

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the December 23, 2005/Pausa 2, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 155

Help to drought-hit regions

3352. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bail out drought-hit Rajasthan and other similarly placed regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the position of Orissa where some of the districts are facing drought like situation indicating the action plan of Government to help out this poverty stricken State as well?

Advisory to Andhra Pradesh for cropping pattern

3353. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent an Advisory to Andhra Pradesh Government to change the cropping pattern;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the State Government to this suggestion;

(d) whether more emphasis will be given to diversification of crops; and

(e) the details of extent of funding that will be given to the State to implement this Advisory?

Crop diversification project of Maharashtra

3354. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL
APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a crop diversification project, in view of droughts and crop failures, year after year for 3-4 consecutive years, and the distress sales and suicides resorted to by farmers;

(b) if so, the salient features of the crop diversification plan; and

(c) the Central Government's decision thereon?

Irrigated area under drip and sprinkler system

3355. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the approximate total irrigated area under drip and sprinkler system and the steps being taken to increase it;
- (b) the benefits of this system; and
- (c) the States where this modern irrigation is more popular and the details of work being done to take it to other States?

Drought in States

3356. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of the drought situation prevailing in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, consecutively for the past 3-4 years, the State Governments have requested for the Central Assistance for relief measures and for mitigating the hardships of the farmers;
- (b) if so, the demands, so made, during the last three years and the extent to which the same was met from the Calamity Relief Funds and the National Contingency Fund, State-wise; and
- (c) how it was related to the loss/damage to crops suffered in each State?

Popularising latest techniques

†3357. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made different provisions through different mediums to make the farmers of the country aware about the latest techniques of farming;

(b) if so, the details of these mediums and provisions;

(c) whether it is also a fact that inspite of the above efforts, 60 per cent farmers of the country are unaware about the latest techniques; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and whether Government have decided to make current measures more effective?

Standing Committee on Agriculture

3358. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed a separate Standing Committee on Agriculture for improving conditions of this sector;

(b) if so, whether this Committee would look into the root cause of farmers suicides and strive to alleviate poverty by providing them with better infrastructure;

(c) whether any suggestion has been made that Centre should invest in rural sector and make massive efforts to attract and retain youth in villages;

(d) within what time this Committee had submitted its report to Government; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement them?

Assistance to a dairy run by ladies in Rajasthan

†3359. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

one dairy being run by ladies which is situated in Nayala village of Rajasthan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the financial assistance had been provided to this dairy by Mr. Bill Clinton, the then President of U.S.A.;

(c) if so, the details of the funds given and its utilization; and

(d) the details of the progress made so far, at the said dairy and its actual status at present?

Employment generation in fisheries sector

3360. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fisheries sector in Orissa has good potential for employment generation;

(b) whether the Centre has extended any financial or physical help to this State to develop this sector to improve its economy; and

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

Livestock

†3361. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise/State-wise/Union Territory-wise total number of livestock in the country alongwith race-wise and year-wise details for the last three years in this regard;

(b) whether Government are aware that more than the authorized number of cattle, conceived cattle, milch cattle and looted/stolen livestock are being bought/slaughtered in the legally/illegally run

slaughter houses, the reasons for not taking action on these slaughter houses; and

(c) whether Government will put a ban on export of meat keeping in view the shortage of livestock in the country?

Assistance to fishermen housing scheme of Bihar

†3362. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that houses are not being constructed by Government for the fishermen in Bihar as half of the expenditure to be shared by State Government is not being given;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing full amount by the Central Government; and

(c) the details of the fund provided by Government for the construction of houses for fishermen in Bihar?

Agriculture Co-ordination Committee

3363. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has constituted a high level Agriculture Coordination Committee to focus on policy related matters and development in the farming sector;

(b) if so, the total members appointed in this Committee;

(c) whether the Committee will identify

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

key areas on agriculture that require fresh policy initiatives, outline follow up actions for policies adopted;

(d) the other aspects of the Committee that will be considered; and

(e) by what time the panel is likely to submit its recommendations?

Jakhu Fishery Harbour

3364. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested to grant Rupees 4148 lacs borne by it against 100 per cent Central assistance as the Central Government have accorded approval for Jakhu Fishery Harbour under 100 per cent Centrally Sponsored Scheme in May, 1993;

(b) whether the project was delayed because of late environmental clearance from Government and the State has spent too much; and

(c) whether Government are considering to give extra amount in accordance with the request of Gujarat?

Development of water-sheds in Andhra Pradesh

3365. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has sought for a sanction of Rs. 221.46 crores from the Central Government for development of water-sheds in Andhra Pradesh in view of the State having about 84,000 water bodies which have a direct linkage with poverty eradication;

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

(c) whether Government would sanction Rs. 221.46 crores at the earliest; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Soil erosion

3366. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of soil erosion is growing at an unacceptable rate in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the country's average soil erosion rate per hectare per annum and the present rate of soil erosion;

(c) Government's response thereto; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for solving the problem by implementing various programmes in the country?

Co-operative institutions

†3367. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of co-operative societies in gross agricultural loan was 60 per cent in 1990 which has now fallen down to 30 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to bring co-operative societies under the preview of Reserve Bank of India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the said societies would be brought under the single control of Reserve Bank of India; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) whether Government would make any special effort to ensure corruption-free and speedy loans to farmers by the cooperative societies?

Adaptation of agriculture to global warming

3368. SHRIMATI SUKHBUN KAUR:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study has predicted that global warming will adversely affect agriculture, bio-diversity, disease pattern and water availability in India;

(b) whether Pune based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and UK's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research have predicted that temperature increase by as much as 3 to 4 degrees in parts of Northern India and increase in rainfall by 10% to 30% will affect rain based agriculture and increase surface water availability over the basins of Ganga, Krishna and Godavari; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the strategy contemplated to meet the challenges?

