

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on*

*Thursday, the April 24, 2003/Vaisakha 4, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Development of North Eastern Region; Disinvestment; External Affairs; Labour; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—155

#### Working of CBI

†3557. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in CBI alongwith the number of vacant posts;

(b) whether it is a fact that good and efficient personnel do not want to come on deputation or through any other means in CBI;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and what would be its impact on efficiency and working of CBI; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase efficiency of CBI by providing facilities to its employees and to fill up the vacancies?

#### Evaluation of PMRY

3558. DR. ABRAR AHMED:  
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) when the last evaluation of the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana was done and the results thereof; and

(b) the details of the rate of loan recovered under it?

#### Condition of rural industries in U.P.

†3559. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that condition of conventional rural and cottage industries has deteriorated considerably and these are on the verge of closure in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve condition of the said industries; and

(d) to what extent Government have succeeded in improving condition of the said industries?

#### Funds to Himachal Pradesh under PMRY

3560. SHRIANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Himachal

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana for 1999-2000 onwards, year-wise; and

(b) the amount utilised and remained unutilised out of the above?

#### **ARIs in Gujarat**

3561. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the existing status of agro-based industries in Gujarat; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to promote agro-based industries in the State?

#### **ARIs in Uttaranchal**

3562. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rural industries under implementation in Uttaranchal;

(b) the increase in production and employment registered in these industries; and

(c) the details of the funds allotted/sanctioned/released and utilised for this purpose during the period from its inception till date, district-wise?

#### **Employment generation under PMRY in Jharkhand**

3563. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set any target for generating employment opportunities during the last two years under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the actual achievements till the 31st March, 2003;

(c) the annual target set for the Tenth Five Year Plan period in the State; and

(d) the steps being taken to achieve the same?

#### **Implementation of PMRY**

3564. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that apathy and non-cooperation of the commercial banks has become a bottleneck in the effective implementation of various self-employment schemes like PMRY;

(b) whether Government have received any complaints from the States;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to know role of the banks in the non-taking off and under-achievement of target of the schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to remove bottlenecks in the rural credit?

#### **Reforms in agro products' marketing**

3565. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the reforms being undertaken in agro products marketing;

(b) the number of agro clinics and agro-business centres set up during the second half of the previous fiscal year; and

(c) the employment generated through the above schemes?

**Loan under PMRY in Maharashtra**

3566. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the educated unemployed youth in Maharashtra who applied for loan under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana for setting up their own industrial units/business since the last two years;

(b) the number of such applications pending for approval; and

(c) the reasons for the delay, if any, and the steps Government have taken or propose to take for their speedy disposal?

**Low cost irradiation technique**

3567. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether members of the Nuclear Club and developed countries have been using lowest cost irradiation technique for preservation of the consumable foods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have been marketing the irradiated food products originated from BARC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**VRS in MTNL**

3568. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has formulated a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for its employees which is expected to be rolled out in the financial year 2003-2004; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**BSNL/MTNL's arrears**

3569. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) the outstanding amount against the telephone subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. at the end of the year 2002;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the same?

**Mobile Dak Telephony Scheme**

3570. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) the details of the Mobile Dak Telephony Scheme;

(b) the villages that would be covered, State-wise, and the incentives that would be given to the post-men to make it popular;

(c) whether this would have STD facility also; and

(d) the estimated earnings per annum, thereby?

**Functioning of Telephone Advisory Committees**

3571. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the powers,

responsibilities and functioning of the Telephone Advisory Committee Members;

(b) whether there are regular monitoring cells to review the complaints received from the subscribers every month and the action taken by his Ministry for covering all the telephone exchanges under its control;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for not creating such monitoring cells;

(e) whether Government would make it mandatory to convene the Telephone Advisory Committee meetings at least once in a month in order to enable the Committees to function effectively; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Spectrum to cellular operators**

3572. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cellular operators have been given spectrum in advance for planning their network;

(b) whether the CDMA operators have been denied this facility and given only 2.5 Mhz with no guarantee of spectrum to be given ahead; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to provide level playing field to all the operators?

#### **Irregularities in allotment of coin boxes in Karnataka**

3573. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of

the irregularities in allotment of coin boxes of PCO lines in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure fair allotment of these coin boxes of PCO lines in the State?

