

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the December 23, 2004/Pausa 2, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Coal and Mines; Communications and Information Technology; External Affairs; Labour and Employment; Ocean Development; Overseas Indian Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Science and Technology; Shipping, Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions — 155

Promotion of coir industry

2210. SHRISANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to promote coir industry through Coir Board in non-traditional zone;

(b) the steps taken to maximize husk collection in non-traditional zone; and

(c) whether Government propose to merge Coconut Development Board and Coir Board to maximize husk collection in general and non-traditional zone in particular?

Margin Money Scheme

2211. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) had launched Margin Money Scheme for

setting up agro based and rural industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of agro and rural industries assisted under the scheme during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

REGP in Tamil Nadu

2212. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:
Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any agro-rural industries in Tamil Nadu under Rural Employment Generation Programme during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the fund allocation;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to further promote these sectors in Tamil Nadu?

Cottage industries in Bihar

†2213. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cottage industries in the areas belonging to SCs/STs/most backward classes have to face host of problems in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in near future for the promotion of cottage industries;

(c) the number of small scale industries in Bihar at present, area-wise;

(d) whether Government have taken any initiative to boost up the setting up of small industrial units in the backward and tribal areas of Bihar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Industries set up under NPRI

2214. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural industrial clusters set up in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Rajasthan under the National Programme on Rural Industrialisation (NPRI);

(b) the financial assistance provided to these States under the said scheme and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the institutional arrangement made to implement NPRI in these States?

Funds for Khadi and Village Industries

2215. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds earmarked for

research and development for promoting Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) during the last three years and the outcome thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether Government intend to enhance allocation meant for R&D for KVI; and

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

Development of coir industries

2216. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coir Board has asked for Centre's help for development of this sector on the lines of Bamboo industry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this industry has immense potential in the international market; and

(c) if so, the details of the action plan of Government to develop this industry to generate additional employment and improve the economy of this sector?

Selection criteria of BARC Training School, Mumbai

2217. SHRI BHAGWATISINGH:
SHRI JANESHWAR
MISHRA:
SHRI NAND KISHORE
YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Engineering Graduates and Science Post-graduates have been interviewed this year for selection to training of OCES and DGFS at BARC Training School, Mumbai, for appointment of Scientific Officer 'C';

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether merit performance in written test and GATE score has been ignored for selected persons;

(c) if so, whether there is resentment amongst meritorious candidates against this selection criteria and have demanded removal of favouritism through written test by UPSC instead of interview by BARC; and

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

Fast Breeders Reactors

2218. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans for establishing fast breeder reactors for nuclear power generation in addition to the presently operating pressurized heavy water reactors;

(b) if so, the details of their number, the power capacity and the schedules for implementation;

(c) whether Government have plans for upscaling the present design of 500 MW power capacity of the fast breeder reactors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Power generation from atomic power

2219. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the States in which sites for power generation from Atomic Energy have been identified during the years 2001-04;

(b) whether any site has been identified in the State of Madhya Pradesh also, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if any site has been identified in Madhya Pradesh, the funds provided to the State for power generation from atomic energy since the year 2002?

New Atomic Power Plants

2220. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the wake of success of peace process initiated for cordial relations with neighbouring countries, the chances of use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes have brightened;

(b) if so, the quantity of atomic energy likely to be made available for use in medical purposes and production of power; and

(c) the details of new atomic power plant likely to be established in the near future, if any?

Completion of Kaiga Atomic Power Project

2221. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether technical snags are delaying the completion of Kaiga Atomic Power Project in Karnataka;

(b) the extent of overall cumulative physical progress on Kaiga Project achieved by the end of 2003; and

(c) the target dates for the plant to go critical?

Efficiency of Atomic Power Plants

†2222. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a very small

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

part of total power generation of the country is being produced from atomic energy;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor and the status of India as compared to other countries in power generation from atomic energy;

(c) whether efficiency of atomic power plants in the country is low; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to increase atomic power generation in the country?

Royalty on coal

2223. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal royalty was not revised on the due date in the year 2003, if so, the reasons for the same;

(b) the amount of royalty that the States lost from that year onwards, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) whether Government are considering to compensate the States for the losses sustained on that account?

