

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, the November 23, 2005/Agrahayana 2, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Commerce and Industry; Defence; Home Affairs; Non-Conventional Energy Sources; Power; Rural Development; Textiles)

Total number of questions — 129

Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana benefits for cashew exports

1. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cashew Export Promotion Council has requested to allow Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana benefits for cashew exports without imposing any restriction from April, 2004; and

(b) if so, the reaction thereto?

FDI in retail sector

2. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to allow FDI in the retail sector in the country;

(b) the details of investment made by the domestic private sector in the retail industry in the last two years;

(c) whether Government have assessed the impact of this capital investment by the private sector in the retail market in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government is considering to bring about changes in various existing laws such as land acquisition etc. for facilitating faster growth of the retail sector in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Decrease in exports of I.T. and electronics

3. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports of Information Technology and electronics has decreased by 14.52 per cent in the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the exports?

Cancellation of export licences of adulterated chilli exporters

4. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cancelled export licences of four exporters over the issue of Sudan dye-

adulterated chilli finding its way to market abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to guard against such acts of adulteration which bring a bad name to our country?

Trade target

5. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has set a trade target of \$ 500 bl. by 2008-09, as against the last year of \$ 185;

(b) what is the export target for the current fiscal; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to achieve the above target?

Subsidy for export of spices

6. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were any proposals for providing subsidies for export of spices especially pepper and cardamom, during the year 2005;

(b) if so, the steps taken and factors considered to take the decision in detail category wise;

(c) the quantity of spices especially pepper and cardamom exported under various provisions, provision-wise, category-wise for last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the quantity of spices especially pepper and cardamom imported under various provisions for the last three years, year-wise, provision-wise ?

Industrial licensing policy

7. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reviewed the compulsory licensing policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications for industrial licensing received/cleared for compulsory licensing during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for quick clearance of applications for industrial licensing?

Replacement of DEPB Scheme

8. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to replace the existing Duty Exemption Pass Book Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Now the new scheme will be helpful to common man?

Assistance to States under ASIDE

9. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance available under ASIDE scheme to States for developing export infrastructure and related activities;

(b) the budget allocation for this scheme during the past three years together with the actual amount spent each year;

(c) whether States have asked for more assistance for developing export facilities/ infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Hong Kong Ministerial Conference

10. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is India's stand at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference on agricultural issues;

(b) whether developed countries are ready to reduce their tariffs on agriculture and also to reduce their subsidies on agricultural products both in domestic market and export market; and

(c) whether India will link the agricultural issues with Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) issues?

SEZ in Andhra Pradesh

11. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals under consideration for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs), State-wise, particularly Andhra Pradesh;

(b) how many of these units are product specific with State-wise details;

(c) when are these units likely to be set up; and

(d) what is the expected employment generation in these units?

Special Purpose Vehicle for infrastructure projects

12. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to float a new Special Purpose Vehicle for funding infrastructure projects;

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

(c) whether any infrastructure projects have been identified for funding by the proposed SPV; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with financial allocation made for each project and the targeted date for their completion, State-wise?

Enhancement of India-Pakistan trade

13. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan have agreed to enhance their cooperation in trade and commerce;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan has rejected to extend the list of importable items from India which at present stands at 70; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Production and export of Tea

†14. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the tea production during the current fiscal year till date and how does it fare with the last year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the export of tea has declined in the current fiscal year;

(c) if so, the decline noted in tea-export and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to boost tea export?

Linking exports with generation of jobs

15. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evolved a

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

policy of linking increasing exports with generation of jobs opportunities;

(b) if so, the main features and *modus operandi* thereof; and

(c) the estimated number of persons employed in connection with various operations related to exports?

Import of edible oil

†16. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing huge quantity of edible oils;

(b) if so, the details of the import made during each of the last three years and thereafter and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that due to the import of huge quantity of edible oils, the farmers are forced to sell the oilseeds even below the minimum support price; and

(d) if so, the precautionary steps being taken by Government?

Export of services

17. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the growth registered in the export of services during each of the last three years, sector-wise;

(b) whether India is still lagging behind China, Korea and other countries in export of services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to increase the export of services?

Export of fruits and vegetables

†18. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of export of fruits and vegetables from concerned States during last three years;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to augment the export of fruits and vegetables from concerned States;

(c) whether the percentage of export of fruits and vegetables from concerned States is satisfactory in comparison to this production;

(d) if so, the details thereof and what balancing measures have been taken in this regard; and

(e) the names of the countries to whom export of fruits and vegetables is made and the quantum of exports thereof?