#### **Media Lab Asia**

3574. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the activities of the Media Lab Asia;

(b) the details of the corporates and others, sponsoring the Media Lab Asia; and

(c) Government's funding in the Media Lab Asia during the last three years, year-wise?

#### **Revenue sharing for operating cellular and basic telephone services**

†3575. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that private sector was allowed to operate in the cellular and basic telephone services sectors on licence fee basis for bringing expansion in communication system;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that, at later stage, revenue sharing was fixed in place of licence fee, if so, when;

(c) the amount of licence fee outstanding against such companies at the time of the above decision; and

(d) the percentage of revenue sharing fixed at that time and the existing percentage thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Extension of time limit to private companies for VPT**

†3576. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that private sector companies have not been able to instal the village public telephones as per their commitments within the stipulated period in the rural areas of the country as a result of which period for installing the village public telephones has been extended by three times for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the companies which have installed the village public telephones during the extended period alongwith the number thereof?

**Village Public Telephones**

3577. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country which are presently without telephone facility, district-wise; and

(b) the details of the steps, if any, taken by Government to provide telephone facility in these villages alongwith the time frame?

**Revenue losses in postal department**

†3578. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

have suffered losses to the tune of Rs. 1600 crore in the postal department during the last financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures being taken to reduce the losses; and

(d) the likely impact of these measures during the current financial year?

**Fax/STD/ISD facilities in Village Panchayats**

3579. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a policy to cover all the Gram Panchayats of the country with public phone facilities including Fax/STD/ISD etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when, the above facilities would be provided; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

**Commission on STD/PCO booth**

3580. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether PCO/STD booth operators have been pleading for rise in commission commensurate with the increase in the volume of telecom traffic;

(b) whether most of the PCO/STD booth holders are from poor strata and are economically vulnerable; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider to review the commission slabs for revenue generated from their landline connections serving the poor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Losses due to limited mobility services**

3581. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal has recently asked the cellular operators to furnish details of the losses incurred by them due to limited mobility services;

(b) if so, whether the cellular operators have since furnished the required information to TDSAT;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to resolve the disputes between the cellular operators and WLL players?

**Complaints pending with MTNL**

3582. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and number of complaints received/disposed/pending with MTNL (South-I) service centre offices during the last three years;

(b) the number of Sanction-Memo issued by the telephone exchange offices under MTNL (South-I) for refund of rental during the year 2002 and the number of those where payment has not been made till date and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of letters received from MPs and MLAs in connection with harassment of the consumers by MTNL staff and for redressal of grievances and the action taken thereon during the years 2001 and 2002?

**Extension of time for internet services**

3583. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority has extended off-break time for internet services by four hours;

(b) whether it is also a fact that VSNL has announced one slab under which 100 hours for internet facility would now be valid for a period of 12 months only since February, 2003, whereas the validity for 100 hours, before revision, was three years;

(c) if so, the reasons for slashing the validity period; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to revive the old time limit?

**Rethinking on spectrum charges, licence fee and revenue sharing**

3584. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are rethinking on the present structure relating to spectrum charges, licence fee and revenue sharing;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent it would be helpful?

**I.T. for rural areas**

3585. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:  
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

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

(a) whether any plan has been worked

out to extend benefits of the information technology to the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in pursuance thereof; and

(c) the progress, so far, made in promoting information technology benefits in the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and the Central aid given therefor?

#### **Cut in STD rate by BSNL**

3586. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has announced major cut in STD rates;

(b) if so, to what extent and the date from which these rates became effective;

(c) whether the BSNL proposes to reduce the ISD rate also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Cellular licences**

3587. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether seven companies have applied for cellular licences for mobile phones in nine States and regions across the country;

(b) if so, the firms which have applied for;

(c) how many of them have been provided licences;

(d) what are the main conditions put forward;

(e) by when they would operate cellular services in these States /regions; and

(f) by when other parts of the country would be fully covered by mobile phones?

#### **Software policy**

3588. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NGOs have demanded an immediate meeting to resolve Government's policy favouring a particular kind of expensive and monopolistic software;

(b) if so, by when such a meeting would be held;

(c) whether Government would explain the policy to reduce the vast gap coming up between the rich users of computers and the poor people;

(d) whether any specific suggestions have been received from NGOs and social activists in this regard; and

(e) the steps proposed to give a proper and patient hearing to the less privileged sections of society who want cheaper software?