Diesel consumed in Northern Coalfields Limited

2224. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and cost of diesel consumed monthly for running the heavy machines in Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL) Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware that diesel worth lakhs of rupees is being pilfered every month;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to conduct an enquiry in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Road map for coal sector

2225. SHRIDATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted an Expert Committee to carry out a comprehensive review and draw up a road map for the coal sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition and terms of reference of the Committee; and

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

Irregularities in the sale of coal

†2226. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to conduct C.B.I. investigation in the matter related to irregularities found in the sale of coal;

(b) if so, the comprehensive details of irregularities committed in the sale of coal; and

(c) the officials responsible for the said irregularities?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Coal linkage in Jharkhand

†2227. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to grant 'coal linkage' to the industries going to be set up in Jharkhand;

(b) whether any talks have been held with the Industry Minister of Jharkhand; and

(c) if so, the policy of Government in this regard?

Taking over of Coal Mines in Jharkhand by private companies

†2228. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to hand over some Coal Mines to the private companies;

(b) if so, the number of such mines in Jharkhand;

(c) the names of such private companies; and

(d) the present status thereof?

Deeming mines for captive use

2229. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of mines ore-wise held on lease to industries for captive use, for value addition without deeming the mines as captive and to others; and

(b) considering that there is a need for value addition within the country, whether Government would consider amending the laws to give priority to industries deeming mines for captive use?

Deposits of lower grade coal

2230. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disparity between the higher and lower grades of coal has increased disproportionately over the last three decades and more; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for applying correctives to ensure that States having deposits of lower grade coal are not discriminated against?

Import of coal

2231. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal Industry has become an ailing industry and as such coal is being required to be imported from other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps are being considered to improve the functioning of the industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Selling of coal by private parties

2232. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow private parties to sell coal in retail; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be finalized and implemented?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Postal service in every Panchayat

†2233. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for providing postal service in every Panchayat of country under which branch post-office, sub post-office or post-office would be set up;

(b) if so, by when it would be done, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the numbers of such Gram Panchayats at present, specially in Himachal Pradesh, which still do not have postal service facilities and by when these facilities would be provided in these Panchayats?

Modernisation of communication facilities in Maharashtra

2234. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand capacity of the existing telephone exchanges by providing modern communication facility in Maharashtra during the year 2003-04;

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

(c) the funds provided by Government for the said period?

Defacing of Indian websites by Pakistan

2235. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hacking or defacing of the Indian websites by Pakistan is on the rise;

(b) if so, the details of websites hacked by Pakistan during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the action Government have contemplated in this regard?

Failure of Speed Post Service

2236. SHRI V. HANUMANTHARAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the failure of the Speed Post Service in attracting adequate posts to obtain a good market share;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Speed Post Service did not earn a reputation for speed or reliability;

(c) whether any study has been done to obtain the causes of failure of the Speed Post Service in the country;

(d) what steps are proposed to ensure that the Speed Post Service becomes more efficient and reliable; and

(e) the details of measures proposed to improve the Speed Post Service?

E-Governance

2237. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated a pilot scheme for the spread of e-Governance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme related to e-governance has been launched/due to be launched in Tamil Nadu; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Dwindling telephone market share of MTNL and BSNL

2238. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether on account of strident promotion by private players of their services and products, the telephone market share of MTNL and BSNL is dwindling continuously;

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

(c) whether private players offer a number of added features at competitive rates in both fixed, wireless and mobile phones, which Government sector is unable to offer;

(d) if so, what measures are contemplated to win back the customers;

(e) whether MTNL, Delhi Telephone Directory has not been published for the last many years; and

(f) if so, by when it is likely to be issued?

Sale of BSNL recharge coupon in Karnataka

2239. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many BSNL prepaid coupons are being sold, on an average, every month in Karnataka;

(b) whether the BSNL has tied up with the Department of Posts to market its recharge coupons in Karnataka;

(c) if so, how many post offices have been selected for this purpose in Karnataka;

(d) how many of them are in Bangalore and in Bangalore rural district; and

(e) whether Government have any proposal to extend this facility to more post offices in other cities of Karnataka?

Development of postal service

2240. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the action taken to develop the business of postal services to make them more competitive and financially viable organisation?

Installation of mobile telephone tower in Jangla telephone exchange

†2241. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Mobile Telephone Tower in Jangla Telephone Centre in Distt. Shimla for the benefits of telephone subscribers of the said Telephone Exchange as the present Mobile Telephone Tower at Rohor does not cover the whole area completely;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Communication facilities in U.P.

†2242 SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is dearth

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of communication facilities in the rural areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh as compared to the urban areas;

(b) the details of existing communications facilities in the rural and urban areas; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to overcome the disparity between the rural and urban areas and further to extend the rural telecom facilities?

Contract between BSNL and Reliance

2243. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL and Reliance group of industries were given a contract for setting up community phones in 50,000 villages with support from the Universal Services Obligation (USO) fund;

(b) if so, whether any contract between Government and these companies have been signed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have identified 50,000 villages for the purpose; and

(e) if so, by when this project is likely to start?

