

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the March 24, 2005/Chaitra 3, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Coal; 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; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions — 155

Letter received from NAC

†2471. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister's office has received a letter regarding way of functioning of Centrally sponsored schemes from National Advisory Council;

(b) if so, the date of receiving the above letter and the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government for the implementation of these suggestions?

Industries established by KVIC in Uttar Pradesh

†2472. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of units proposed

to be established in Uttar Pradesh, specially in Eastern Uttar Pradesh by Khadi and Village Industries Commission during the existing plan period and the number of persons proposed to be employed;

(b) whether any target has been fixed to set up industries in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in order to provide employment in these States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

New policy for ARIs

2473. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to formulate a new policy of Agro and Rural Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rural industrial units in Uttar Pradesh

2474. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rural industrial units are established under the National Programme on Rural Industrialisation in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) if so, the amount of fund allocated for the purpose and the outcome so far?

REGP in Jharkhand

2475. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps taken, if any, for promotion of Khadi Gramodyog in the State of Jharkhand under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) since its inception;
- (b) the details of projects financed, including their types, under REGP during the last three years and the job opportunities generated by them *vis-a-vis* target, district-wise; and
- (c) the target fixed for 2004-05 and 2005-06?

Target for generation of atomic energy

2476. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have attained the capability to indigenously build and operate nuclear reactors;
- (b) if so, whether Government have plans to set up such reactors in the country;

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the target set for the generation of atomic energy during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Fast Breeder Reactors Programme

2477. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any plan to build Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR) in the near future;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposed programme relating to FBR; and
- (c) the importance and application of the FBR programme for developmental activities?

Mineral deposits on the coast of Tamil Nadu

2478. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that richest deposit of fine minerals had been brought to the coast of Nagapattanam in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) how much percentage of Tamil Nadu coast has been reported to have received new mineral deposits; and
- (c) the steps Government propose to protect these mineral deposits on the East and West coast of the country after the Tsunami disaster?

Setting up of atomic power project in Rajasthan

†2479. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey had been

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

conducted at any place apart from Rawatbhata in Rajasthan for production of electricity from atomic power; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether on the basis of above survey, possibility of setting up atomic energy centre near Mahi Bajaj Sea in Banswada district had been expressed; if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) whether the possibilities of conducting any survey for setting up atomic project station at any other place in Rajasthan is also being explored?

Allotment of coal to brick kilns

2480. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to allot coal to brick kilns all over the country;

(b) what is the present policy with regard to allotment of coal to brick kilns in different States;

(c) whether any representations have been received in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that coal is being leaked to brick kilns in different places without proper authorisation; and

(e) the steps proposed to examine the policy with regard to supply of coal for rural based industry?

Shortage of coal

2481. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of coal in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated demand of coal for running power plants in the country; and

(d) the steps being taken to import coal for power plants of NTPC?

Sale of coal

2482. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to permit sale of coal produced during the development of mines;

(b) if so, whether this coal would be sold at Government administered prices; and

(c) in what manner the price would be determined?

Verification of ex-servicemen engaged in coal transportation

†2483. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the company-wise number of ex-servicemen engaged in transportation of coal produced by the Coal India Ltd.;

(b) the company-wise number of ex-servicemen found genuine and fictitious after their verification by the Ministry of Defence;

(c) the total quantity of coal transported by them; and

(d) the quantity transported by fictitious ex-servicemen out of that and the details of the action taken against them?

Rates of overloading and transportation

†2484. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates of overloading and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

transportation in Deepka/Gevra under SECL for former soldier companies have been fixed on the basis of recommendation of the Price Water House;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the capacity of loader and teeper assessed by Price Water House and how it can be compared with the actual loading and transportation during the last year;

(d) if higher, to what extent together with the difference in fixation of rates as a result thereof;

(e) the losses suffered by SECL as a result thereof in one year; and

(f) the details thereof?

Import of coal for NTPC projects

2485. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Talcher and Rihand projects of NTPC have been allowed to run partly on imported coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether domestic collieries are not in a position to meet the demand of these projects; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Problem on account of unsolicited calls

2486. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

telephone subscribers are facing problems on account of unsolicited calls being made for loans, credit cards, etc.;

(b) whether Government are bringing a legislation to stop such unsolicited calls to the telephone subscribers;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Provision of landline connections

2487. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people who have applied for landline connections and are awaiting it;

(b) the reason behind the delay in installing the landline telephones; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to expedite the process?

Pension to employees absorbed in MTNL

2488. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed in principle, to pay the pension to Government employees absorbed in MTNL and opted for Government pension;

(b) if so, whether the necessary notification has been issued to that effect; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Electronic and hardware policy

2489. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated electronic and hardware policy;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the policy; and
- (c) in what manner the policy ensures strong linkage between industry and universities to boost R & D?

Modernisation of postal services in Chhattisgarh

†2490. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any action plan for the development and modernisation of the postal services in the urban and rural areas of Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the funds allocated for the expansion programmes of the postal services in the urban and rural areas of the State?