#### **Recovery of dues from International Maritime Satellite Organisation**

3589. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited failed to recover its dues from the International Maritime Satellite Organisation during the last three years;

(b) if so, the amount involved and the reasons for not effecting the recovery; and

(c) whether any accountability was fixed for it and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Transfer of BSNL employees in  
Andhra Pradesh**

3590. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has resorted to frequent transfers in some districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that some junior employees have been transferred four times within a period of fifteen days in certain districts like East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna districts;

(c) whether Government had received any complaints in this regard;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for such transfer;

(e) whether a rational policy would be followed; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Waiting list for telephone connections  
in Bihar**

†3591. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the applications pending for telephone connections in the different telephone exchanges in Madhubani district of Bihar, year-wise and exchange-wise, during the last three years;

(b) the number of connections recommended from the M.P. quota out of the above;

(c) whether some connections have also been provided irrespective of the serial number of the fee receipts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government would provide these connections within a prescribed time limit; if so, the details of the plan in this regard?

**PCO booths in Madhubani, Bihar**

†3592. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCO booths under various exchanges separately in Madhubani district of Bihar;

(b) whether Government are aware that in spite of large demand of the booths, several are allotted to a single family;

(c) if so, whether Government would cancel these irregular allotments and allot the booths to the educated unemployed persons; and

(d) if not, whether Government would investigate into the matter and take action?

**Letter sorting system in mail trains**

†3593. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) when the letter sorting system in the mail trains was introduced and what are the reasons for its discontinuation;

(b) the benefit derived from it in spite of the fact that a mail bogie still remains attached with the mail trains; and

(c) the arrangements to be made by Government to restart the system in public interest?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



### **Cellular phones as I.T. instruments**

3594. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to declare cellular phones as IT instruments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Cellphone consumers in Karnataka**

3595. SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) how many BSNL cellphone prepaid and post paid customers are there in Karnataka and the reasons for stopping release of new connections; and
- (b) whether it is a fact that Sim Cards are in short supply which is expected from other countries for which Government have already issued order?

### **Promotion of international gateways in N.E.R.**

3596. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various international gateways for internet running in the country, in Government as well as non-Government Sectors, State-wise;
- (b) the action taken by Government to promote more international gateways in the NER;
- (c) whether any applications for grant of licenses to operate international internet gateways in the region is pending; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof and the target fixed to clear such applications?

### **VRS in VSNL**

3597. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) has plans to introduce a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its staff in the near future; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

### **Payment of telephone bills in Karnataka**

3598. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to Government's notice that in Karnataka, telephone bills above Rs. 1000/- would have to be paid through Demand Draft/Cheque; and
- (b) if so, whether Government would take steps to allow payment of telephone bills at least upto Rs. 2500/- in cash in the State?

### **Wireless Planning Cell of DoT**

3599. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the path forward of Wireless Planning Cell of DoT on CDMA Spectrum;
- (b) whether Government plan to give 5 Mhz to each basic service licensee in all licensed areas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**New tariff regime**

3600. SHRI PARMESHWAR  
KUMAR AGARWALLA:  
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR  
REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has postponed implementation of the new tariff regime and inter-connect user charges;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government plan to bring a new revised tariff regime; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the new/revised tariff would come into force?

**Telecom tariff hike**

3601. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority India has refused to rollback the telecom tariff hike announced a couple of months back;

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

(c) the action, if any, proposed to be taken in the matter?

**Basic telephone services by private companies**

†3602. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
'LALAN':  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had issued licenses on licence fee basis to certain companies in private sector to operate basic telephone services in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that they had been told, at the time of issuing licences to instal village public telephones in the villages of the said States;

(c) if so, the number of VPTs required to be installed by each company;

(d) the number of VPTs installed by December, 2002; and

(e) whether they have been penalised monetarily on account of non-installation of telephones and if so, the details thereof?