Fund allocation for establishing Pesticides Residual Training Laboratory in Jaipur

†3369. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would sanction required funds for establishment of Pesticides Residual Training Laboratory at Durgapur, Jaipur in the year 2005-06; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Vacancies in National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bangalore

3370. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sanctioned posts, both clerical and technical, lying vacant in the National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bangalore; and

(b) the steps taken to fill up these posts?

Excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

3371. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many problems cropped up after the introduction of the Green Revolution, primarily due to intense use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, as per the country's reputed credit rating agency in its recent study called 'Insecticides/Pesticides-2005;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the higher dose of pesticides coupled with repeated uses increased the production cost of cotton cultivation manifold;

(d) if so, the comments of Government thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to set the situation conducive to farmers?

Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centre in West Bengal

3372. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

scheme to establish Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centre in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Growth rate of agriculture

3373. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for growth of agriculture during each of the last 3 years;

(b) the actual growth rate achieved during each of the last 3 years;

(c) the reasons for decline in growth rate of agriculture, if any; and

(d) whether any steps are proposed to be taken to boost the growth rate of agriculture?

Insurance claim cases with FISH COPFED

3374. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 249 cases of insurance claims covering the fishermen of Andhra Pradesh are pending with FISH COPFED, New Delhi since 1997-98;

(b) the reasons for this pendency; and

(c) by when all the cases will be settled?

Production of foodgrains and pulses

3375. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any scheme for increasing the production of foodgrains and pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount allocated to various States during each of the last three years for the implementation of the scheme and the achievements made in this regard?

Reforms in NAIS

†3376. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to make comprehensive reforms in the present National Agricultural Insurance Scheme by the end of 2006-07;

(b) if so, whether certain proposals have been formulated for reforms in the said Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Task Force for Co-operative Credit Structure Reforms

3377. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Chief Ministers and State Ministers of Co-operatives was held in New Delhi on 9th September 2005, regarding constitution of a Task Force for Co-operative Credit Structure Reforms;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Task Force;

(c) whether the Chief Minister and representatives of the Government of Maharashtra has made certain suggestions to revitalize the rural credit system, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decisions taken thereon?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Suicides in Maharashtra

3378. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers in Vidarbha in
Maharashtra who have committed suicide
since 2001, till date;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by
Government to alleviate their sufferings?

Private sector participation on extension and development of agriculture sector

†3379. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the
purpose of speedy development and
expansion in agriculture sector, the scheme
of providing economic incentive to private
sector has been implemented by
Government;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and
the institutes of private sector which have
been benefited under this scheme, till date;
and

(c) the amount of incentive that has been
sanctioned to these institutes till now?

Assistance to horticultural schemes of Goa

3380. SHRI SHANTARAM
LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme of horticulture
is being implemented in Goa;

(b) the names and essential features of
each of these schemes;

(c) the financial assistance available to
the farmers under these schemes;
and

(d) the total financial assistance given
so far?

Infrastructure for IDDP

3381. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the achievements of
Integrated Dairy Development Projects
(IDDP) in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and
Backward Areas are much below than
targeted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the areas selected under
IDDP have either very little or no
infrastructure in terms of animal husbandry,
dairying and even the general infrastructure
like roads, electricity and potable water
which are very essential for establishment
of dairy co-operative societies and
procurement of milk from these areas; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government
to make infrastructure available in these
areas and the quantum of funds being spent
for the purpose?

KVKs in Rajasthan

3382. DR. GYAN PRAKASH
PILANIA: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR has a policy of
opening a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in
each State;

(b) if so, whether KVKs have been
opened in all the districts of Rajasthan;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any request from the State

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government in this regard is pending with Government; and

(e) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

Drought assistance to Orissa

3383. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN
PANY
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 21 districts in Orissa are in the grip of drought due to deficit rainfall;

(b) whether the State Government has made a proposal for grant of financial relief for the affected areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with action plan of the Centre to help the State?

Training of personnel for Tuna Fishing

3384. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of institutes under Government to train personnel for Tuna Fishing per year;

(b) the number of such people trained during the last three years by Government institute called CIFNET;

(c) whether the turnout of persons from these institutes is very poor;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to review the entire gamut of training being done by CIFNET?

Price control and entry of new drugs

3385. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND

FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the present price control policy is preventing the entry of the new drugs;

(b) whether Government are considering to replace the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO) by an Act;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to that effect; and

(d) whether Government are also considering to make drugs available at reasonable prices, keeping in view the wholesale price index?

Revival of Durgapur Fertilizer Plant

3386. SHRI CHITTABRATA
MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports on the revival plan of Durgapur Fertilizer Plant with assured gas supply from GAIL;

(b) if so, the salient features of the revival plan;

(c) whether Government are considering the same; and

(d) if so, the expected time schedule to restart the plant?

Ensuring affordability of essential drugs

3387. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed after the year 2002 to ensure availability and affordability of essential drugs;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken for the above;

(c) the medicines from the list of essential drugs kept under the span of price control list of medicine;

(d) whether there is any proposal to develop different models to regulate prices of different category of drugs;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is any proposal to create a separate list of medicines for hospital supply that would not be subject to any price control; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Retail price of drugs

3388. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between the retail and wholesale prices of medicines;

(b) if so, whether any step has been taken to reduce the price gap between the wholesale and retail levels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when his Ministry is planning to take such steps?

Economically unviable units in pharmaceutical sector

3389. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central and several State Governments owned units in pharmaceutical sector have been manufacturing vaccines and life-saving drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating major formulations, drugs and vaccines in which the units have been engaged in;

(c) the details of units which are found to be economically unviable and those which are earning profit;

(d) the policies of Governments, if any, to improve viability of the sick units;

(e) the details of the Government owned units proposed to be closed down or privatized since 2000; and

(f) the measures proposed to ensure uninterrupted supply of vaccines, particularly those for mass-immunisation programmes, after their closure/ privatization?