Increase in import of agricultural products

†19. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of agricultural products during last three years has increased in each years;

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

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the import of agricultural products;

(d) if so, whether Government have conducted any study regarding its far reaching consequences on our domestic agriculture and horticulture sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

Export of iron-ore

†20. SHRIMATI PREMA

CARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries making attempts to get iron-ore from India;

(b) the names of raw-materials that can be imported by India from the respective countries;

(c) whether Government propose to hold talks with such countries;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) the names of countries to which iron-ore is being exported at present alongwith the quantum thereof ?

Preparation for WTO conference at Hong kong

21. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH

KHAN AZMI:

SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what preparations have been made for the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Hong Kong;

(b) the countries which are supporting India's stand in WTO; and

(c) the strategy being devised for effectively putting forth the cause of the developing countries?

Foreign Direct Investment in India

22. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:

MAULANA OBAIDULLAH

KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of Foreign Direct Investment in India, State-wise;

(b) the strategy devised/being devised to see that the backward States also get their due share in FDI; and

(c) the results achieved therefrom?

Funds for promotional and roductivity enhancing schemes in Agriculture

23. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to allocate a total of Rs. 1,327 crore for various promotional and productivity enhancing schemes in agriculture, industry and mineral sectors in the current fiscal;

(b) if so, to what extent these schemes have been implemented;

(c) what are the total investment made in agriculture and industry;

(d) to what extent these schemes have been completed;

(e) whether the allocation of Rs. 500 crore has been provided to the States for infrastructure assistance for developing Agro Industries; and

(f) if so, what is the amount provided to each State and how many States have utilized this amount so far?

Embargo on Indian Traditional medicines by some countries

24. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the recent reports on embargo

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

on Indian Traditional medicines by certain countries;

(b) whether such an embargo is permissible under the current multilateral trade regime;

(c) if so, the details thereof; if not, whether Government has taken up the issue with concerned countries; and

(d) whether Government has issued any advisory to the Indian entities?

Proposals of TERC

25. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Trade and Economic Relations Committee (TERC) at its recent meeting held in October, 2005, decided to be more pro-active in increasing interaction with neighbours, especially the less developed economies;

(b) if so, the exports, imports and balance of trade with respect to each of these countries during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(c) the targets, if any, fixed for the current year and the years to follow, with respect to each of these less developed economies, and the strategy and steps to be taken in this regard?

Sainik schools

26. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the school-wise/State-wise details of Sainik Schools functioning at present in the various States of the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up any new Sainik School in the country;

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

(d) the details of criteria/guide lines fixed for admission in these schools alongwith the relaxation being provided to the various categories?

India's share in purchase of arms

27. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 2004, India accounted for 15 per cent of global weapon sales valued at \$ 5.7 billion;

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

(c) whether Government is aware that such heavy arms acquisition are likely to send a wrong signal to the world community about India's credentials and if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Modernisation of special forces of the Army

28. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the plan for modernization of the special forces of the Army had been envisaged;

(b) whether the modernisation plan could not be started till date;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to modernize the special forces?

Appointment of Chief of Defence Staff

29. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what decision, if any, has been taken on the recommendation of the Kargil committee for appointment of a Chief of

Defence Staff, for better integration of the defence forces; and

(b) the reasons for delay in implementing the same and the steps being taken in that direction?

**Instructions for making available
Defence helicopters**

30. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Union Government to issue necessary instructions to the Flag Officers (Eastern Naval Command), Vishakhapatnam and Indian Air Force Base, Hyderabad for making available Defence helicopter as and when requisitioned by the Director-General of Police, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad at a very Short Notice;

(b) if so, action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**Lowering of standard of heights for
recruitment of Jawans**

31. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the relatively lower physical height of people of Orissa in comparison to most other States in India including Bihar and U.P.; and

(b) if so, will the Government consider the lowering of the standard of heights for recruitment of Jawans in the Armed Forces and equating the people of Orissa with those from Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh instead of equating them with Bihar and U.P.?

MiG crashed

32. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether another MiG crashed on October 26, 2005 near Bangalore, if so, the cause of the crash;

(b) the number and types of MiGs left with the Indian Airforce; and

(c) whether any common defect or deficiency has been identified in the MiG fleet and the steps taken to remove the same?

Crash of UAVs

†33. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned aircraft that crashed during the last two years till date;

(b) whether a number of persons have been killed or injured in such crashes and the financial loss suffered by Government as a result thereof;

(c) whether inquiry has been conducted in each such crash;

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to prevent such accidents in future?

Recruitment Policy in Goa Shipyard

34. SHRI SANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ship vessels built by the Goa Shipyard in the last ten years and essential features of these ships/vessels;

(b) whether Goa Shipyard has a recruitment policy;

(c) whether the policy requires priority to be given to the candidates from the State; and

(d) the number of employees employed in the Goa Shipyard in various categories, who hail from the State of Goa?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

Export of ALH Dhruv

35. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that ALH Dhruv is being exported;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to market this product to other countries?