Teledensity in Jharkhand

2491. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of telephone exchanges in Jharkhand, indicating existing capacity

of each and exchanges which are earmarked to be upgraded alongwith their time-frame, if any;

- (b) whether BSNL mobile phone connections are available on demand in Jharkhand; if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of post-paid and pre-paid mobile telephone connections of BSNL in Jharkhand;
- (d) the present status of availability of landline telephone in the State;
- (e) whether teledensity in Jharkhand is much below the national average; and
- (f) if so, the steps contemplated for its augmentation?

Ban on unsolicited telemarketing

2492. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the growing demand for a total ban on unsolicited telemarketing menace from credit card companies infringing the privacy of cellular phone subscribers;
- (b) whether leading banks, mostly in private sector, have been accused of accessing illegally the data on mobile phone users (also landline phone users) to sell their credit cards and personal/auto home loans for making such calls on cellular phones; if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Cellular Operators' Association of India has agreed to enforce such a ban; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Communication facilities in rural areas

†2493. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to provide communication facilities in the rural areas?

Early warning system under Global Earth Observation Satellite System

2494. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instead of being part of a global network for establishing a Tsunami early warning system under the UN umbrella or the International Global Earth Observation Satellite System (GEOSS) under the US leadership, India plans to go on its own;

(b) if so, whether for a reliable and robust timely warnings, monitoring and tracking over a large geographical area would be essential; and

(c) the details thereof?

Control on different rates of cellular and WLL telephones

2495. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI HARISH RAWAT: SHRI R.K. ANAND: SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the different rates by different cellular and WLL service providers in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the control Government have on such rates?

Cyber Crimes

2496. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: SHRI RAJU PARMAR: SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that present Information Technology Act, 2000 is inadequate to deal with cyber crimes in the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to amend the law immediately;

(c) whether Government are aware that newest cyber logs such as webcam, cell phone, cameras and digicoms are playing havoc in Indian society preferably in schools and colleges; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to play various loopholes in the law so as to bear cyber logs in Government schools and institutions?

Telephone facilities in rural areas

†2497. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fund was set up few years back for accelerating the pace of providing telephone facilities in rural areas by charging five per cent tax on gross revenue from telephone operators;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the amount deposited in the said fund till December, 2004; and

(c) the average amount deposited annually in this fund during last years and the average amount withdrawn and spent from this fund on telephone facilities in rural areas?

Reform in telecom services

†2498. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had made recommendation several times for reforms in telecom services in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the names of organisations for which recommendations were made to effect reforms in telephone services during the year 2002-03 till date alongwith the dates when these recommendations were made;

(c) whether the reforms have been implemented in the services on the basis of these recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the authority responsible for the implementation of reforms in services?

Indifferent attitude of BSNL in North-Eastern Region

2499. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

BSNL is not giving contract licenses to unemployed educated youths in the North-East ignoring unemployment issue amongst the educated youths;

(b) whether it is a fact that such youths are not having any earlier working certificates in this regard, for which they are being ignored;

(c) in what manner Government propose to solve the unemployment problems amongst the educated youths of B.S.N.L.; and

(d) whether the CGM, Assam circle is not aware about the indifferent attitude on the part of BSNL which is hurting the sentiments of the local youths?

Losses due to SIM cards

2500. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cellular companies are causing national loss of crores of rupees to Government by allowing the SIM cards for illegal communications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken action against any cellular company;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Tie-up with private courier companies

2501. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Post have made any efforts to tie-up with private courier

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

companies to deliver courier letter to distant villages in the country;

(b) whether any such discussion had taken place;

(c) if not, the reasons for this neglect of potential business;

(d) whether it is a fact that the postal services have not shown any ability to learn from other similar Service Providers in the country; and

(e) the steps proposed by Government to direct the India Post to improve its business instincts and become a self-sustaining activity?

Development of postal communication services in backward areas

2502. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for expansion and development of postal communication service network in the backward districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of such districts;

(c) the details of financial allocation made for this purpose; and

(d) the details of target set in this respect?

Non payment of amount by Lucknow Post Office

†2503. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accurate and necessary information and whole amount of interest on the amount deposited is not

being given by post office saving bank at G.P.O. Lucknow (U.P.) and customers are being harassed;

(b) whether any complaints have been received from the public and M.Ps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government on the same and the concrete steps taken or being taken for solving this problem?

Infrastructure development in Gurgaon

2504. 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 city of Gurgaon in Haryana has been declared ahead of other cities in Information Technology and infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it will provide jobs to the educated youth and the procedure adopted for giving employment?

Provision of telephone connections in the villages of Bihar

†2505. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the State of Bihar having telephone facilities as on date, district-wise;

(b) the number of those villages where the said facility could not be provided so far; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the necessary steps to be taken by Government in this regard?

Jobs in IT sector

†2506. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of jobs in the IT sector has been increased during the year 2004-05; and

(b) if so, the details of the Indian as well as the foreign companies providing jobs in the IT Sector?

Regional I.T. Training Centres

†2507. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a regional I.T. Training Centre in the U.S.A.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of countries wherein such centres have been established alongwith the purposes thereof?

Opening of new Post Offices in Gujarat

2508. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the details of new Post Offices proposed to be opened in Gujarat during the current financial year, location-wise and district-wise?