Poor quality of phosphatic fertilizers

3390. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

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

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

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

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

Edible oil import

3391. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's edible oil imports rose 19 per cent to 46.3 lakh metric tonnes in the eleven months period ended

30th September, 2005 from 38.8 lakh tonnes a year earlier;

(b) whether India is world's third largest buyer of vegetable oils;

(c) whether the overall imports of refined oil is reported at 4,36,823 tonnes while crude oil is reported at 41,93,660 tonnes during November, 2004 to September, 2005;

(d) if so, the main reasons of high rise of import of edible oil and the steps Government propose to take to check this rise;

(e) whether several steps have been taken to reduce the oil imports in the country; and

(f) if so, to what extent edible oil production in India is likely to improve during 2005-06?

Relaxing specifications of paddy produce

3392. SHRIMATI SUKHBUN KAUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made relaxations in regard to specifications of paddy produce and announced new procurement prices of paddy this year; if so, the details of the relaxations and procurement prices of different varieties of paddy;

(b) the procurement so far made in Punjab and other States; and

(c) the total estimated amount of paddy procured, classification-wise this year, compared to corresponding figures with respect to last three years?

Approval of safety equipments by BIS

3393. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that safety equipments installed on buildings, airports, etc. are not approved by Bureau of Indian Standards in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for installation of such unapproved equipments; and

(c) when such equipments would be removed and approved equipments installed?

Liberalising retail trade sector

3394. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: SHRISANTOSHBAGRODIA:

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

(a) the reasons for which Government are emphasizing on liberalizing the retail trade sector in India; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to protect the livelihood of this huge section of people?

Black marketing of ration items by FPS holders

3395. SHRI R.K. ANAND: SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the people

living below poverty line are not getting the ration items forcing them to purchase the same from the open market at high prices; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take to check the black-marketing of ration items by fair price shop holders?

Export of oil seeds

†3396. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that oil seeds are being exported from the country;

(b) if so, the quantity of different types of oil seeds exported from the country in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) the percentage of this exported quantity in comparison to the gross production of each of the above period; and

(d) whether it is a fact that oil seeds production in the country is less than the requirement?

SDF loans

†3397. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a provision of Sugar Development Fund for

providing financial assistance for sugar development;

(b) if so, how much amount has been given as loan in the first six months of 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(c) the number of applications received for taking loan from the above fund during each of the above said period; and

(d) the number of applicants who were given loan out of the above applications in each of the above period and the purpose for which the loans were sanctioned?

Administrative expenditure under PDS

†3398. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that administrative expenditure is more under the targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether it is a also fact that to provide benefit of Re.1 to needy poor person, Rs.3.65 are spent;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(d) whether there exists a need to reduce the said expenditure and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

AAY allocation to Andhra Pradesh

3399. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Antyodaya Anna

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries in Andhra Pradesh as on 30th September, 2005;

(b) the details of quantity of rice being allotted every month by the Central Government towards distribution for each beneficiary and the rate at which they are distributed;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed in principle to bear the expenditure to the extent of transport and handling charges and fair-price dealers commission under the AAY scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Surge of world sugar prices

3400. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the world sugar prices are on the surge as cane is diverted for production of ethanol;

(b) whether Brazil has started exporting ethanol and is curtailing sugar production adding strain to world sugar market; and

(c) whether Government would permit sugar factories to switch over to ethanol production thereby jeopardizing PDS system?

Flexible Complementary Scheme for scientists

3401. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

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

(a) the details of the flexible

complementary scheme for scientists under his Ministry;

(b) whether the same is not being implemented properly in various research institutions of his Ministry;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are also aware that R&D activities are suffering badly due to non-implementation of this scheme in various research institutes, particularly in G.B. Pant Institute for Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora; and

(e) if so, the names of the scientists who have been denied the benefit under the said scheme during the last five years in the above said institute alongwith the reasons therefor?

Encroachment of forest area in Cardamom Hill

3402. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land in the Cardamom Hill area in the Idukki district of Kerala has been declared as reserve forest and whether the boundaries of reserve forest area have been clearly demarcated;

(b) whether any encroachment in that forest area has been brought to the notice of Government and the steps, if any, taken by Government for assigning land to encroachers; and

(c) whether Government accorded permission to the State Government to issue title deeds for the encroachers of Cardamom Hill resource area and if so, the details thereof?

Cleaning of Yamuna

3403. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently lashed out at Delhi Government for not cleansing Yamuna, if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) what action Government have since taken to clean and improve the surroundings of Yamuna;

(c) whether there is any representation to allow use of any space near Yamuna for housing or other construction activity; and

(d) whether Government have drawn any lesson from the Mumbai flood following use of land near Mithi River for construction activity?

Pollution spreading industrial units

†3404. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) the number of industries that were found to be guilty by the Pollution Control Committees of the State Pollution Control Boards in their review during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the names of these industries and action taken against them, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Central Government is not being informed by the State Governments about it; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for rehabilitation of employees affected by the closure/shifting of such units?

Development of forests in Tamil Nadu

3405. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted any project for the development of forests in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accorded approval to the said project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Plantation in Punjab

3406. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals received from the Government of Punjab under the scheme to encourage voluntary agencies for involving them in forest plantation work;

(b) whether any action has been taken thereon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Encroachment of forest land in Orissa

†3407. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large area of protected land reserved for village forest in K.B.K. area of Orissa has been encroached upon by the people;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures Government have taken to get rid of illegal encroachments; and
- (d) the results of these measures?

Construction of transmission towers across rivers

3408. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any representations have been received on the negative impact of construction of transmission towers across rivers in the Country;
- (b) if so, the details of such problems;
- (c) whether the River Conservation Programme has any policy which deals with the un-planned construction of power transmission towers in the lower reaches of rivers;
- (d) the steps proposed to ensure that rivers and their flows are not negatively affected by such un-planned construction;
- (e) whether any inspection has been done till date; and
- (f) if so, the details in this matter?