Reconstruction of century old culvert in Secunderabad

36. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2112 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11th December, 2002 and to state:

- (a) whether reconstruction of century old culvert at Laximnagar, Picket, Secunderabad Cantonment is pending for the past three years for lack of architectural design;
- (b) if not, the reasons for keeping this work pending for three years;
- (c) whether Government would assure of commencing this work on a war-footing at least at this stage; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Private participation in Defence production

37. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Letters of Intent issued to private manufacturing companies to produce Defence Products;
- (b) total FDI in Defence sector since May, 2001, when it was opened for private participation; and

- (c) the details of areas that are covered for private people to manufacture the Defence items?

Participation of private sector in defence production

38. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps are taken to increase private sector participation in defence production;
- (b) at present, what is the level of private sector in defence production in volume and percentage terms;
- (c) what steps have taken to simplify the procedures to involve private sector, so far; and
- (d) the details of results achieved so far?

Change in designation of MNS Cadre

39. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is an Army proposal to divest the Military Nursing Service Cadre of their rank as officers and replace them with designation such as "Sister" and "Matron";
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the rationale of such decisions; and
- (d) the reaction of Government thereto?

Embraer Jets

40. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that IAF has inducted an Embraer Business Jet into its fleet for VVIP movement;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government of India is going to get three boeings for VVIPs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Slow modernisation of special forces

41. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the army's much awaited project to modernize its special forces is yet to gather steam;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the huge budget earmarked for the purpose has remained largely unspent; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Central Government to utilize this budget effectively?

Action against Naval Officers

42. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Navy has recommended disciplinary action against three of its officers who were found culpable of leaking out classified information to commercial interests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action so far taken against these officers of the Navy?

MI-17 crash in Poonch, J&K

43. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Indian Air Force helicopter MI-17 crashed on 21.06.2005 in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir;

- (b) the number of persons killed and injured in the accident;

- (c) whether an inquiry into the incident has been ordered; and

- (d) if so, whether inquiry report has been received, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Defence personnel killed in J&K earthquake

44. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of defence personnel, cadre-wise, who lost their lives in Jammu and Kashmir due to the earthquake of 8th October, 2005 and also while engaged in rescue in operations, separately;
- (b) whether any special compensation in the form of additional pension and gratuity is proposed to be given to their spouses and dependants; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Compensation to dependents of deceased service officers

45. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether dependent parents, brothers and sisters of deceased army officers, killed in counter-terrorists and counter insurgency in J&K or elsewhere, are given any share in the compensation or benefits of the deceased service officer, if so, to what extent; and whether payment of such compensation of benefits are determined by the will of the deceased officer; and
- (b) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, the reasons for denying the aged parents and dependents any share in the compensation/benefits payable to deceased's family?

Construction of six French submarines

46. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR
SANGHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India signed a deal to construct six French submarines in the country at a cost of Rs. 15000 crores;

(b) whether this deal was started by a joint statement made by Prime Minister and French President in Paris on September, 12;

(c) if so, whether this deal was signed in October, 2005 between India and France;

(d) whether the first French submarine will be ready for service within seven years; and

(e) if so, to what extent this deal will be helpful for Indian Navy?

Effect of flying supersonic jets on pilot's health

47. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a supersonic fighter jet exposes the pilot to Dynamic Gravitation Forces which decrease blood pressure in the head which can result in loss of vision, blackouts etc.;

(b) if so, whether the Air Force is thinking of some advanced training where the supersonic jet pilots will learn how to handle such a situation while air-borne; and

(c) whether Air Force have developed matching combat capabilities in view of the high profile Air Force operating in our neighboring countries?

Poor condition of transport fleet of IAF

†48. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the transport aircrafts of Air Force which are engaged in transporting military equipments and other supplies to the Indian Army deployed at the borders of China in North-East to Siachin in Kashmir are out of order due to lack of accessories and maintenance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when these aircrafts will be repaired; and

(d) by when the transport fleet of Air Force is likely to be modernized?

Report of GoM on One-Rank-One-Pension

†49. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Group of Ministers constituted to consider the issue related to 'One rank one pension' has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report;

(c) the decision taken by Government on this report; and

(d) if not, by when the report is likely to be submitted by the Group of Ministers?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

Talks with Hurriyat leaders

50. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister reopened the stalled talks with Hurriyat leaders, assuring an honourable and durable solution to the Kashmir problem;

(b) if so, what was the precise stand of the Hurriyat leaders and Government in this regard; and

(c) how far the talks were successful in narrowing down the difference and thrashing out an "honourable solution"?