C.V.C. probe into construction by MTNL

2509. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an enquiry through the Central Vigilance Commission has been set-up to probe the expenditure incurred for the Training Centre and for the Hostel constructed by the authority of MTNL;

(b) if so, whether Government have received the report of the CVC;

(c) if so, whether any action has been initiated on the receipt of CVC; if so, the details thereof; and

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

Review of IT Act, 2000

2510. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference of the Expert Panel set up to review the Information Technology Act, 2000 and were the compulsion of Government to set up this Panel when the Act was promulgated only four years ago;

(b) whether any structural deficiencies in the Act or lack of foresight of variegated issues relating to e-governance and cyber laws, off shoring clients raising questions about India's data-protection laws, etc. at that point of time in 2000; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that all relevant associations/NGOs etc. are taken into confidence by the Expert Panel?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Electronic waste

2511. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that within the next few years, electronics waste or e-waste is also going to become a major issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by Government in this regard?

Cheating with consumers by Reliance India

†2512. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in mobile service of Reliance Company billing starts as soon as number is dialled;

(b) whether consumers have been made aware of this process of Reliance Company;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether this is not a kind of cheating with consumers; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

Harassment to telephone subscribers

2513. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that telephone subscribers are being harassed by the mobile service providers and telemarketers by making unwanted calls;

(b) if so, whether Government are formulating any scheme to safeguard the privacy of the subscribers along with details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Interest on RD and MIS

2514. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether post offices are paying an interest of 9% on deposits of Senior Citizens quarterly and so the banks also;

(b) whether Monthly Income Schemes of Post Offices were paying 9% interest earlier; and

(c) whether Government propose to pay 9% interest to Senior Citizens on RD and MIS too and if not, the reasons therefor?

Unsolicited calls

2515. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to bring a legislation prohibiting cell phone companies and banks from giving out user's personal data to other companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are aware that unsolicited calls are considered to be an invasion of privacy and are dealt with strictly in USA and other countries; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to curb unsolicited calls in India?

Pak help to Japan for Security Council Seat

2516. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has favoured Japan for UN Security Council's permanent seat instead of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons why Confidence Building Measures could not persuade Pakistan to support India for UN Security Council Seat?

Asia Pacific Relation Conference organised by ICWA

2517. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of World Affairs had organized Asia Pacific Relation Conference in New Delhi in 1997 to commemorate the completion of 50 years of Historic Asian Relations Conference 1947 organised by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru;

(b) the number of foreign and Indian delegates that attended the Conference from Asian and other countries;

(c) the amount spent by Government to organize this Conference; and

(d) what were the recommendations of the Conference?

India's stand on help to tsunami victims

2518. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Special Meeting of Leaders of ASEAN convened in Jakarta on January 6, 2005 in the aftermath of Tsunami Disaster, was addressed by him to explain India's position about the world aid offered for helping the Tsunami victims and the states concerned;

(b) if so, the details of India's stand as presented at the said summit; and

(c) the response of the ASEAN thereon?

Handover of Jinnah House

2519. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had pledged to handover the Jinnah House in Mumbai to Pakistan for its consular offices;

(b) whether India, as a part of the ongoing confidence building measures, has set a deadline to redeem its pledge; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Charges levied for the despatch

2520. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the charges levied at the embassy level for the dispatch of the corpus of NRIs from Gulf countries to India alongwith the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to waive these charges and if not, whether Government would consider to waive it?

Indo-Bangladesh relation

2521. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's relation with Bangladesh have soured recently because of several contentions issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps initiated to solve the disputed issues and the response of the Government of Bangladesh thereto?

Foreign Minister's Kabul visit

2522. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited Kabul on way to Islamabad;

(b) if so, the issues discussed in Kabul and the understandings reached as a result thereof; and

(c) how far, it paves the way for establishing transit trade between India and Afghanistan through Pakistan?

Indo-Russian nuclear agreements

2523. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Russia is working on the possibility of including India as a non-voting member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group in a bid to clear the supply of four nuclear reactors, which has been held up because of international objection;

(b) if so, whether both India and Russia are working hard to clear the way for better

understanding in the defence nuclear and oil sectors;

(c) if so, whether Russian President's visit to India during 2005, he is expected to sign 14 agreements;

(d) if so, whether both countries have worked to clear these agreements; and

(e) if so, the details of the same and to what extent India would be fully sufficient in defence needs?

British foreign policy towards PoK

2524. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Britain has appointed an honorary Consul at Mirpur in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether it is an indication of change in British foreign policy towards PoK; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Indo-Afghan co-operation

2525. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Afghan President recently visited New Delhi and had discussions with Indian Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the nature of talks held between the representatives of two countries; and

(c) the areas identified by India for helping Afghanistan in its rehabilitation and the nature of assistance proposed to be provided by India for the purpose?

Strengthening of Maoist in Nepal

†2526. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently USA has also taken note of the reality that Maoist terrorists in Nepal are constantly gaining strength;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the situation developed from gaining strength constantly by the terrorists in the neighbouring country is a matter of concern to India also; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the fresh steps taken so far?