Recovery of Shahtoosh shawls

3409. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large quantity of Shahtoosh shawls, a restricted production of wool, have been recovered recently;
- (b) if so, the number of these shawls and the location thereof;
- (c) whether in spite of the forbidden instruction of Government, such shawls are being regularly produced and exported; and

- (d) if so, the reasons for negligence in execution of Government instructions and the action to be taken against those who are responsible for it?

Poshir Dam project

3410. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has asked for 760 hectares of forest land for the Poshir Dam project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the sanction would be given?

Amendment of CRZ notification

3411. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of States that have submitted amendment to the CRZ notification;
- (b) the nature of amendments proposed by each State;
- (c) whether the Government of Goa has proposed any changes; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government to the same?

Sewri-Nhava sea link

3412. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether with a view to reduce congestion on the island city of Mumbai,

the Government of Maharashtra had proposed a sea link connecting Mumbai to the mainland and recommended a Sewri-Nhava sea-link;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link Project and when the proposal was originally worked;

(c) the stages of approval and clearance gone through, so far, and at what stage the matter stands at present;

(d) the cost escalation, so far, incurred by the project and the revised cost thereof;

(e) the steps, so far, taken towards implementation of the project and by when it is likely to be completed; and

(f) whether it is to be implemented under the BOT System, if so, on what terms and the names of interested parties?

Pollution of Pushkar pond

†3413. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that millions of pilgrims take holy dip in the 'Sarovar' of 'Tirthraj Pushkar' every year and the water of this 'Sarovar' has become fully polluted and posing greater possibility of multiple diseases to the pilgrims taking holy dip therein;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal regarding erection of a water treatment plant at the Sarovar from the Government of Rajasthan in order to clean the water; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Plantation of mangroves

3414. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have identified 35 locations in the country for planting mangroves;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the locations thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have any scheme for protecting the existing mangroves; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Pollution free cities

3415. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to declare Tirupathi Tirumala as pollution free city;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Madurai and Kanchipuram will also be declared as pollution free cities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Iron ore mining at Kudremukh mines

3416. SHRI V. HANUMANTHARAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Empowered Committee has recommended that all iron ore mining operations at Kudremukh mines be closed down;

(b) what are the specific reasons advanced by the CEC for closing this mine (KIOCL);

(c) to what extent the mine was closed due to the presence of a sanctuary in its area;

(d) whether the CEC will also react

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

similarly to other areas where game sanctuaries are located; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Project from Arunachal Pradesh for approval

3417. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has sent some projects for approval to his Ministry;

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

(c) by when those environmental projects are likely to be cleared by Government; and

(d) the reasons for pendency?

Investigation against officers of IFS

†3418. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the officers of Indian Forest Service against whom investigation is being carried out or proposed to be carried out as on 31st October, 2005;

(b) the details of complaints against each of them;

(c) when this investigation started or is proposed to be started; and

(d) the details of suspended, expelled, demoted and punished officers with their names?

Noise pollution during night hours

3419. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had

some time back issued orders to Government to regulate the noise pollution in the country, particularly during night hours;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by Government to give effect to the directives of the Supreme Court?

Implementation of the report of Tiger Task Force

3420. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether action has been initiated to implement the recommendations of the report of Sunita Narain Tiger Task Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the financial resources to the extent of Rs.11,000 crores identified in the Task Force Report to relocate villages will be provided by Government over a period;

(d) whether Government propose to amend the criminal provision of the Wild Life Protection Act to combat poaching; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Change of climates

†3421. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the climate of the country is changing now a days;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to this change of climate, forests and lives of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

people and animals living in the forests are likely to be affected; and

(d) if so, the facts of the matter and the steps being taken by Government?

Release of forest land for development of pilgrim centres

3422. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to release forest land for the development of pilgrim centres which are located in forest areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Project reports for towns

3423. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka has submitted detailed project reports for 11 towns namely, Gokak, Bailhongal, Shahbad, Hospet, Gangavathi, Kanakapura, Yadgir, Dandeli, Siruguppa, Bagalkot and Madikeri involving a total outlay of Rs. 169.44 crores to the Central Government;

(b) if so, what is the present status of consideration of the proposals; and

(c) by when the funds are likely to be released?

Illegal sand mining

3424. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale illegal sand mining taking place in the beds of various inter-State,

State rivers in the Country, especially in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether it has resulted in the environmental degradation in the respective regions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any Central level mechanism to control illegal sand mining on the river beds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Tiger poaching in Simlipal reserve

3425. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the large scale tiger poaching in Orissa's Simlipal reserve, the largest tiger sanctuary of the State;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action to prevent the large scale poaching; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

Increase in Recorded Forest Area

3426. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Recorded Forest Area (RFA) had increased to 77474000 hectare in 2003;

(b) if so, the reason of such increase;

(c) the process by which land is notified as Recorded Forest Area (RFA);

(d) the break-up of this increase, district-wise; and

(e) the type of land use on this newly categorized Recorded Forest Area (RFA) prior to its declaration as RFA?

Perishing of birds due to flu

†3427. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of birds whose blood samples were sent for testing to the laboratory at HRDDL in Bhopal;

(b) whether blood samples of hundreds of birds killed in the sanctuary in Midnapore district in West Bengal were sent to the said laboratory situated at Bhopal;

(c) if so, the details of report thereof; and

(d) the details of measures taken for prevention of bird flu?

FPIs in Tamil Nadu

3428. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food processing industries in the country, State-wise, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government have sanctioned any new projects in the year 2004-05 and 2005-06;

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

(d) the number of project applications received/sanctioned and those pending during the last four years and thereafter, State-wise?