Setting up of Police Mission

51. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Police Mission; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Submission of report on Netaji

52. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission recently appointed to enquire about Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose has since given its report; and

(b) if so, what are its findings?

Bomb blasts in the country

53. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bomb blasts in

the country, State-wise, during the last 3 months;

(b) the total number of persons killed/seriously injured/injured, bomb blast-wise and State-wise, during the last three months;

(c) the total amount of compensation paid in each case by State Governments/ Union Government; and

(d) the number of cases which are still pending togetherwith the reasons therefor ?

Extent of damage to Jawahar tunnel during earthquake

54. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the extent of damage caused to Jawahar Tunnel on the Srinagar Jammu highway in the October 8, 2005 earthquake which devastated large parts of the valley;

(b) whether the tunnel has since been repaired fully and is in operation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Inadequate security arrangements in markets of Delhi

55. SHRI THENNALA. G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total lives lost and the number of people who were injured in the bomb blasts that rocked the Capital on the eve of Deepawali;

(b) whether it is a fact that the security arrangements at the two places *i.e.* Sarojini Nagar and Paharganj were highly inadequate due to encroachment and illegal parking which made the situation worse; and

(c) if so, the action taken against those police officers who were responsible for the security of these two places?

Assistance sought by Tamil Nadu for flood relief

56. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Tamil Nadu had demanded a sanction of total assistance of Rs.1,120.00 crores for flood relief measures being taken by the State Government;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government had demanded to depute a Central team to assess flood situation in the State; and

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

Constitution of National Disaster Management Fund

57. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since finalized the constitution of National Disaster Management Fund:

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for the fund initially and that proposed to be earmarked for it annually;

(c) the number of personnel with designations assigned the job to manage and operate the fund and the system;

(d) whether any guidelines for its operation have also been finalized; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Talk between Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh

58. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of discussions held between the Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh in Delhi on October last; and

(b) the decisions taken there at and the steps taken by the two Governments to implement them?

Strength of women in Delhi Police

59. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only 5 per cent women corps in Delhi Police's total strength;

(b) whether there is any proposal received from Delhi Police to increase this percentage of women corps;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how much time it will take for final recruitment?

Disaster Management

60. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in India Disaster Management is activated only after something happened;

(b) if so, why should it not be working all the time;

(c) whether Government are planning to form such Disaster Management permanently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Restarting of dialogue with ULFA

61. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) have shown keen-interest to restart dialogue with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of times ULFA and other insurgent groups have gone back on their promise to start peaceful negotiations with the Government; and

(d) the reasons for breaking the negotiations by these insurgent groups?

Increase in infiltration of insurgents after earthquake

62. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the infiltration of insurgents in Jammu and Kashmir has increased after the recent earthquake;

(b) if so, the number of terrorists killed by security forces in the month of October alone this year; and

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard by the Central Government in view of the fact that security forces are busy in rescue operations after the earthquake?

Pak citizens in Indian relief camps

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

(a) the details of the loss of life and property on account of recent earthquake throughout the border area of Kashmir and Pak occupied Kashmir;

(b) the total number of Pakistani citizens who have come to Indian relief

camps and health camps for shelter and treatment;

(c) whether Pakistan have informed India about those Indian citizens who approached Pakistani relief camps for shelter and treatment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Coastal patrolling

64. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coastal patrolling and surveillance scheme being proposed to be implemented from the year 2005-06;

(b) the details of allocation, State-wise; and

(c) the details of joint patrolling scheme being implemented?

Loss of BSF and CRPF personnel during earthquake in J&K

65. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel of the BSF and CRPF, cadre-wise who lost their lives in Jammu and Kashmir due to earthquake of 8th October, 2005 and also while engaged in the rescue operations there, separately;

(b) whether any special compensation in the form of additional pension and gratuity is proposed to be given to their spouses/dependants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Constitution of Disaster Management Authority

66. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

constituted any authority/board for the disaster management in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the composition of such an authority/board;

(c) the specific mandate given to such an authority/board; and

(d) how far this authority/board has been successful in managing the disaster caused by the recent earthquake in the country?

Killing of elderly people in Delhi

67. SHRIDATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an elderly couple was killed by unidentified assailants at their Greater Kailash residence in Delhi on 5th November, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of attacks and murder of elderly people in Delhi during last one year till date;

(d) the number of cases solved so far and the culprits apprehended;

(e) the reasons for which the Delhi Police could not protect the elderly people;

(f) whether any programme has been chalked out for giving protection to elderly people; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Rape cases in Delhi

68. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rape cases in Delhi are reportedly increasing day-by-day;

(b) if so, what is the total number

of cases registered during 2004-05 and 2005-06, till date and in how many cases action has so far been taken against the accused;

(c) whether any action plan has so far been chalked out by Delhi Police and other NGOs to control this menace; and

(d) if so, whether Government have so far reviewed the provisions of IPC to ensure severe punishment for rapists or propose to bring forward any suitable legislation before Parliament?