Double entry of passports enroute Agartala and Kolkata through Bangladesh

2527. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the present double entry system of passports for the passengers plying between Agartala and Kolkata through Bangladesh is causing unusually long time for completion of the journey;

(b) whether Government are contemplating any proposal for direct journey between Agartala and Kolkata through Bangladesh without any break in the journey and change of vehicles;

(c) whether Government have worked out that the time of journey may be lessened by five to six hours that way; and

(d) the steps to be initiated by Government?

Cell to help migrant Indians in Pakistan

2528. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a special cell for migrants and displaced people between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government would consider to set up a special cell for above purpose;

(d) whether Government are aware that many persons from Kerala, working in Pakistan for a very long time are not getting required permission to visit their blood relations and other family members in India; and

(e) if so, whether Government would take some steps so that above persons can visit their family members?

Extradition treaty with South Korea

2529. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and South Korea have signed an extradition treaty;

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

(c) whether India has submitted any list of fugitives, including economic offenders to South Korea; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Release of Indians by Pakistan

2530. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that on 2nd March, 2005 Pakistan said that it would release at least 900 Indian fishermen and civilians held for illegal entry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether these 900 persons have since been released by Pakistan;

(c) whether Pakistan has provided consular access to only 700 fishermen and civilians held in various jails for illegal entry and said that remaining 200 Indians would be released as and when Indian Government confirms their national status; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government to secure release of all Indians held in Pakistani jails?

American support to Pakistan

2531. SHRIDATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether President George W. Bush has signed into law a bill that binds the United States to a long term commitment to support Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

India's participation in G-7 meeting

†2532. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether G-7 countries invited India to the meeting held in the month of February;

(b) if so, whether India participated in the meeting and the long term benefits involved therein; and

(c) the countries other than India which

were invited to this meeting and the attitude of G-7 countries towards them?

Pendency of Passport applications in Andhra Pradesh

2533. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken efforts to speed up the issuance of passports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of passport applications pending in Passport Offices of Andhra Pradesh, since 2004?

Intelligence unit to counter terrorism

2534. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pentagon has created battlefield intelligence units assigned to work with special operations forces on secret counter terrorism missions;

(b) if so, the benefits India is likely to get out of it;

(c) whether India will participate in the formation of the mission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Agreements with Slovakia

2535. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed three key agreements on wide range interests with Slovakia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the unified action plan of both the countries to control threats of terrorism?

Talks among India-America and IAEA

†2536. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India-America and International Atomic Energy Agency have held mutual talks, recently;

(b) if so, the agenda of the talks; and

(c) the agreement reached among the three after the talks?

Opening of Regional Passport Offices

†2537. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to open Regional Passport Offices in newly created States like Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, by when these are likely to be opened and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Indo-Canadian Cooperation

2538. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Canada have agreed to work together with collaboration of some other countries in development of International Tsunami Warning System;

(b) whether the two countries also decided to set up bilateral cooperation in science and technology, environment, trade and investment promotion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Most Favoured Nation status to India

2539. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has indicated that it is going to confer the Most Favoured Nation status to India very soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner it would help India and Pakistan to cement bilateral relations and also to increase the trade between the two countries?

Trade with Latin America through Chile

2540. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chile has offered the Indian companies to use Chile as a Spring Board for entering Latin America; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to grab the opportunity?

SAARC Summit

†2541. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 13th SAARC Summit is going to be held soon;

(b) if so, the details of issues likely to be taken up by India in this conference; and

(c) the details of the agreements Government expect to be signed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Demarcation of Indo-Bangla border

2542. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that portions of Indo-Bangla border is yet to be demarcated;

(b) whether it would affects the proposed exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh;

(c) what progress has been made, so far, in this regard;

(d) what remains the major obstacle; and

(e) whether Government have set any time-frame for the exchange of enclaves?

Proliferation Security Initiative

2543. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are keen for a deeper examination of US backed Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) considering WMD proliferation by sea as one of the security threat to the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any formal agreement or arrangement has been finalised in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Reconciliation of EPF suspense account

2544. SHRI ANAND SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of balance in suspense

account in the EPFO at the end of Ninth Five Year Plan and the year-wise balance as on 31st March for the last three years;

(b) the outstanding amount on account of EPF recovery for the last five years, State-wise; and

(c) by when, the amount in the suspense account above would be duly reconciled and credited to the concerned officials?

Controversies for the selection of consultant

†2545. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain suggestions have been sought from a private sector organisation with a view to getting maximum dividend through the investment of the money of Employees' Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the name of this organisation and the reasons for its selection; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the above-said organisation was involved in controversies in the recent years and if so, the details of such controversies?

Social security cover to workers

2546. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission, in its mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Year Plan has recommended the introduction of an universal scheme for providing social security cover to all workers engaged in the informal and unorganised sector; and

(b) if so, whether the Commission has also proposed with legislation changes to be introduced to ensure that the interests of contract workers are protected, and they are also provided with a social security cover;

(c) if so, whether recommendations of Planning Commission has been accepted; and

(d) the steps being considered to implement them?

Compensation of retrenched workers

2547. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give compensation to retrenched workers due to liberalisation and privatisation policy;

(b) if so, the mode of compensation calculation and wherefrom this expenditure would be met; and

(c) the number of workers expected to be covered under this plan?

