under the Integrated Education Scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that whole amount was not utilised during the said period;

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

(d) the reasons therefor?

Assistance to Naga University

677. 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 "HRD Ministry urged to help Naga Varsity", which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 24th October, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

Vikas Nidhi for Kendriya Vidyalayas

678. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has provided for a Vikas Nidhi for each Kendriya Vidyalaya of the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the amount charged therefor from each student, per month;

(c) the details of *modus operandi* prescribed for spending the Vikas Nidhi; and

(d) the Vidyalaya-wise details of amount raised in KVS, till date, and the heads of expenditure?

Right to education

679. SHRI RAMDAS 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 the Hindustan Times dated the 17th October, 2001 captioned "Right to education being compromised, according to National Alliance for the Fundamental Right to Education report on education", released by Attorney General of India in New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to implement the Universal right to education and six per cent share of gross domestic product (GDP) should have been earmarked as education expenditure; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction to above mentioned report prepared by the National Alliance for the Fundamental Right to Education (NAFRE)?

Upcoming vacancy of Commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya

680. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present incumbent to the post of Commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is completing his deputation-tenure on 11th December, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the upcoming vacancy has since been advertised/circulated/filled up;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Government control on private coaching institutions

681. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government exercise any control over private institutes/centres in Delhi providing coaching for Engineering Entrance Examinations; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have issued any instructions/guidelines for charging of fees by such institutes/centres in the public interest; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take for safeguarding the interests of general public against such institutes/ centres?

Appointment of Hindi Teachers in Manipur

682. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that appointment of Hindi Teachers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Appointment and Training of Hindi Teachers in Non-Hindi Speaking State is not being made in Manipur due to non-availability of Central Funds; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing Central Funds?

Navodaya Vidyalayas in States

683. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have not been provided Navodaya Vidyalayas and the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of above Vidyalayas opened in districts of each State including newly born States, during 2001, till date;

(c) the number of remaining districts in each State where these would be set up during 2002-2003; and

(d) the amount earmarked for the purpose?

Central Staffing Scheme in KVS

684. SHRI ABDUL GAIYUR QURESHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has since decided to fill its two top posts through Central Staffing Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the process of filling up the Commissioner's posts through this system has since started/ended; and

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

Standards in Indian Universities

685. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether standards in the Indian Universities are very low as compared to Universities in Western and Eastern countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the UGC ranks the Universities on the basis of infrastructure and performance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether there is any plan to prepare a list on the basis of standards of teaching, research publications and teaching and research infrastructure?

Racist remarks in school text books

686. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints of derogatory comments about Black Americans in the General Knowledge Book, prescribed for classes IV to class X in all the primary schools in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating whether the matter has been examined by Government; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rectify the racist remarks in text books?

International Conference on Women

687. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Social Welfare Board is holding International Conference on Women in New Delhi during December, 2001;

(b) if so, what would be the main agenda; and

(c) how many countries would participate?

Transport allowance to teaching staff during leave periods

688. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that transport allowance is being paid, in contravention of Government orders, to various teaching staff during vacation/leave exceeding 30 days and to the staff who had been allotted Government accommodation in the Delhi University and its affiliated colleges, and in Kendriya Vidyalayas of Delhi region;

(b) if so, the total irregular payment made till the end of March, 2001; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

Literacy drive for women

†689. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that presently the illiterate women in the country outnumber the men;

(b) if so, whether Government would propose to introduce any new scheme to literate women; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, in what manner Government propose to make women more and more educated?

Education for females through Gram Panchayats

690. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that deep-rooted Socio-cultural prejudices against education and pre-occupation with household chores are the main hurdles for the education of women and girls in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to involve Gram Panchayats and religious leaders in spreading education among women and girls?

Literacy for female and child workers

691. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan to spread literacy among the female and child labour in agriculture and industry in the country, so as to enable them to read and write at least;

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

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this direction?

Group C vacancies in NCERT

692. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Government Policy, all the reserved vacancies of SCs, STs and OBC should be filled up within a time bound programme; and

(b) if so, what is the latest status of Group C vacancies, which the NCERT had advertised in the Employment News dated the 19th February, 2000?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Yoga education in schools

†693. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are
contemplating to impart regular yoga
education to children in schools all over the
country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

History books of NCERT

694. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there had
been protests regarding history books of
NCERT about the factual errors, biases and
colouration and that these books show
disrespect to various communities and sects;
if so, whether it has been removed;

(b) the details of wrongful presentation
of history, giving the book-wise and class-
wise details, both Hindi and English books;

(c) whether Government have
instructed NCERT to delete all references
"which hurt religious sentiments of the
people"; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether corrected books have been
published and made available to students;
if not, by when these would be made
available to them?

Parity in services of DPEs, teachers etc.

695. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that parity of
service conditions of Directors of Physical
Education and Librarian, with that of
University and college teachers, is not yet
restored; and

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

Career advancement of Readers

696. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH
OJHA:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rastogi
Pay Review Committees for University
and College Teachers recommended career
advancement of Readers to Professors level
in universities and colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof and
Government's decision thereon;

(c) whether the UGC has withdrawn
the Scheme in all the colleges after issuance
of UGC regulations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the
reasons therefor?

Schemes for value-based education

697. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the
Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government launched any
schemes on the Teachers' Day, this year to
promote value-based education; if so, the
details thereof;

(b) the details of Awards, if any, given
in connection therewith; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any proposals to launch new Awards on this Day were received from different State Governments and some organisations; if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

Education among disadvantaged groups

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

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister, addressing the International Literacy Day celebrations in New Delhi on September, 8, 2001, emphasized the importance of educating children in urban slums and other disadvantaged groups and stressed the need for moving ahead from literacy to education, especially in the areas of science and technology; and

(b) if so, what specific and special schemes have been drawn up to promote education among all the disadvantaged groups and to secure the right to education as a fundamental right and, the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

Curbing private tuitions by teachers

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that private tuitions and coaching by teachers is

hampering the regular classes, the teachers are supposed to take in schools and colleges;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to curb private tuitions and coaching by teachers;

(c) whether NCERT has prepared a code of professional ethics for teachers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how Government are going to implement the code strictly?

Stoppage of Shatabdi Express at Sirhind

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from various Members of Parliament for the stoppage of Shatabdi Express train at Sirhind in Punjab;

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

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

Funds for track renewal

701. SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR:
SHRI P.N. SIVA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of funds allocated for track renewal by the Railways during the last three years and the current year, so far?

CBI raid on Palace-on-Wheel train

702. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR:
BIRLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agreement between Indian Railways and Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation to run the train 'Palace-on-Wheels'

(b) whether the C.B.I. conducted surprise raid on this train near Jodhpur in September and found 67 passengers travelling without tickets;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken against the passengers found without tickets and the total fine realised;

(e) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the news-item "Freebies in the name of promoting tourism" published in the Statesman dated 10th September, 2001; and

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

Conversion of Kanpur-Kasganj M.G. line

703. DR. SWAMI SAKSHI JI MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether conversion of Kanpur-Kasganj MG rail line into BG rail lane was planned to be completed long back;

(b) if so, the progress made so far;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

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

Shortage of coaches and wagons

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of coaches and wagons in the country;

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

(c) the number of coaches and wagons being manufactured every year in the country?

Khanna Committee Report on Railway Safety

705. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the delay in implementing the Khanna Committee Report on Railway Safety;

(b) what is the plan of action for repairing or reconstructing a century old railway bridges; and

(c) what are the financial implications involved?

Status of technical staff in Railways

706. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that technical staff in the Railways is being completely neglected;

(b) whether the status of clerk is higher than the technical staff and there are wide disparities in the pay scales and facilities, like leave etc. of the both;

(c) whether responsibilities for safety in the Railways rests with the technical or the other staff;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government would enhance the status of technical staff and make their pay, leaves and other facilities similar to others;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Delay in rail projects

707. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major rail projects delayed due to constraints of funds;

(b) whether Government have evolved any mechanism to avoid such delays in future, due to constraint of funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Use of out-dated rail lines

708. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out-dated and not-supposed-to-be-used rail lines are used by the Railways, as reported in Indian Express dated the 19th October, 2001;

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

(c) whether worthiness of these rail lines is checked before their laying?

Air travel by senior Railway officers

709. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that senior officers of the Railways/Railway Board are travelling mostly by air on sectors which are easily connected by fast trains;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) how many senior officers have travelled by air during the last six months and the expenditure incurred on the air travel of each of them; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue directives to all the senior Railway Officers, restricting their travel mainly to rail travel and if not, the reasons therefor?

Economic growth of Railways

710. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to stop the sluggish economic growth of the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken by the Railways to attract more freight traffic;

(d) whether Government have stopped all kinds of recruitments due to economic crisis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Hill puffer trains

†711. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to run the hill puffer trains;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Railway zones without General Managers

712. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three Zonal Railways, namely Eastern, South Eastern and Metro Headquartered in Kolkata are presently Headless, with no General Managers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such a situation is affecting implementation of projects under these Railways; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed by Government to remedy the situation?

Allocation for West Bengal in Railway Budgets

713. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects proposed and money allocated for West Bengal in 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 Railway Budgets;

(b) the status of their implementation and the details of constraints, if any, in implementation of these projects; and

(c) the steps contemplated to overcome them?

Operationalisation of the newly created Railway Zones

714. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target date for completion of entire work relating to making all the newly created Railway Zones fully operational;

(b) if so, by which date the administrative building and staff quarters of the newly created East Coast Zone would be completed and the new Zone would be made fully functional; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction?