MoU signed between India and China

69. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and China have signed an MoU to combat drug trafficking, terrorism, gun-running along the border areas; and

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

Review of training methodologies by BSF

70. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSF is thinking of reviewing its training methodologies so as to keep pace with the new challenges; and

(b) how the BSF is placed now to deal with the ingenuity of the adversaries?

Losses due to disasters

71. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every year the country is losing 2 per cent of its GDP in disasters;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of having a disaster management policy to turn disasters into opportunities; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposed policy?

Operational difficulties faced by BSF due to lack of women battalions

72. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that BSF is facing operational difficulties in militancy infested and border areas due to absence of women's battalions;

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) what is the time-frame to overcome these operational difficulties by BSF?

Corruption in jails

73. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain officials of Tihar prison in Delhi have been dismissed after they were exposed taking illegal gratification;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that corruption in jails is eliminated and only above board officials are posted in prisons?

Replacement of Indian Police Act

74. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to replace

the Indian Police Act envisaging to meet and manage emerging areas of crime; if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the terms of reference initiated before enacting the law;

(c) whether the new enactment will be comprehensive and competent enough to serve the purpose;

(d) how long the whole process will take;

(e) while enacting whether the recommendations of National Police Commission and view of State Governments will be considered; and

(f) what are the other imperatives needed, besides this enactment, to handle the emerging crimes and to meet the trying situations and challenges?

Allowing NRIs investment in air transport Services

75. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2434 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th August, 2005 and to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated new scheme to issue Smart Cards to persons registered as Overseas Citizens of India/Persons of Indian Origin/Non-Resident Indians;

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

(c) whether registered holders of "PIO Card" under Sec. 7A of Citizenship Act, 1966 are allowed to invest in the air transport services sector including domestic airlines as is allowed in the case of NRIs under the scheme of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Areas affected in recent earthquake

76. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the areas affected by the recent earthquake, State-wise;
- (b) the number of persons died in the earthquake; state-wise;
- (c) whether Union Government are taking steps for the rehabilitation of the persons affected by the earthquake;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) whether Union Government propose to provide assistance to States in constructing quake proof houses/school buildings in quake prone areas;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Loss of lives and properties during floods and natural disasters

77. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the figures of loss of lives and property in the floods and natural disasters during and after this year monsoon;
- (b) what is the estimated expenditure towards relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction;
- (c) how Government propose to ascertain the immediate delivery of *ex-gratia* payment to the affected families;
- (d) whether Government have cognizance of the media reports on the inability of local civic agencies to contain the effects of disaster and in providing relief and rehabilitation; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken to equip and train the local civil agencies?

Naxal activities

†78. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH
MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that out of total 593 districts of the country, one-fourth districts are affected with the naxal activities;
- (b) if not, what are the reaction of Government in this regard and till now how many regions of different States in the country are affected by the naxal problems;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Nepalese Maoists are also making claims about the Indian territory; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Prior information about bomb blasts in Delhi

79. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
DR. M.A.M.. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Police had advance information from intelligence sources that militants will create terror by bomb blast;
- (b) if so, why police did not act in advance to avoid such a heavy casualty in bomb blasts at Sarojini Nagar and Paharganj;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(c) whether Delhi Police has been able to identify the persons behind these blasts and arrest them for trial; and

(d) what action Government propose to provide more security to people in the city?

Earthquake in Jammu and Kashmir

80. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons killed/seriously injured/injured as a result of recent earthquake in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the details of safety provided/being provided to the sufferers to protect from winter and snow;

(c) the details of the financial assistance being provided to the sufferers; and

(d) by when the safety arrangements for winter are expected to be completed?

Covering remote villages through non-conventional energy

81. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has decided to cover all remote villages in the country through non-conventional energy within a period of five years;

(b) if so, the number to be covered in the first phase in the current year in Orissa and the progress achieved till October, 2005; and

(c) the reason for delay in sanctioning 374 villages proposed by the State Government more than a year ago against the programme for the first phase?

Programmes/schemes launched under non-conventional energy sources in Rajasthan

82. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps/schemes and programmes have been taken/launched in Rajasthan, under the non-conventional energy programmes;

(b) if so, the details and results thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure adequate allocation of funds for effective implementation of these new programmes in Rajasthan?