Employment generation through organised sector

2548. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the organised sector is delivering more jobs and employment opportunities compared to the growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of jobs delivered and employment generated through organised sector for the last three years, State-wise, category-wise and year-wise?

New Provident Fund norms

2549. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are appointing a consulting firm to advice on Provident Fund reforms; and

(b) if so, by when the process of finalising new Provident Fund norms would be finalised?

Labour Law Reforms

2550. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are bringing Labour Law Reforms by amending the Industrial Disputes Act and the Factories Act; and

(b) if so, by when it would be implemented?

Survey of MNCs

2551. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Business Processes Outsourcing Centres, Call Centres, etc., are providing vast job opportunities;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any survey of MNCs that provide that job opportunities; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide training to the unemployed youth to prepare them to take up such job opportunities?

Group Insurance Scheme for beedi workers

2552. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a Group Insurance Scheme for the welfare of beedi workers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of subsidy given on the premium to be paid by the workers under the scheme; and

(d) the total number of beedi workers, covered under the scheme as on 31st December, 2004, State-wise?

Recovery target from P.F. defaulters

2553. SHRIANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are contemplated by Government for recovery of PF from defaulters and the recovery targets for the next six months; and

(b) the targets of recovery for the year 2003-04 and the actual recovery from the defaulters?

Measures to enhance job opportunities

2554. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered and unregistered unemployed youths in the country, State-wise;

(b) how many are added to the unemployed index due to the closure of factories;

(c) the measures contemplated, if any, for achieving quantum enhancement in job opportunities; and

(d) the time frame thereof?

Unemployed persons in Jammu and Kashmir

2555. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of graduates, skilled and semi-skilled persons unemployed in Jammu and Kashmir as on 31st December, 2004;

(b) the steps being taken to provide employment to them;

(c) whether Government have offered any package to Jammu and Kashmir to remove unemployment there; and

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

Availability of early warning system

†2556. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system available in the world to provide early warning with regard to calamity like Tsunami;

(b) if so, whether India is not a member of the said mechanism;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether country is now considering on becoming member of the said mechanism?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development of vegetation in coastal areas

2557. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the impact of the Tsunami waves was less in the coastal areas where bushes 'Kandal Forest' were existing on the coast;

(b) if so, whether Government would evolve any comprehensive plan to protect their vegetation;

(c) the development of bushes and Kandal Forests along the coastal area; and

(d) the details thereof?

Early warning system at Visakhapatnam

2558. SHRIMATISYEDAANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI C. RAMACHA-
NDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Visakhapatnam has been selected by Tsunami expert to install an early warning system that would have network connection with 36 countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the earlier offer to set up a Tsunami warning system in India was rejected due to lack of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Coastal Monitoring and prediction System

2559. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coastal Monitoring and Prediction System (COMPAS) has been launched by Government for conduct of studies in the coastal regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the organisational structure handling the COMPAS and the studies, salient features of the system and objective behind its launching;

(c) the benefits, if any, derived by studies carried out; and

(d) the details of fund allocated/ expenses incurred on the COMPAS since its launching, year-wise?

Marriages abroad by NRIs

†2560. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases that came to light during the last three years regarding the marriages of Indian girls to Non-Resident Indians on the basis of incorrect information;

(b) the names of the States to which these cases belong to;

(c) whether any special cell has been set up to sort out these matters; and

(d) if so, the number of girls provided relief by this cell?

Immigration Check Clearance

2561. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Passport holders are still requiring Immigration Check Clearance from Proctor of Emigration (PoE) for some countries;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reason for taking the clearance from the PoE;
- (d) whether Government are considering to completely abolish the clearance in near future; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Extension in service

2562. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether persons working as Secretaries to the Government of India are also eligible to get extension under the second provision to Fundamental Rule 56;
- (b) if so, the details including procedure laid down for extension up to age of 62 years and 64 years, category-wise as on today; and
- (c) the details of specialists who have been granted extension up to age of 62 and 64 years and reasons for granting extension, category-wise and speciality-wise for last three years?

Proposed amendment of criminal laws

2563. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister has agreed to examine proposed amendments in criminal laws which aim to make it more difficult to act against civil servants and PSU employees for corruption;
- (b) if so, whether the Department of Personnel and Training has given its final shape; and

- (c) if so, by what time this proposal of Provision of Corruption Act and the Criminal Procedure Code Act is likely to be amended?

Transfer policy in Ministries

†2564. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the transfers in each Ministry/Department are made under the rotation policy and if so, the criteria thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that a number of employees and officers posted at one place in various Departments have not been transferred during the last five years, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the year-wise and the post-wise details are asked for from each Ministry/Department, and if so, the details thereof?

Officials nabbed by CBI

2565. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) how many top officers of Customs, Railways, Director General of Foreign Trade, Income Tax and Excise Department are nabbed by CBI in Gujarat State in last three months;
- (b) how much cash and property is attached from these officers; and
- (c) how many officers are arrested and how many suspended?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Officers training abroad

†2566. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that administrative officers are sent abroad each year for getting training for bringing about improvement in administration of the country;

(b) if so, the fact in this regard and number of delegations of such officers sent abroad during the last three years for the same; and

(c) the names of the States from where delegation of such officers were sent abroad and number of such officers alongwith the posts occupied by them?