Frequency of 2421-2422 Rajdhani Express

715. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to increase the frequency of 2421-2422 Rajdhani Express;

(b) if so, how many days the train would run according to the latest decision;

(c) the steps taken in the matter; and

(d) from which date the frequency would be increased?

VRS in Railways

716. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the action taken to implement Rakesh Mohan Committee's Report on Railways and to implement VRS, to reduce staff strength by 20 per cent in the Railways?

Remodelling of Talcher Station Yard

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

(a) whether Government have taken up remodelling of Talcher Station Yard in South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the progress of work, as on date; and

(c) by when the work of remodelling of Talcher Station Yard is likely to be completed?

**Over-crowded suburban trains in
Mumbai**

718. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai suburban trains are over-crowded and have become a death trap as well as a source of harassment to women; and

(b) whether the Ministry of Railways has any immediate plans to bring relief to the Mumbai commuters, more particularly to the women?

Rail over-bridge at Gorakhpur

†719. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct an over-bridge at Gorakhpur;

(b) if so, the details of the plan and the total cost of the said over-bridge; and

(c) by when its foundation stone is likely to be laid?

Safety in train journeys

†720. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail passengers have started feeling insecure during the journeys for the past few years;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps for their safety; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Cess collection for Railway Safety
Fund**

†721. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total cess that the Ministry propose to collect towards the Railway Safety Fund;

(b) what aspects are going to be covered under this safety cess collected; and

(c) the amount spent by the Indian Railways on safety during the last five years, year-wise?

**Demolisation of educational
institutes by the Railways in
Maharashtra**

†722. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of educational institutes demolished by the Railways in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the number of such cases pending in different courts at present;

(c) the numbers and details of cases decided in favour of the Railways, the cases decided against the Railways and the cases in which decisions are pending;

(d) whether Government would consider the proposals for out-of-court settlement, if proposed;

(e) if so, the basis for the same; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Railway Zonal General Managers' financial powers

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

(a) whether a decision has been taken recently to enhance, to nearly double, the limit of the Zonal General Managers' financial powers; and

(b) if so, the details of the enhanced limits proposed and the precise reasons/justification therefor, especially in the light of the contrary views of several committees and experts who have commented adversely against excessive concentration of powers in the Railway Board and suggested decentralisation of the decision-making process?

Rolling back of Simaluguri-Moranhat rail line project

724. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway authorities have/propose to roll back the Simaluguri-Moranhat rail line when there is the demand for extension of this line upto Dilerugar Town, by laying new line for 41 Kms. only; and

(b) whether the Ministry would think over the matter seriously and take the necessary action in the coming budget?

Problem of coaches of German Shatabdi

725. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the German Shatabdi which was cancelled earlier this year following technical problem, is reported to be back on the rails;

(b) whether the train, based on new technology, was found to be incompatible with the Indian Rail system; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the case and the reasons why these coaches were inducted without trials?

Schools at platforms for begging children

†726. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report regarding picking up of children begging at railway platforms by the Railway Police and educating them, by opening schools at platforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to formulate nation-wide scheme to open such schools?

Computerised rail reservation centres in Gujarat

†727. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway stations in Gujarat where reservation of tickets is done through computers at present; and

(b) the additional number of Railway stations in that State where Government propose to open computerised reservation centres by the end of 2001, giving the station-wise details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sale of eatables by unauthorised people in running trains

†728. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of adulterated eatables are being sold by unauthorised people in running trains;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said vendors charge arbitrary price from the passengers; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to keep a check on such vendors?

Looting of passengers of Howrah bound summer special

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passengers of a Howrah bound summer special were looted soon after it left the New Delhi Railway Station on 1st September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the incident; and

(c) the steps taken to provide security to passengers against such incidents?

Doubling of Delhi-Ahmedabad-Delhi rail line

730. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for doubling of Delhi-Ahmedabad-Delhi *via* Jaipur-Ajmer-Abu Road rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, by when the project would start and be completed;

(c) whether the route would be electrified; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allotment of duties to TCs/ATC in Central Railway

731. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assistant Ticket Collectors and Ticket Collectors, posted in Bhopal-Etarsi-Nagpur-Section of Central Railway, are not being allotted duties in sleeper coaches of various passenger trains rotationally;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the section-wise details of TCs/Asstt. TCs., who have not been allotted any duties on passenger trains during the preceding year; and

(d) the action taken/contemplated against officers responsible for such an erring conduct?