Loans sanctioned by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency

83. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency has sanctioned loans for setting up of non-conventional energy projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof including criteria, terms and conditions formulated by Government for sanctioning loans to States; and

(c) the State-wise details of loan sanctioned and released to States during last three years ?

Non-conventional energy schemes in Andhra Pradesh

84. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-conventional energy schemes in Andhra Pradesh are being implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of money sanctioned during the last two years; and

(d) the amount of additional power generated during the last one year?

Wind energy parks set up in the country

†85. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of wind energy parks established in the country, State-wise;

(b) the dates when these wind energy parks were established;

(c) the purpose of establishing these wind energy parks;

(d) whether Government have reviewed the functioning of these wind energy parks; and

(e) if so, the results thereof?

Appellate tribunal for power sector

86. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up appellate tribunal for power sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Faulty wiring in newly installed electronic meters

87. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been initiated by Government to check the faulty wiring in the newly installed electronic meters in Delhi which are admittedly running fast by 8 to 15 per cent;

(b) whether it is correct that Government have incurred loss in the hands of private discoms who have earned crores of rupees by exploiting the lacunae in the wiring system;

(c) what are the measures adopted by Government to safeguard the interest of its consumers and check corrupt practices and refunding of the inflated amount to its consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Electrification of remote villages by NTPC

88. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC has taken up electrification of remote villages as a part of the PM's mission "Rural Electricity Supply Technology" based on renewable energy resources in different States;

(b) if so, the details of this novel project; and

(c) what is the position of Orissa State and by when this State would also be covered under this project to light up the sparsely located tribal villages in the remote areas of the State?

Projects under APDRP in Rajasthan

89. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects under APDRP sanctioned for Rajasthan and the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

amount of Government component for these schemes for the last three years, and up to date for 2005-06;

(b) the amounts released so far project-wise, year-wise;

(c) whether a request from Government of Rajasthan, for granting special status to Rajasthan, like N.E. States, in view of its geographical handicaps, is pending consideration with the Ministry; and

(d) if so, by when a decision would be taken?

Dividend by NTPC for shareholders

90. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of good performance results and profits declared by National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC), the company has declared a meagre 24 per cent dividend to its shareholder;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would review the dividend payments to shareholders of NTPC in the light of good financial results and if not, the reasons therefor?

Energy conservation clubs

91. SHRIN.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would encourage the formation of energy conservation clubs by NGOs to spread the idea of energy conservation among the general public and whether Government propose to extend financial assistance to the NGOs for the same; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of such organizations functioning in Kerala and the details of financial assistance to them for the last three years; and

(c) whether any such organizations from Kollam District in Kerala submitted any proposal for financial assistance to promote energy conservation project; if so, whether Government sanctioned the same; if not, the present stage thereof?

Proposal to CEA for technical and financial assistance for Gandhi Nagar power station

†92. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Central Electricity Authority for according the technical and financial sanction to the 4x40 Mega Watt Gandhi Nagar Hydro Electric Power Station-II;

(b) if so, by when the said sanction would be accorded; and

(c) by when the study regarding the safety of the dam would be completed by the CWC?

Development of hydro-power potential

93. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is hydro-power potential of more than 1,50,000 MW of which nearly 80 per cent is still to be developed;

(b) if so, what are the constraints in fully utilizing this potential of energy;

(c) when the 162 schemes where pre-feasibility reports have been prepared will be implemented; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(d) what is the perspective planning in the Eleventh Plan for generation of Hydropower?

Role of NTPC in Dabhol Power Project

94. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has signed or likely to sign agreements with State Governments in respect of power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether NTPC would also play a vital role in the Dabhol Power Project to ensure its completion, and if so, the detailed terms and conditions of NTPC and DPC?

Implementation of new power projects

95. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to implement new power projects to increase the power generation in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Proposal to have a strong power regulator

96. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Government is thinking of having a strong power regulator;

(b) what are the functions that are going to be handled by the regulator apart from tariff fixation and issuing licence;

(c) whether any consultations have been held in this regard with the stakeholders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Supply of power to Andhra Pradesh from Central PUs

97. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the actual requirement and supply of power for Andhra Pradesh from Central Public Undertakings;

(b) the names of undertakings from which power is being distributed to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh has requested for additional quota of power to meet the increasing demand in the State; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

Disparity in power tariff in the capital

98. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consequent upon partial privatization of power distribution in different areas in Delhi and New Delhi have resulted in sharp disparities in the power-tariff in different parts of the capital;

(b) if so, the comparative tariff rates for power consumption leviable to different strata of consumers in different areas of the Union Territory including the NDMC areas; and

(c) the steps taken and are being taken to bring about a degree of parity?