Creche for employees

2567. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are running any creche in the North or South Block to look after the children of its employees working there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for failure of providing such a basic amenity to the employees?

Barring professionals from Civil Services

2568. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to barring professionals such as engineers, doctors, etc. from recruiting themselves into Civil Services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is because of the fact that medical and engineering education is highly subsidized; and

(d) if not, the other reasons behind this proposed move?

Mutual transfer of employees between Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

†2569. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of division and mutual transfers of employees and officers pending as on 31st January, 2005 after division of State between Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of *sub-judice* cases out of them;

(c) the number of pending cases related to transfer of spouse in different State; and

(d) the details of the action being taken to find out the reasons for pendency of the cases and their disposal?

Secretaries to Government of India

2570. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Secretaries heading the various Ministries and Departments of Government of India; and

(b) the number of years of service put in by each of them in the Additional Secretary grade before they were appointed as Secretaries?

Reservation in promotion for OBCs

2571. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make provision for reservation for Other

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Backward Classes (OBCs) in promotion in services;

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

Enhancement of Gratuity and DCRG

2572. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance the limit of Gratuity and DCRG to Rs. 5 lakhs keeping in view the merger of 50 per cent of DA with the basic salary; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when orders are likely to be issued; and

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Determination of Central/State share

2573. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission takes into account the ratio of population of a State for fixing Central share for the States;

(b) whether the proportionate share admissible to Kerala as per the recommendations of Twelfth Finance Commission matches with the ratio of population of the State;

- (c) if so, the extent thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the curtailment, if any from the actual due?

GSDP of Karnataka

2574. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Gross State Domestic Product of Karnataka in 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) the details of the sectoral growth rates of GSDP for Karnataka in primary, secondary and Tertiary sectors during the above period;

(c) the reasons for the anticipated growth;

(d) the anticipated growth in 2004-05 in Karnataka; and

(e) the place at which Karnataka was placed in terms of per capita income at current prices?

Labour oriented development in the country

†2575. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need of labour oriented development in the country;

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have taken a decision of giving priority to labour oriented industrial policy for the development of the country;

- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reasons for not giving priority to labour orientation for foreign capital investment?

Employment to 2.5 crore people

†2576. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2.5 crore children are born every year in India; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have prepared any policy to provide employment to 2.5 crore people every year and if so, the details thereof?

Regulatory Authority for transport infrastructure sector

2577. SHRI ASHWANIKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have mooted a single regulatory authority for transport infrastructure sector to boost the economy;

(b) whether the PMO is working with the Planning Commission to finalise the proposal and bring under an omnibus umbrella the regulatory regime for sectors like roads, ports, civil aviations and railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the scheme would be implemented; and

(d) whether Planning Commission had convened its first ever meeting to deal exclusively with the myriad infrastructural, social and economical problems plaguing Mumbai, the country's financial capital and if so, the decision taken?

Number of SC/ST families below poverty line

†2578. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families related to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes and weaker sections of society living below poverty line, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of such families have increased during the last three years;

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

(d) the details of the steps being taken for upliftment of these weaker families?

National policy for voluntary organisation

2579. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the joint machinery for collaborative relationship between Government and the voluntary organisations has decided to formulate a national policy to involve voluntary sector in the developmental efforts of the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) whether the draft plan has been circulated for comments to the States, Voluntary Organisations and others concerned; and

(d) if so, the comments received from above?

Waiver of Central Debts

2580. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have been requesting the Central Government to waive off the Central Debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons advanced by the State Government in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of Government to these proposals from the State Governments?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bamboo plantation

†2581. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a scheme to boost inclination of farmers towards bamboo crops in some States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent by Government for implementing the scheme?

Awareness on aspects of earthquake

2582. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are launching a nation-wide programme to create awareness on various aspects of earthquake through school children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Communique from IMD

2583. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) when the first communique went from the Indian Meteorological Department to Government on Tsunami;

(b) whether it is not a fact that the first communication was sent to the residence of former S&T Minister at 8.54 am;

(c) whether it is a fact that Tsunami hit Sumatra Islands at 6.29 a.m. on 26th December, 2004 and within one hour of this, Government knew that it would hit Chennai; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken on knowing the information?

Modernising the Survey of India

2584. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to modernise the Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new approaches like Global Positioning System, Geographic Information System and use of space imageries are employed by the organization to update its topo maps; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Launch of Cartosat-I

2585. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the planned launch of Cartosat-I this year would provide Survey of India with unique inputs to improve mapping methodology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the preparatory work to use the capabilities of Cartosat-I are progressing as per plans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Satellite navigation system

2586. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country is planning a regional satellite navigation system, similar to the global positioning system of the United States;

(b) whether there are any plans for India to participate in Galileo the European Lad efforts to create an alternative to the GPS system;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, by when the country would join the programme; and

(d) by when it would set up regional navigational system that would be totally under its control?