**Free I.T.C. card in NOIDA**

†3603. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that in NOIDA free ITC cards are provided with a new connection;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make such facility available in other parts of the country also;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Procurement of paddy in Madhya Pradesh**

†3604. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:  
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agencies

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

are running in losses in procurement of paddy in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that different criteria are being adopted by the Central Government for Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Prices of edible oils**

3605. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of edible oils, particularly those of low fat category like Safola etc. have been rising;

(b) if so, the percentage of rise in prices for the last two years, category-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to ensure availability of edible oils of all the categories, particularly of low fat categories, for which demand has been on the increase on medical grounds for the elderly?

#### **Falling stock of foodgrains**

3606. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food stocks have fallen considerably during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details of the food stocks during the last two years; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

#### **Per capita expenditure on foodgrains**

†3607. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether per capita expenditure on food in the country has come down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether problem of malnutrition has increased as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government are taking to tackle the same?

#### **Warehousing Corporation of India**

3608. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Warehousing Corporation of India provides consultancy service for construction and management of Warehouses in the country and abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Warehousing Corporation of India has entered into agreements with the foreign countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Policy for accepting foreign food aid**

3609. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for clear policy on accepting foreign food aid;

(b) whether there is recent rejection of a large shipment of food from United States which contained genetically modified maize and soya products;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether Government need food aid from foreign countries when we are surplus in food;

(d) if so, whether any concrete policy for accepting food has been formulated; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### Prices of sugar

†3610. SHRI MOOLCHAND  
MEENA:  
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

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

(a) whether the new formula regarding fixing the prices of sugar has been announced;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

#### National Plan for agro-food industry

3611. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:  
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agro food industry has called for an urgent coining of a long-term national plan for its growth;

(b) if so, whether they have welcomed the budget but have pointed out that industry suffered losses to the tune of around Rs. 35,000 crore due to colossal wastage of produce;

(c) whether they have made any suggestions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being considered to improve the agro-food industry?

#### Sale of wheat to flour mills

3612. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:  
PROF. RAM DEO  
BHANDARY:  
SHRI EKANATH K.  
THAKUR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sold 10 million tonnes of luster lost, damaged by rain and low shelf life 'Animal feed' wheat meant for export, to flour mills;

(b) if so, the reasons for low quality of wheat crop;

(c) the quantity of wheat used for this; and

(d) whether Government have carried out any investigations in this matter including its quality and fitness for human consumption and the present status of the left out stocks?

#### Committee on foodgrains system

†3613. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
'LALAN':  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Expenditure Reform Commission and Abhijit Sen Committee had given some suggestions during the last year with regard to reforms in foodgrains system;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions given by both of them;

(c) when these suggestions were received by Government; and

(d) the action taken by Government on the basis of these suggestions?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Quantitative restrictions on foodgrains**

3614. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

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

(a) whether Government are actively considering imposition of Quantitative Restrictions on foodgrains exports or alternatively increasing the ex-granary price export policy;

(b) if so, the details of the steps Government propose to take;

(c) the reasons for putting Quantitative Restrictions on the export of foodgrains; and

(d) whether such a restriction would contribute towards overflowing FCI godowns and food stocks adversely?

**RBI report regarding food stock**

3615. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:  
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the RBI report surplus food stock is the harbinger of inflation and high interest rates; and

♦ (b) if so, the remedies proposed?

**Committee on foodgrains policy**

†3616. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:  
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high level Committee on long term foodgrains policy has submitted its report;

(b) if so, whether said report has been implemented;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Storage of foodgrains in open godowns**

3617. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of open godowns by the FCI for foodgrains storage is a permanent solution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any risks involved like climatic or whether conditions in storing foodgrains in such open godowns; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Rice allocation to Kerala**

3618. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantity of rice allotted to Kerala per month is sufficient to meet actual requirement of the BPL population;

(b) whether Government have placed any restriction for allocation of foodgrains to the State Governments;

(c) whether Government consider to introduce changes in the existing norms for allocation of the foodgrains to the State Governments in view of the massive stocks; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Foodgrains for BPL people**

3619. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the poverty ridden people are unable to buy rice, wheat even at BPL rates thereby defeating Government's "Hunger Free Country" slogan; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to enable the poorest of the poor to take benefits of the PDS and to increase their purchasing power?