Scope of FPIs in States

†3429. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to ascertain the potential of food processing industries in the States;

(b) if so, the States where such potential exist and food items involved;

(c) the average production of the product used in those food items in those States; and

(d) the details of the assistance provided or steps taken to set up food processing industries in those States after ascertaining the potential?

Criminal cases against doctors

3430. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of criminal cases registered against erring doctors for sex selection and female foeticide in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) how many of them have been challaned during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) how many of them have ended in conviction during last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) what steps Government contemplate to take to put an effective check on such nefarious malpractices of unethical doctors?

Subsidy to iodised salt

†3431. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 16 crore people are suffering from the deficiency of iodine including 6 crore children in the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the steps Government propose to take to overcome the deficiency of iodine; and

(c) whether the iodised salt would be made affordable by providing subsidy?

Improving treatment and research

‡3432. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to formulate a scheme for improving treatment and research in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

Medicines from neem tree

3433. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across any fresh evidence on uses/ application of neem tree, its formulations and products made from the tree leaves etc. in more areas; if so, the details thereof indicating the areas of current application as well as the fresh ones;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tree has gained popularity in almost all countries of the world and if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the current position with regard to its patent achieved by Government?

Paramedical and Physiotherapy Council Bill

3434. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:
SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN
SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring the Paramedical and Physiotherapy Council Bill, 2005 in the ensuing session of Parliament;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same Bill was scheduled to be introduced in the last Session but in view of the representations expressing strong dissatisfaction by physiotherapists and MPs, the Bill was not introduced;

(c) whether Government have considered the suggestion of MPs and physiotherapists and propose to bring the Bill after incorporating the desired changes; and

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

TB prevention measures

3435. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tuberculosis remains one of the serious public health problem in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons died of this disease during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of persons presently affected by this disease;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps for the treatment of the patients;

(e) whether Government propose to

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

take any steps for total elimination of this dreaded disease on the lines of successful polio vaccine campaign; and

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

Primary Health Centres in Arunachal Pradesh

3436. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to improve the functioning of Primary Health Centres in the rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of schemes being implemented in the State?

Licencing of pathology laboratories

3437. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether authorities establishing pathological laboratories require to obtain permission/licence from the concerned Government agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof with number of laboratories issued licence during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian laboratories are now extending their pathological services to overseas clients/hospitals by getting the samples tested in the laboratories here and electronically dispatching the reports;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) what safeguards are taken in the disposal of the imported samples to ensure that they do not prove to be health hazards for India?

Stem cell research promotion

3438. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that stem cell is the future medicine;

(b) whether it is also a fact that various players in the world are very eager to invest in India in the field of stem cell research;

(c) the reasons for which Government are not quickening its pace on research in the field of stem cell research;

(d) whether any guidelines on ethics has been prepared in this respect; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Malaria medicine

†3439. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make malaria medicine more effective for eradication of the disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are carrying out research on this medicine; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Anti-tuberculosis and malaria vaccine

3440. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is developing vaccines against T.B. and malaria;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

was assured of foreign assistance to develop these vaccines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Cancer patients in the country

†3441. SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi, Bhopal and Bangalore have largest number of cancer patients in the country and primarily there are patients of gallbladder, tongue and food pipe cancer among these patients;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for prevention of cancer and the outcome thereof?

Banning ayurvedic medicines

†3442. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP
SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a ban has been imposed on Indian ayurvedic medicines by Canada, Britain and the European Union;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports appearing in the foreign media on high metallic content in the ayurvedic/herbal products being exported from India;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) whether any efforts have been made

by Government to retain the quality of ayurvedic medicines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Non-availability of specialists in various Delhi hospitals

3443. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that specialists are generally not available in emergency/casualty wings of Delhi hospitals, such as AIIMS, Safdarjung, RML, etc. resulting into deaths of accidental/serious patients; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to man these wings by experienced and competent doctors all the time to ensure timely and speedy medical aid to serious patients during golden hour to save their precious lives and miseries?

Neurological problems among prematurely born children

3444. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies has been initiated on the prematurely born children and their disabilities like cerebral palsy and neurological problems like seizures;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the number of such children born during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) the details of facilities available/proposed to be made available for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

rehabilitation of such children for education and employment; and

(d) the details of steps taken/propose to be taken for better medical facilities to such children?

Competency of Delhi hospitals to meet disaster situations

3445. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi hospitals are not ready to combat disasters;

(b) if not, the details of arrangements made by hospitals to combat disasters;

(c) how many mock drills were conducted by the hospitals during the last two years, hospital-wise;

(d) whether any guidelines have been circulated to the doctors regarding disasters, if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the hospitals that don't have Neuro-surgery Department and the measures taken to provide Neuro-surgery Department in each hospital; and

(f) whether it is also a fact that public are not aware of disaster wards in hospitals and what steps have been taken to educate them?

Deaths due to dengue in Delhi

3446. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons died of dengue during the last two years in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that anti-larval measures to check dengue were taken late by the MCD, NDMC and Delhi Cantonment Board during the year and if so, what action Government propose to take against the delinquent officers;

(c) the quantum of money collected from negligent home owners for dengue mosquito breeding; and

(d) the measures taken to stop occurring of deaths due to dengue in Delhi?

Cases against spurious medicine manufacturers

†3447. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered for spurious drugs/adulteration of drugs during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) how many prosecutions have been launched against the offenders and what is the challan percentage;

(c) what is the conviction percentage;

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the World Health Organisation reports which described India as major global producer of spurious drugs accounting for one-third of the world's fake drugs market;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what steps the Central and State Governments have taken/propose to take to improve the scenario?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Declining AIDS cases

3448. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent press reports that AIDS epidemic infections in India in 2004 was just 28,000 as against 6 lakhs in the previous year;

(b) if so, whether this huge reduction is attributable to multi-faceted measures adopted in creating awareness in public or whether there are other reasons therefor; and

(c) what was the projection of such cases in 2004 and how many such cases have come to light in the first three months of 2005?