Provision of electricity in Dalit bastis and Tribal areas

99. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are rendering

any assistance/propose to provide assistance to States, so as to enable them to provide electricity to Dalit bastis, Tribal areas and weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the financial allocation for this purpose during the current financial year, State-wise;

(c) whether the proposed targets are being achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Requirement of electricity in the country

100. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of the total requirement of electricity for providing electricity to the cent per cent population of the country;

(b) if so, the details of this requirement;

(c) to what extent the electricity being generated at present is less than the assessed requirement;

(d) presently, what per cent of the population has been provided with electricity cover;

(e) by when, cent per cent population is expected/targeted to be covered; and

(f) what steps the Government is taking to bridge the gap between the demand and generation of electricity in the country?

Shortage of electricity in the States

†101. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power

projects run by the States in the country are not generating electricity as per their installed capacity and due to this there is shortage of electricity and its production cost is also increasing;

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

(c) whether Government have formulated any national plan for increasing the production by carrying out comprehensive reforms in these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Proposals for power addition

102. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Power Ministry has initiated plans at multiple levels to achieve the power capacity addition of 36955 mws in the Tenth Plan;

(b) whether these plans will enable the people to enjoy the quality electric power at affordable rates by 2012;

(c) whether to meet all India peak demand of 1,51,648 mw by the end of Eleventh Plan, CEA has identified projects far in excess of this requirement and has initiated action on them; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government is hopeful of meeting the demands of the power by the end of Tenth Plan?

Long term power policy

†103. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

has been constituted under the leadership of Sardar Montek Singh Ahluwalia to formulate a long-term power policy in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that this committee was supposed to prepare and hand over the policy related documents by the end of 2005;

(c) if so, whether Government are likely to get these documents in time; and

(d) if not, the reaction of Government thereon?

Impact of unavailability of fuel on power project

†104. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production work has almost come to stand still in 7000 mega watt power generating projects in the country due to unavailability of fuel;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and the details of such projects wherein production has stopped or decreased due to unavailability of fuel; and

(c) whether Government have made any assessment regarding the time up to which the said projects will almost remain closed due to unavailability of fuel?

Effect of power reforms on commercial losses

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

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power reforms in the

country have finally begun to yield results, as power utilities in 11 States including West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat and Maharashtra have managed to reduce commercial losses thereby saving more than Rs. 4,000 crores;

(b) whether the Southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka have effected the highest reduction in losses in revenue terms;

(c) what is the total commercial losses reduced by these States;

(d) whether these States have now completed removed the shortage of power;

(e) in how many States still power shortage is there; and

(f) what are the steps Government proposes to take to improve the power position in those States?

Funds sanctioned under JGSY

106. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds sanctioned for each districts of Uttar Pradesh under Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana during the each of the last three years; and

(b) the number of unemployed youths benefited in each district of the State under the scheme during this period?

Connectivity of villages with roads

107. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise and Panchayat-wise number of villages in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and North Eastern Region which have not been connected with the city roads;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(b) whether Government have chalked out any national scheme in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by when all the villages of the above States will be connected with the city roads?

Implementation of PMGSY

108. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) the year-wise details of roads constructed *vis-a-vis* targets under the programme in rural areas duly indicating the names of the States and the type and length of roads constructed;

(c) the details of works started under the programme but not progressed since 2003-04;

(d) the reasons for lack of their progress;

(e) the time-schedule drawn, if any, for completion thereof; and

(f) the impact in terms of cost of delayed implementation of these projects?

Amount sanctioned under Rural Sanitation Programme

109. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned to the different States under Rural Sanitation Programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the year-wise details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to implement the said programme effectively in the country?

Food for Work Programme

110. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that infrastructure work will be taken up only in big villages, since under the NFFW Programme, there should be availability of at least 50 job seekers to start a new work;

(b) the number of Tribal and Scheduled Caste Villages in the country which has a population of less than 250 and, therefore, will not have 50 job seekers to get the benefit; and

(c) if the number in (b) is very large and the villages comprise mostly of the deprived and the disadvantaged, who need priority attention under this programme, how the Government proposes to take care of them?

Houses constructed under IAY

111. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of total number of houses constructed for poor/weaker sections of the society in the country under Indira Awas Yojana during the last three years;

(b) the number of houses actually allotted to the above category during this period, State-wise;

(c) whether any toilet/bathroom facilities have been provided in these houses, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total funds actually allotted and spent on the construction of such houses during this period?

Implementation of PURA scheme

112. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) scheme is being implemented in 7 States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will extend this scheme to Tamil Nadu as well?

Bio-diesel produced from 'Jatropha' seeds

†113. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any action to develop bio-diesel produced from 'Jatropha' seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of alternative fuel estimated to be produced every year; and

(d) the details of Public Sector oil companies interested to promote 'Jatropha' farming by way of giving subsidy and loan?