**Cancellation of ISI mark**

3620. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether in a swoop on errant bottled drinking water manufacturers, Government have cancelled ISI quality mark licences of seven more plants, including three producing popular Bisleri brand;

(b) if so, whether the number of bottled water companies facing cancellation of ISI mark has now risen to 20 in less than a month after the Bureau of Indian Standards launched a nation-wide quality inspection drive;

(c) if so, the details of these companies;

(d) the existing number of companies who have been issued licences; and

(e) whether the expert Committee in its latest report has suggested improved tests for the bottled water?

**Export of foodgrains**

3621. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plan to export wheat and rice from its bulging Central pool during the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rates and the name of the countries to which it has been exported or proposed to be exported?

**BPL families**

3622. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the State Governments to restrict the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families for the purpose of supply of foodgrains under the food for work programmes; and

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

**Quality of rice under Food for Work Programme**

3623. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice supplied under the 'Food for Work Programme' to the State Governments, is of poor quality; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to supply good quality rice to the States?

### **Standardisation of bottled water**

3624. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:  
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to insist on ISI or any other standardisation for bottled water;

(b) if so, the nature of standards prescribed for the purpose; and

(c) the agency to check its compliance?

### **Quality control on mineral water manufacturing units**

3625. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether cancellation of license of the mineral water manufacturing units after detection of pesticides in bottled mineral water is the only logical action;

(b) if not, what other action Government intend to take against such companies;

(c) whether these companies are running several bottling plants in other parts of the country also; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to check quality of water from their other units as well?

### **Functioning of Consumer Fora**

3626. SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the National Consumer Forum and the fora in the States are not functioning

efficiently due to the lack of facilities including ministerial staff;

(b) how many cases have been filed and disposed of by both the National and States Consumer Fora during the last three years; and

(c) what facilities are planned to be provided to make them efficient and what budgetary support would be required for the purpose?

### **Threat by FCI to foodgrains for mid-day meal scheme**

3627. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has threatened to stop the supplies for the mid-day meal scheme for Primary Schools unless the Ministry of HRD pays up its arrears upto Rs. 500 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting with the Ministry of HRD took place in this regard so as to resolve the issue amicably; and

(d) the measures taken to ensure that mid-day meal scheme does not face disruption on the grounds of financial constraints?

### **Roads sanctioned by NEC**

3628. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the roads sanctioned by the North-Eastern Council in different States of the region;

(b) the expenditure to be incurred on these projects; and

(c) how these roads are expected to improve the inter-linkages among these States?

**Closure of companies after disinvestment**

†3629. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector companies which have been disinvested during last four years;

(b) the number of companies out of them which have been closed after disinvestment;

(c) the number of employees who have rendered unemployed as a result thereof;

(d) whether Government have made any plan to re-employ or to give unemployment allowance to such employees; and

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

**Disinvestment of fifty per cent shares**

3630. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the establishments where disinvestment has gone beyond fifty per cent of the shares;

(b) the number of employees and workers in each of these establishments at the time of disinvestment and as on the 28th February, 2003;

(c) whether any review has been made on the workings of these establishments after putting to disinvestment; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

**Impact of disinvestment of BALCO and Modern Food Industries on labour**

†3631. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fact Finding Committee had visited the BALCO and Modern Food Industries this year to assess the impact of disinvestment on labour;

(b) the names of the Members of the Committee; and

(c) the recommendations and proposals made by the Committee in its report?

**Crisis faced by Indian fishermen in mid sea**

3632. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with authorities on both sides of Palk Straits working swiftly to defuse crisis faced by the Tamil Nadu fishermen in mid sea, Indian and Sri Lankan Governments and Navies have started to work out a lasting solution;

(b) if so, whether forty two more Indians have been taken captive by the Sri Lankan Government;

(c) whether Pakistan has also detained another thirty two fishermen in the Arabian Sea, signalling complexity of the problem;

(d) if so, whether India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are making any efforts to find a lasting solution to fishermen's woes;

(e) whether any agreement has been reached; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



### **Passport racket in Delhi**

3633. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have unearthed a passport racket in Delhi, recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of persons arrested in this connection and the action taken by Government in this regard?