Toll of lives by major diseases

3449. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the major diseases that took toll of lives showing the number of fatal cases during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken to control spread of such diseases; and

(c) the facilities provided to poor people for protection from diseases and for diagnosis of serious diseases?

Stem cell research

3450. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the discussions with policy-makers and science-administrators in Singapore and South Korea on the prospects for collaboration in the area of

stemcell research were held at the Ministerial level, recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed in the meeting;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether India had set objective to emerge as a global hub for stemcell research;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government have initiated the process of mutual recognition of doctors, nurses and dentists under the recently signed India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement; and

(g) if so, the complete details thereof?

Cardio vascular diseases among urban population in Delhi

3451. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study by the Indian Council of Medicinal Research in collaboration with the cardiology department of All India Institute of Medical Sciences revealed that the urban population in Delhi is more prone to cardio vascular diseases than its rural counterparts as the former is more prone to the risk factors in comparison to the latter;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the changing lifestyle and habits are the contributory factors to this growing menace among the urban populace; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the situation among the urban population by introducing novel methods?

**Unani dispensary in CGHS
dispensary, R.K. Puram**

3452. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CGHS dispensary, Sector 12, R.K. Puram, New Delhi has no laboratory and Unani dispensary;

(b) whether it is also a fact that three years have passed since the construction of CGHS building wherein a floor has been allocated for laboratory, unani and specialist doctors;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in establishing the laboratory, unani dispensary and visit of specialist doctors in the dispensary; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for this delay?

Shortage of neuro-surgeon

3453. SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:
SHRI JANESHWAR
MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of neuro-surgeons in the country;

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

(c) the details of measures which are contemplated to encourage medical colleges to start higher courses in neurology and encourage more and more students to specialize in the subject?

**Resistance attained by parasites
against anti-malaria drugs**

3454. SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing anti-malaria drugs are proving to be ineffective as the parasite has developed resistance to the drugs;

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

(c) whether Government are considering to introduce a combination of drugs to contain malaria in the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

**MCI's measures to prevent
manipulations**

3455. SHRIMATI VANGA
GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has inspected any private medical college in regard to curbing manipulations in recruiting faculty during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of such inspected colleges, State-wise;

(c) the action taken against the colleges that have not conformed to the recruitment rules;

(d) whether the MCI officials were planning to put the names and photographs of all faculty members of Government colleges in a website to prevent manipulations; and

(e) if so, the progress achieved, so far, in this regard?

HIV infected children

3456. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that studies in 2001 revealed that 30 per cent of children born to HIV positive mothers also suffered from it;

(b) if so, by when Government propose to introduce Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) facilities in all the 23000 primary health centres in the country; and

(c) how far the role played by voluntary counselling and testing centres in India has resulted in non-affecting of the children from HIV positive mothers?

Long wait for heart surgery

†3457. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heart patients have to wait for ten to twelve months for their surgery in Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures Government are taking to solve the problem?

Mushrooming of pathology labs

†3458. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pathology laboratories have mushroomed in India during the last five years;

(b) whether Government propose to constitute a regulatory board to control them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Financial help to States for upgradation of trauma centres

3459. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to provide financial assistance to the States/ Union Territories to augment and upgrade accident and emergency services in selective State Government hospitals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a provision of Rs. 110 crores has been made in the Tenth Five Year Plan for this purpose; and

(c) if so, how far this proposal has been implemented?

Reviewing NACO

3460. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the slow pace of functioning of National AIDS Control Organization (NACO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have asked some renowned organizations like — IIM, Ahmedabad and Bangalore, John Hopkins University, Tata Consultancy Services and Mckinsey to review and assess India's premier AIDS control agency;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) by when the report of these organizations is likely to be received;

(f) whether it is a fact that NACO lacks professionalism; and

(g) if so, the measures taken by Government to improve the situation?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Causes for increase in dengue cases

‡3461. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of patients suffering from dengue is on the rise for the past three months in National Capital Territory, Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of cases of dengue reported, so far, alongwith the number of dengue patients in other States;

(c) the details of patients who have died of this disease; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that for lack of proper arrangement in hospitals in Delhi, the patients of dengue have died in a large number?

New guidelines for processed food items

3462. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry proposes to make it mandatory for the manufacturers of processed food items to mention the details of the ingredients on the labels including the fat content and the technique used in its manufacture and storage; and

(b) if so, the details of the new rules and when they are likely to be implemented?

Infectious injectible medical equipments

‡3463. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to repeated use of injectible medical equipments in almost all the Government and private hospitals/clinics in the country,

the increasing incidents of serious infections like AIDS is becoming alarming day by day;

(b) if so, whether this fact has come to light after conducting a survey of several hospitals in Delhi and Mumbai in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would consider to check this practice by assisting the States?

AIIMS like institutions in States

3464. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up six AIIMS like institutions in the country;

(b) the funds allocated and incurred, so far, on each of the proposed institutions;

(c) whether Government have received proposals from various State Governments for establishing one such institution in their States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Abuse of analgesic capsules in North Eastern States

3465. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UNAIDS Chief has expressed concern over abuse of analgesic capsule, Spasmoproxyvon in the North Eastern States which causes capillaries and veins blockage, which ultimately lead to amputation; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to reduce its misuse and make it less widely available in the North East?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Killer germ 'Leptospirosis'

3466. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the deluge in monsoon this year in Mumbai and other parts of the Maharashtra, the State, especially Mumbai, faced an epidemic of leptospirosis;

(b) if so, the number of reported leptospirosis cases in and around Mumbai during August and September this year;

(c) the Central aid, if any, sought and given to prevent the epidemic from spreading and to control the situation;

(d) whether the said epidemic also spread in other parts of country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Health melas in Parliamentary Constituencies

†3467. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 2003-04, his Ministry had taken a decision to organise health melas in each Parliamentary Constituency;

(b) if so, in how many Parliamentary Constituencies these health melas were organised in that particular year;

(c) whether any assessment of the utility of these melas was done;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether this decision will be continued to be implemented in the future?