Earthquake vulnerability of Andaman Islands

2587. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman Islands are very sensitive to earthquake;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a state of the art laboratory for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Concept of Science Channel

2588. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the very concept of a Science Channel is now under reconsideration;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to handover the Science Channel's operations to a private party;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the DECU-Vigyan Prasara Combine would not be able to deliver the goods?

Setting up of science research foundation

2589. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to set up a science research foundation at a cost of Rs. 1000 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposed research foundation would be an autonomous organisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Export of bio-diversity products

2590. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking to convert bio-diversity resources into value-added products for use in domestic requirements and also for exports; and

(b) the total amount of herbs, germ plasm and micro-organisms exported by India during the last 3 years; year-wise and country-wise?

Exodus of scientists

2591. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is large scale exodus of scientists from India to foreign countries in search of better career options;

(b) whether such migration of top scientists from reputed institutes and organizations in the Country is on account of inadequate pay and perks, lack of career options and poor working conditions;

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

(d) the measures that are proposed to be taken to encourage the scientists to stay behind and contribute to the development of the country?

Upgradation of National Highways

2592. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to upgrade National Highways into four/eight lane highways across the country;

(b) if so, the details with funds allocated and spent thereon during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise;

(c) whether a number of National Highways are in poor condition, causing inconvenience to motorists;

(d) if so, whether it is proposed to create special squads for maintenance of roads on regular basis;

(e) whether Centre allocates funds to States for upkeep of their highways; and

(f) if so, the details of allocations made and spent by the States thereon during the last three years; year-wise and State-wise?

Development of National Highways in Gujarat

2593. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been developing National Highways on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and released to Gujarat for National Highways?

Improvement of NH-12A and 27

†2594. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals received by Government for improvement in National Highways 12A and 27 alongwith the details thereof; and

(b) the details of the action taken so far/ to be taken?

Road accidents

†2595. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by Government to stop increasing number of road accidents on National Highways;

(b) whether Government have identified more areas as the most accidental areas; and

(c) the number of two lane roads in Uttar Pradesh which are proposed to be converted into four lane?

Upgradation project of Karnataka Government

2596. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has approved any proposal of Karnataka Government on improvement/upgradation project in view of the Maha Masthakabhisheka scheduled for February, 2006;

(b) the action that has been taken to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

commence the said work to complete it before January, 2006; and

(c) the details thereof?

Expressway around Delhi

2597. SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI NAND KISHORE
YADAV:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to build an expressway around Delhi so as to ensure that trucks and buses coming from Haryana and other Western States bound for Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and beyond and *vice versa*, do not have to pass through Delhi, has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating expenditure required to be borne on the project and the extent to which that would be shared by Centre and the concerned States; and

(c) by when the work on the project is likely to commence and the likely date on which the expressway would become operational?

Mahu By-pass on NH-3

†2598. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for the demarcation of Mahu By-pass on National Highway No. 3 passing through Madhya Pradesh to be included in Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the same has been included in the plan; and

(c) if so, the present status thereof?

Funds for maintenance of National Highways

†2599. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BALAPTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN
PANY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated for the maintenance of National Highways in the year 2004-05;

(b) whether it is a fact that some States have demanded more funds for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the decision taken by Government in this regard?

Road accidents in Delhi

2600. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi, the capital continues to lead the other Metropolis in the matter of road deaths and road accidents;

(b) if so, the number of such deaths and accidents in each metropolis during the year 2001 and onwards, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for this continuing situation?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Private participation in port sector

2601. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maritime sector is aimed at promoting private participation in the shipping and port sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is fact that a rail corridor would be implemented between Delhi and Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the purpose thereof?

High Security Registration Plates

2602. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to make High Security Registration Plates mandatory for all vehicles in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the cost involved in replacement of the old plates for each vehicles, and rational behind this decision;

(c) whether Government have fixed any time frame for the replacement of the old plates by the new High Security Registration Plates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

High berthing charges in shipping industry

2603. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the high berthing charges are acting as a negative point in increased shipping activity in the

country;

(b) the guideline issued by Government to various port trusts in this regard to maintain a competitive set of berthing charges;

(c) whether Government would take steps to bring down the present rates charged by all major port trusts in the country;

(d) whether it is also a fact that inefficiency and high port charges are suffocating the entire shipping industry; and

(e) the steps proposed to study such hindrances being caused to the development of the shipping sector in the country?

Over bridges on NH in Punjab

2604. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan to reconstruct or construct new over bridges on National Highways; and

(b) if so, the relevant details in respect of Punjab where construction work of new bridges and reconstruction of dilapidated bridges has been approved or is under construction?

Road accidents in Haryana and Punjab

2605. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people killed in road accidents on National Highways passing through Haryana and Punjab during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of safety gadgets/ equipments installed to check the accidents; and

(c) the arrangements made to provide emergency medical aid to accident victims?

Inter-State Transport Policy

2606. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have in place an Inter-State Transport Policy for the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultation with the State Governments have been held in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when such a policy would be framed?

Lucknow-Delhi highway

†2607. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose a scheme to strengthen and develop Lucknow-Delhi highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this would be complete?