E-Governance scheme for Madhya Pradesh

†2244. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the status of Madhya Pradesh is worse than the other states in the field of Information Technology development;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) the incentives being given and the assistance being made available by Government to Madhya Pradesh for promotion of e-governance; and

(d) the position of Madhya Pradesh in the field of Information Technology development as per the India E-Redinoirs Assignment Report, 2003?

Release of telephone connections in Bihar

†2245. SHRIMATI KUM KUMRAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the applicants for telephone connections in Bihar have not been provided with the connections even after three years since they deposited the security amount in advance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken by Government to provide early connections to the consumers waiting for the same?

Modernisation of telegram services in Uttar Pradesh

†2246. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for modernisation of telegram services in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) by when the task of modernisation of telegram services is likely to be completed in the State?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Delimitation of urban and rural areas

2247. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the BSNL is charging the rent prescribed to the urban sector from the subscribers residing in the rural areas of Kerala;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to rectify this anomaly; and

(c) whether Government are considering to review the existing unscientific delimitation of urban and rural areas in Kerala?

Opening of new post offices in U.P.

†2248. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices and branch post offices proposed to be opened in Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year, district-wise;

(b) the number of post offices opened in the urban and rural areas in the State during the last three years; and

(c) the necessary action taken by Government in the State for improvement of the postal services?

Software units registered with STPI in Hyderabad

2249. SHRINANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of software units, registered with Software Technology Parks

of India (STPI) as on this day in Hyderabad; and

(b) the details of their locations with their official addresses of their units and e-mail addresses of their units located in Hyderabad?

Concession to senior citizens

2250. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. is offering some concession in rent in the Bill of land line telephones owned by senior citizens, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the same concessions is not provided to senior citizens holding land line telephone connection of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. living in NCR town of Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad, if so, the details and justification for this discrimination when both telephone companies are Government undertaking?

Provision of land line connections in Jammu and Kashmir

2251. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile phone services are not available in various border areas of Jammu and Kashmir at present due to security reasons or otherwise;

(b) whether Government propose to provide adequate land line telephone connections in such areas in near future; and

(c) if so, the areas selected for the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

purpose and status of progress made to provide landline connections?

WLL and MARR based telephones in Uttaranchal

‡2252. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones based on WLL and MARR systems in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether there is any proposal regarding conversion of MARR system based telephones into WLL system; and

(c) if so, by when this work would be completed?

Submarine cable links

2253. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's international leased lines are five times more expensive;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that new submarine cable would bring 40-50 per cent annual price decline for international connectivity from India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

New policy for internet

2254. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had announced a new policy for the internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering on the concept of providing domain names in local languages on the lines of similar systems in China and Taiwan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Overcharging of rent in Gautam Budha Nagar

‡2255. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is charging monthly rent which is applicable to urban areas from all the 123 villages of Gautam Budha Nagar, instead of Rs. 120/- per month which is applicable to rural areas though the same have been declared as rural areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the General Manager, Telephones had made announcement regarding recovering Rs. 120/- as rent from the rural subscribers and the rent of two months had also been recovered at this rate; and

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

Cheaper ISD calls

2256. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the ISD facilitators are providing cheapest international calls to Europe, America, Singapore etc. at Rs. 4 to 5 per minute to the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government are also considering to provide cheaper call rates to the consumers through MTNL/BSNL like other telephone companies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

VRS in D.O.T.

2257. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to cut flab in Department of Telecommunication in view of distribution of its function to TRAI and other agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether VRS is being considered as one of the options to be made available to employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Distance selling on internet

2258. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to regulate the distance selling on internet; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any complaint has been received by Government in connection with distance selling; and

(c) what types of products/services are permitted/prohibited in distance selling?

Provision of PIJF cables

†2259. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the waiting list of telephone subscribers has gone upto two lakhs because of non-supply of PIJF cables as per the requirement; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide cable in sufficient quantity alongwith other equipments to provide telephone connections to expected subscribers and to clear the waiting list of subscribers?

Vacant posts in MTNL

†2260. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts under various categories in the Delhi and Mumbai Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited lying vacant as on the November 30, 2004;

(b) the details of steps Government/ Department have taken so far to fill in the vacant posts; and

(c) by when Government propose to fill in all the vacant posts?

Telephone on demand in Kerala

2261. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the waiting list of the consumers for the landline connections in Kerala, District-wise, as on the end of September, 2004; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to clear the waiting list and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.