Rural Health Mission

†3468. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of basic facilities to be extended to the rural areas under the Rural Health Mission;

(b) whether priority under this scheme will be accorded to those States where there is acute shortage of basic health facilities;

(c) the salient features of this scheme; and

(d) the amount allocated for this scheme State-wise and the manner in which it is being spent?

Implementation of findings of railway accidents enquiry report

3469. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision to implement the findings of railway accidents enquiry report;

(b) whether any vulnerable bridges are identified in Kerala sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how many rail overbridges are under construction in Kerala sector at present and the time by which those are likely to be completed?

De-licencing of slaughter houses

†3470. DR. SWAMI SAKSHI JI MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cattle being slaughtered everyday by slaughter houses being run illegally or by getting licence from

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government and whether Government are aware that the cattle in a number exceeding that authorised, alongwith cow slaughter and also those which are healthy, milch and conceived are also being slaughtered by slaughter houses and the details of action taken by Government in this regard; and

(b) the reasons for not cancelling the licences of slaughter houses by Government even though looted/stolen livestock including cows are being bought and slaughtered by slaughter houses?

Pantry cars in trains

†3471. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of long distance express trains in which pantry cars are not attached; and

(b) the number of trains in which pantry cars will be attached during current financial year?

Internet facilities in trains

3472. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways is seriously thinking of providing internet facilities in trains;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that some tests were conducted in some of the trains in the Northern Railway; and

(d) if so, the result of the tests?

Internet ticketing system

3473. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cities that have been covered under internet ticketing system in the country by IRCTC, State-wise;

(b) whether his Ministry is thinking of extending internet ticketing facility to other cities;

(c) if so, the details of cities that Government are thinking of extending the facility to, in the year 2005-06; and

(d) what are the other steps that his Ministry is taking to decongest serpentine queues at the passenger reservation systems?

CNG engines

3474. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways has developed and tested a kit with which diesel engines can run on CNG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when the commercial run of CNG engines is likely to take place; and

(d) what is the cost variation between CNG and diesel run engines per 100 kilometer?

Status of surveys/projects in Punjab

3475. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of surveys/projects going on in Punjab;

(b) the progress made in regard to these surveys/projects; and

(c) the time by which these projects/surveys are likely to be completed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Railway overbridge at Maheshkunt,
Khagariya**

‡3476. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the railway overbridge from PWD to NH-31 Maheshkunt, Khagariya in Bihar has not yet been completed;

(b) if so, by when it would be completed;

(c) if not, the reasons for not commencing the work; and

(d) the comprehensive details thereof?

**Connecting Siwan district by
Rajdhani Express**

3477. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no Rajdhani Express connecting Siwan District *via* Gorakhpur resulting in unexpected delay to the passengers of this area;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to connect the Siwan Junction by any Rajdhani Express; and

(c) if not, the reason behind not connecting this junction by Rajdhani Express?

**Progress of ongoing projects in
Southern Railway**

3478. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether progress of ongoing projects in Southern Railway is not

satisfactory due to poor fund allotment by his Ministry as pointed out by the Standing Committee on Railways;

(b) whether for nine ongoing gauge conversion works, the zone needed Rs. 500 crores, but only Rs.125 crores have been sanctioned;

(c) if so, what were other reasons put forward by the Standing Committee in its report on poor funding on Southern Railway projects;

(d) to what extent its recommendations have been accepted; and

(e) what are the steps being taken to complete those projects which have been incomplete due to fund allotment?

Sanction of road over railway bridge

3479. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider early sanction of road over railway bridge, the flyover at Kaleshwara Rao Market, Vijayawada, on cost sharing basis as Vijayawada, Guntur, Tenali, Mangalgi, Urban development Authority Vijayawada has taken up the construction of road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 312 (T) at kms 427/25-27 near Kaleshwara Rao Market between Krishna Canal Station and Vijayawada station;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Production capacity of ICF
and RCF**

3480. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that for growing demand of coaches due to introduction of several trains in the past, the manufacturing capacity of coach manufacturing units has to be increased;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to enhance the production capacity of ICF and RCF; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Attachment of Nanded division with Central Railway

3481. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is persistent demand of the State Government of Maharashtra, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, as well as of the public in Marathwada region that Nanded Railway Division should be attached to Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this public demand will be fulfilled by Government?

Accidents at unmanned railway crossings

3482. SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the accidents occurred at unmanned railway crossings out of total accidents;

(b) the total loss suffered by the

Railways due to the accidents occurred at unmanned railway crossings in the country; and

(c) the estimated cost to be incurred on the construction of over bridges over each of these crossings?

Damage to bridges and rail tracks due to floods

†3483. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has made any assessment of damage to bridges and rail tracks due to floods in the year 2004 and 2005;

(b) whether bridges and rail tracks are inspected prior to rains; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Heritage on wheels

3484. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to start soon a new train "Heritage on Wheels" on the lines of "Palace on Wheels" in collaboration with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC);

(b) if so, the areas that would be covered by the new train, the details of agreement between the two partners in the venture, the nature of comfort proposed to be provided to the passengers, and the tariff therefor; and

(c) by when the train is likely to start?

Pending accident claims

3485. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accident claims

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

pending as on 1st December, 2005 with each of the Zonal Railway Claims Tribunals;

(b) the number out of them pending for over one year after completion of all formalities by the claimants, zone-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in the disposal of such claims; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken for their final disposal expeditiously?

Quality of food served in southbound trains

3486. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quality of food served in southbound trains is below standard;

(b) the number of complaints received in this regard from July, 2005 till date particularly in Karnataka Express;

(c) the action taken on such complaints; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to improve the quality of food on this train and other southbound trains?