Revenues from Railtel Corporation

732. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of the RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 2000-2001 Railway Budget, the then Railway Minister had anticipated huge revenues from Railtel Corporation of India Rs. 700 crores in 2000-2001 and Rs. 500 crores this year;

(b) if so, whether the anticipated revenue was generated; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor and who is responsible for this?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Shifting of Railway Zonal office from Bangalore

733. SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Supreme Court has vacated the stay order granted by the Karnataka High Court regarding shifting of the Railway Zonal office from Bangalore to Hubli and has observed that the Union Government have the discretion to have the Zonal office, wherever it decides;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government to shift the Railway Zonal office from Bangalore to Hubli, in view of Supreme Court order; and

(c) if so, what is the progress and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

Modification of platform at Hubli

734. SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no steps have been taken to restructure the Railway Platforms after conversion of the track between Bangalore and Hubli into broad gauge even after three years, with the result that thousands of passengers are put to inconvenience every day;

(b) whether, Government would initiate steps to modify the platform at Hubli Railway Station, to suit the broad gauge trains; and

(c) if so, any time frame which has been fixed for this purpose?

Great Himalayan Quake

735. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY:
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, Great Himalayan quake waiting to happen: Indo-US Expert, appearing in the Indian Express of 24th August, 2001;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made on the basis of this report; and

(c) if so, what precautions are being taken to meet such an untoward situation and making the public aware?

Herbs in Himachal Pradesh forests

† 736. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research regarding availability of herbs in the forest and hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh has been conducted; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Research in human embryonic stem cells

737. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian laboratories/institutions in the forefront of research in human embryonic stem cells and the present status of the specific research projects undertaken by them;

(b) the guidelines and regulations laid down for such research in the country and safeguards provided to prevent possible commercialisation of human embryo;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the proposals cleared, if any, for Government funding of such projects; and

(d) the legal framework created for foreign collaborations and for funding by foreign countries?

Winding up of Indian Iron and Steel Company

738. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a show-cause notice for winding up of IISCO has been issued by BIFR;

(b) whether the hearing of the same is being held on 23rd November, 2001;

(c) if so, whether Government of India, as promoter, has raised objections against the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Import of brown steel

739. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether extra deep brown steel is being imported for the automobile sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the amount incurred/being incurred;

(c) whether SAIL or other steel manufacturing units are not producing extra deep brown steel; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

IDBI's revival package for private sector steel companies

740. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private sector steel companies were provided with a major revival package by IDBI and other financial Institutions, last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the present status thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that much of the advances made towards these projects have gone bad;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to retrieve the situation;

(e) whether Government are addressing the challenges facing the public sector steel companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Liquidating holdings of CPP at Bokaro Steel Plant

741. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to liquidate 50 per cent holding of CPP at Bokaro Steel Plant to DVC;

(b) what was the combined PLF of the power plants in 2000-2001;

(c) whether liquidation of the plant would be at the book value or on the revaluation of assets; and

(d) how BSP is going to ensure uninterrupted power supply after liquidation?

Separate revival plan for Indian Iron and Steel Company

742. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the BIFR has decided in favour of winding up Indian Iron Steel Company (IISCO);

(b) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) as well as the employees had prepared separate, alternative revival plans for the company; and

(c) if so, what are the details of these plans and Government's reaction thereto?

Debarring India from world lifting meet

743. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news article which appeared in Times of India dated the 30th October, 2001 under the heading, India may be debarred from World Lifting Meet; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

Recipients of Arjuna Awards

744. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVU-KKARASU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Arjuna Awards have been conferred during the last three years;

(b) what are the criteria for selecting awardees; and

(c) the details regarding the names of

the recipients of the award during these three years and the field in which they have received the award?

National Reconstruction Corps scheme

745. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a new National Reconstruction Corps (NRC) scheme in certain districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of districts in which the scheme has been launched; and

(c) the names of schemes identified, in implementation of which the NRC volunteers are to be involved?

Reviewing selection procedure for sports awards

746. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for conferring various categories of sports awards on sports persons in the country;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the manner of scrutiny and standards laid down for sports awards, like the Arjuna Award, in view of the recent controversies and allegations of unfair practices, including lobbying in selecting the awardees;

(c) if so, the details of the review exercise undertaken, including consultations held with leading sports persons/ organisations, etc.; and

(d) the amendments made to rules to make the selection process transparent?

Pathetic conditions of former sports persons

747. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to identify sports persons who played for India in National and International events but are living in pathetic conditions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and the welfare measures undertaken to improve their conditions?

Condition of sports organisations

†748. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of sports organisations set up throughout the country has gone from bad to worse;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the persons holding high posts therein are responsible for this bad condition;

(d) if so, whether Government would take any steps to revitalise these organisations and to make them responsible; and

(e) if so, by when and the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 17th November, 2001
Kartika 26, 1923 (Saka)

R. C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	: 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645,
Environment and Forests	: 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657,
Food Processing Industries	: 658,
Human Resource Development	: 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699,
Ocean Development	: —
Railways	: 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734,
Science and Technology	: 735, 736, 737,
Steel	: 738, 739, 740, 741, 742,
Youth Affairs and Sports	: 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748.