Length of National Highways in Uttaranchal

†2608. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of National Highways in the kilometers in the State of Uttaranchal;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct some new National Highways or to extend the old highways in the State in the current plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Four laning of National Highways

2609. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the names of National Highways selected for four laning during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise;

(b) the fund earmarked and spent so far; and

(c) in how many cases the work is running as per time schedule?

Report on river regulatory measures

2610. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai has produced a report on river regulatory measures at Haldia port in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has received the report; and

(c) the steps that have been taken to start capital dredging at Haldia?

Toll charges on National Highways

2611. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the National Highways, sections

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

thereof, in the country which are open to use on payment of toll charges;

(b) the points at which toll is collected by NHAI on such National Highways along with the rate of toll charges at each point;

(c) the basis on which the toll charges have been calculated;

(d) the revenue targeted and actual collections during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) whether Government see any scope for rationalisation of the toll charges throughout the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of a regulator for ports

2612. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether emergence of private ports and prospects of enhanced trade through such port has prompted Government to set up a regulator for the sector to devise a uniform and globally competitive fee structure in the context of the expected growth of country's exports at 23 per cent; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with details of exports and imports carried out through each port, both public and private, during the last three years, year-wise?

Road tenders and contracts

2613. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NHAI had given road contracts during 2002-03, 2003-04 based on non-commercial reasons to various private contractors;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tenders

and contracts were made in such a way that only some contractors could bid for them;

(c) whether NHAI objected to such plans which lead to a monopolistic situation;

(d) the steps that are proposed by NHAI to examine and identify the main beneficiaries of contracts which were engineered to benefit a few selected contractors; and

(e) the steps proposed to identify and black list such contractors?

Modernising of Office of DG-Shipping

2614. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort is being made to modernise the office of the Director General of Shipping;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same systems are in place as fifty years ago;

(c) whether Government have done any study on how to convert the office of DG-Shipping from a purely regulatory body into one which is also development-oriented;

(d) the steps that would be taken to open up the office and simplify the rules and procedures; and

(e) the details of steps proposed in this regard?

Production of traditional items by MNCs

2615. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MNCs have also ventured into manufacturing things that

have been traditionally undertaken by small scale industries:

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained the extent to which the small scale industries suffer due to this competition from MNCs; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide competitive edge to SSI units?

Closure of SSI units

2616. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SSI units closed down during the past three years;

(b) the reasons for such closure; and

(c) the steps taken or to be taken to give fillings to revival of SSI in the country?

SSIs in Jammu & Kashmir

2617. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorists activities in Jammu and Kashmir have adversely affected the small scale industries there;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to put on rail the strife SSI in J&K;

(c) the total amount of funds allocated for development of SSI for the year 2005-06 and the share allocated for J&K; and

(d) the details of small scale industries in J&K likely to benefit from the allocation for the year 2005-06;

Audit report regarding MPLADS

2618. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been only two audit reports since MPLADS scheme became operational in 1993 for the years 1998 and 2001;

(b) if so, the number of districts covered in each report;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that a large number of works had been executed by the district administration without proper sanction;

(d) whether the district administration in many instances had retained the unspent funds which are mandated to be surrendered; and

(e) whether as reported, a few of the works were done in places of religious worship in violation of MPLADS norms?

Accident during the Federation Cup final

2619. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Federation Cup final on 5th December, 2004 Dempo Sports Club's Brazilian striker Critiana Junior died after colliding with Mohan Bagan goalkeeper;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the entire episode has been inquired into; and

(d) if so, the final finding of the inquiry?

Performance of Indian Hockey

†2620. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Hockey Federation has changed 12 hockey coaches during the last ten years;

(b) whether it is one of the reasons for poor performance of Indian hockey;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard?

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the standard of National Games is continuously falling down; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the falling standard of National Games?

Restructure of Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan

2621. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'Nehru Yuvak Kendras' functioning in different States as on 31st December, 2004;

(b) the details of programmes and activities undertaken by these Kendras during the last three years;

(c) the total amount sanctioned and spent for these Kendras during the last three years;

(d) whether Government propose to restructure/revamp the Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Standard of National Games

†2622. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to constitute a board like in Board of Control for Cricket in India for games like Hockey, Football, Swimming, Tennis, etc. for improvement of games and to encourage players of the country;

Assistance to the States for Promoting sports

†2623. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study has been conducted on the possibilities of development of adventurous sports specially Snow Sports, River Rafting and Mountaineering;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are providing special assistance to the State for the promotions of these sports; and

(d) if so, the details therefor?

Training to players

2624. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) with the formation of Organising Committee and the Apex Committee for Commonwealth Games having been set up, will attention of both Government and the Olympic Association be directed towards identifying the players, conducting the training camps, hiring of Indian or Foreign Coaches, and structuring training by including internationally accepted and tried inputs;

(b) if so, whether any comprehensive blue-prints have been drawn for each of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

these activity so that Indian participants could exhibit their best talent to win maximum number of medals; and

(c) if so, the details therefor?

Expenditure on training of Hockey Players

†2625. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDLWAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the receipts and expenditure of the Indian Hockey Federation;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount of expenditure incurred on the training of the players; and

(c) the quantum of amount spent by the Chairman thereof during the previous three years?

NEW DELHI;
The 18th March, 2005
Phalgun 27, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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