Neglect of Orissa under NREGS

114. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a gross neglect of Orissa under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite earmarking 29 backward districts of Orissa by the Planning Commission, the Centre has included only 18 districts for implementation of the programme; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this gross neglect when the most-backward State with the lowest per capita income in the country deserves the most?

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

115. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre's biggest road project, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has hit a mega speed breaker in a number of States countrywide and the roads are ridden with potholes/pitfalls;

(b) if so, what is plaguing the system;

(c) what is the position of Outcome Budget of this project; and

(d) what is the status of Orissa and what is the action plan of Government to help the State to overcome the impediments/obstacles coming in the way of speedy implementation of the project in the State?

Implementation of NREGA

116. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI RAASHID ALVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with most of the States seeking more time to implement the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) if so, the States which have sought more time and what are the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has written to all the CMs asking them to speedily put in place a mechanism for implementation of the scheme and ensure transparency; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(d) to what extent Union Government has agreed to provide help and assistance to these States to implement the scheme immediately?

Establishing village knowledge centres

117. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is need for establishing village knowledge centres to serve as helpdesks, Confidence builders and e-governance nodal points for empowering villagers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to develop such centres in Orissa to help the villagers to increase their knowledge, inculcate reading habits and generate employment potential in these areas?

Making Indian textile industry Globally competitive

118. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to adopt a number of fresh measures to make Indian Textile industry globally competitive following the abolition of Multi-Fibre Arrangement *w.e.f.* January, 2005.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the full import of these measures will be perceptible; and

(d) whether steps have also been taken to protect the interest of labour in the textile industry and if so, the details thereof?

Removing specific duties on textile product under SAFTA

119. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether textile industry has requested for removing specific duties, only in phases, on textile products under the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA);

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

(c) whether it is proposed to abolish specific duties on products imported to India on demand from SAFTA Member countries;

(d) if so, whether any study has been conducted on impact of such move on domestic companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Cluster development scheme for handloom sector

120. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new scheme called Cluster Development Scheme for the development of handloom sector, has been launched recently;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to provide assistance to Tamil Nadu under the scheme;

(d) whether this cluster approach would replace the cooperative approach for the development of handloom sector;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) if not, the steps being taken for strengthening cooperative sector in handlooms?

Assistance to Rajasthan under Baba Saheb hastashilp Vikas Yojana

121. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance under Centrally-sponsored scheme, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hasthashilpa Vikas Yojana, for promotion of handicrafts has been released to the State of Rajasthan, during last three years;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Doubling of duty draw back rates on garments

122. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government decision to double the duty drawback rates on garments and restore *ad-valorem* rate basis failed to enthuse importers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that double duty drawback will provide only partial relief to the exporters; and

(c) if so, the reasons for (a) above and how the Government are going to compensate exporters due to (b) above?

Insurance package for handloom weavers

123. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into a tie-up with ICICI combered for an Insurance Package of handloom weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many weavers are estimated to get coverage from the scheme, State-wise details?

Employment in handloom sector

124. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase employment in rural areas in handloom sector;

(b) the basic facilities provided for handloom industry and funds allocated for the rural handloom industry, State-wise;

(c) whether the rural people are getting proper employment in the handloom industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Programmes for welfare of weavers

125. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a weaver-specific programme for the welfare of the weavers;

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

(c) by what date the programme would be formulated?

Target fixed for development of textiles industry

†126. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that targets have been fixed upto 2010 by Government keeping the development of textiles industry, in view;

(b) if so, what the total production of textiles is likely to be undertaken in the country and the quantum by which it will exceed the total production registered during the production year 2005-06; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(c) the percentage out of the said production earmarked for export and what will be this target as compared to present export?

Combining of mill and powerloom sector of textiles

†127. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to initiate a scheme for development of textile industry in the country combining mill and powerloom sector together;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the draft of the proposed scheme; and

(c) the benefits likely to be achieved on combining production units of above both sectors?

Projects for handloom weavers

128. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

propose to revive and rejuvenate handloom weavers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of their action plan;

(c) whether it is a Centrally sponsored project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the project would cover the entire needs of this sector in each cluster for supply of raw material, marketing support, upgradation of technology and welfare of the weavers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof with action plan to help the Orissa State to develop this sector?

Proposal to reduce duty on textile items

129. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though quota regime in textile sector being lifted, high rate of duty comes in the way of growth in the textile sector in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reduce duty on the textile items?

NEW DELHI;
The 17th November, 2005
Kartika 26, 1927 (Saka)

N.C. JOSHI,
For Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

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