Laying of new railway line from Nanjangud to Gundlupet

3487. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been done to lay new railway line between Nanjangud to Gundlupet in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the estimated cost for the proposed new railway line;

(c) whether the above work has been taken up during 2005-06; and

(d) if not, when it would be taken up?

E-ticketing

3488. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is thinking of introducing E-ticketing print-a-ticket to travel in some of the trains from 5th November, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of this innovative scheme; and

(c) how this would help the passengers to get tickets very easily?

Janshatabdi between Mumbai and Ratnagiri

†3489. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people of Ratnagiri and Savantavari in the Konkan region have put a demand before Government to start a fast train like Janshatabdi only between Mumbai and Ratnagiri;

(b) whether Government will start any new Train only for the people of Ratnagiri and what will be the weekly schedule of this train; and

(c) if so, by when this new train is likely to be started?

Rail density

†3490. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rail density in various States of the country;

(b) the efforts made by Government to increase Rail density in the States where it is very low as compared to other States;

(c) whether there is any specific

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

programme to increase density in the areas/
States having very low density?

Discount on loading of goods

3491. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite
improvement in turn-around time of
wagons and the cost advantage it offers,
the Railways have still not found enough
goods to carry in its wagons;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railways
have decided to extend 15 per cent discount
on loading till November, 2006; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this kind of a
situation?

**Doubling of Lucknow-Varanasi rail
line**

†3492. SHRI DARA SINGH
CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of
RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of doubling of
railway track between Lucknow and
Varanasi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present
work is running far behind schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the
steps taken to remove hurdles coming in
the way of availability of funds; and

(d) by when the doubling work would
be completed?

Modernisation of stations in Assam

3493. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH
SHARMAH: Will the Minister of
RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations
modernised in the State of Assam during
the last three years;

(b) the details of funds allocated,
released and utilised for this purpose during
this period; and

(c) the number of railway stations
proposed to be modernised in the State
during the current year?

**Cost of road overbridges and
underbridges**

3494. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the
Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has
been a demand to meet 75 per cent of the
cost of road over and under bridges for their
early completion by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Railways had agreed to
meet 75 percent cost of the above works?

Internet connected call centres

3495. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the
Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways
propose to set up internet connected call
centres in all the State capitals to provide
information to passengers on all matters
relating to train operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would be a round-the-
clock service in the country;

(d) whether Railways also propose to
open cyber cafes at railway stations across
the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating
those that would be opened in the Orissa
State?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Laying of three new rail lines in North Orissa

3496. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY;
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Eastern Railway proposes to lay three new rail lines in North Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have given clearance for conducting survey of these lines; and

(d) if so, the time frame within which these projects would be taken up to speed up development of this backward region?

Trains from India to Pakistan and Bangladesh

3497. DR. KARAN SINGH;
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways plans to run trains between India and Pakistan from January, 2006;

(b) whether Railways is also considering to run container traffic and passenger trains between India and Bangladesh;

(c) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached with Pakistan and Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, what are the main points of the agreement and to what extent it will be helpful for all the three countries?

Allocation of outlay for railway safety

3498. DR. K. MALAISAMY;
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation for railway safety for the last three years and how much was spent for safety alone and how much was diverted for other purposes;

(b) the reasons for such diversion in violation of financial discipline;

(c) the vacancies available under safety category for the last three year and what is the percentage shortage of manpower in the category of drivers; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there has been a substantial shortfall in training safety category of staff?

Reporting of cases of accidents by zonal railways

3499. DR. K. MALAISAMY;
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is under reporting of cases of accidents by zonal Railways to Railway Board who in turn again under report from the report received, to the Parliament;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that while the Commission of Railway Safety was enquiring into all serious accidents, only 5 to 6 per cent of the cases alone were enquired into;

(d) whether important safety aids identified and recommend by various

committees have been implemented;
and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Second India-Pakistan rail link

3500. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian
Railways is planning to cover Second
India-Pakistan link by next year connecting
Indian village of Mannabau in Rajasthan
and a small town Kokrapur in southern
Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what are the modalities worked
out for safety of the passengers in view of
the terrorism prevailing in the border areas ?

Ajmer-Pushkar railway lines

†3501. SHRI LALIT KISHORE
CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of
RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress regarding Ajmer-
Pushkar railway line;

(b) by when this work is targeted to be
completed;

(c) whether there is any proposal under
consideration to extend this work upto
Medta City; and

(d) if so, the action being taken in this
regard?

Averting disaster by alert night patrolmen

3502. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that alert night
patrolmen have averted the disaster of
Ananthapuri Express and other
southbound trains between Kattur and

Pullampadi railway stations in early hours
on Thursday, the 24th November, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government are going to reward
the patrolmen?

Passengers travelling on fake ticket

†3503. SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of
RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which
passengers were found travelling on fake
railway tickets during the last eight months;
and

(b) the number of persons prosecuted
for the offence of travelling on fake railway
tickets?

Consumption and export of iron-ore

3504. SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:

SHRI CHITTABRATA
MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased
to state:

(a) the production, consumption and
export of iron-ore during the last three
years; and

(b) the projected consumption and
export of iron ore during the next three
years?

Coal crises with sponge iron industry

3505. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the country's sponge iron
industry, the largest in the world with an

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

annual production of ten million tonnes and accounting for 17.84 per cent of global production, is affected due to coal crises;

(b) whether 54 per cent of sponge iron produced here is coal based while 45 per cent is gas based;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to help the industry which is in group of coal prices;

(d) whether any concrete proposal has been worked out in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the industry has come out of the group?

Expansion of VSP

3506. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the expansion plans of Vizag Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the main proposals of the plans;

(c) the amount involved in each expansion plan; and

(d) by what time, they are likely to be completed?

NEW DELHI;
The 17th December, 2005
Agrahayana 26, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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