### **Cultural centres**

3634. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals received for setting up of the cultural centres from the Indian Missions and Posts abroad and how many of those have been accepted;
- (b) the number of the cultural centres set up during the last two years;
- (c) whether the cultural centers in Washington has started functioning; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Projects in Bhutan funded by India**

3635. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the mega projects in Bhutan which are being funded by Government alongwith the expenditure incurred on each project; and
- (b) by when, these projects are likely to be completed?

### **Ranking in globalisation**

3636. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India ranks below Pakistan, Bangladesh in globalisation;
- (b) if so, whether India's ranking has slipped from 49 to 56 in 2003;
- (c) if so, whether Government have assessed the cause of such fall in ranking; and
- (d) if so, the findings thereof?

### **Projects with neighbouring countries**

3637. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government, with a view to strengthen friendship and understanding with the immediate neighbouring countries, have taken up and executed some development schemes or projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;
- (c) whether some more projects are proposed to be implemented; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

### **Indo-Sri Lanka Accord**

3638. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fifteen years after signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord, India is projecting an interest in one of the more controversial provisions of the treaty that gives it first preference in the running of an oil storage facility in the eastern district of Trincomalee;

(b) if so, whether the Indian High Commissioner alongwith the Indian Defence Advisor visited Trincomalee and the oil farm since the signing of the 1987 Accord;

(c) whether Government have decided to implement the accord fully; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made in this regard?

#### **Indian fishermen in foreign jails**

3639. SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishermen in the jails of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the last week of February 2003, Pakistan freed 280 Indian fishermen; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to get release of the Indian fishermen from foreign jails?

#### **Resolution in USA State legislature about Kashmir**

3640. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:  
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:  
SHRI C. RAMA-  
CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of New Hampshire in the U.S.A. has recently adopted a resolution urging the U.S. Congress to hold hearings on Kashmir so as to facilitate a just, peaceful and rapid end to this conflict;

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

(c) the steps taken to apprise the State legislators and also the U.S. Administration on the established facts on Kashmir?

#### **US request to provide airspace facilities**

3641. SHRI GHULAM NABI  
AZAD:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government had approached India for providing Indian airspace and other facilities to the US and British forces during war against Iraq;

(b) if so, whether Government have not accepted the request;

(c) how many countries have offered assistance to US to fight against Iraq;

(d) whether Government have started any initiatives to stop this war;

(e) if so, whether India have approached all the Non-Aligned nations to intervene and urge the US Government to follow the United Nations advice on these issues; and

(f) if so, the what extent Government have succeeded in its role?

#### **Job security to Gulf returnees**

3642. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:  
SHRI PARMESHWAR  
KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians in Iraq and Kuwait at the outbreak of war on March 20, the number who have left for home and those still left behind;

(b) the steps Government are contemplating for the due return of the Indians to resume their jobs in the Gulf States from where they left for India since and prior to the outbreak of the war; and

(c) Government's response to the media reports that not all, who left in the wake of war, may be welcome to return?

#### **Indo-China relations**

3643. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has sent a message to India that it wants to build strong economic and business ties with India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Statute of Rome**

3644. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Statute of Rome to which India was not a party was ratified by sixty countries;

(b) whether on the 11th March 2003, the International Criminal Court, comprising of 18 judges came into existence at Hague to prosecute and punish perpetrators of barbaric crimes;

(c) whether India would now take advantage of this Court's functioning in the present terrorist-ridden scenario; and

(d) if so, what modalities are required to be made?

#### **Commitment with regard to Indus Water Treaty**

3645. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late Pakistan has been lagging behind in fulfilling their commitment with regard to Indus Water Treaty signed between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been brought to the notice of the Government of Pakistan and if so, their reaction thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Disclosure by Indian representative in Munich Security Conference**

3646. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:  
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian representative to the Munich Security Conference, held in February this year, made a startling disclosure that Pakistan was hiding its nuclear weapons in tunnels and caves in Chagai hills of Baluchistan;

(b) if so, what was the basis of such a disclosure;

(c) whether he also stressed that larger than life obsession with Al-Qaida was leading to inadequate consultations and intelligence sharing on global terrorist threat; and

(d) the reaction and response of the Munich Security Conference thereto?

#### **Trade agreement with Afghanistan**

3647. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a bilateral trade agreement with Afghanistan during the recent visit of Afghan President;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed by the two countries; and

(c) to what extent, Indian people, traders and tourists would be benefited by this agreement?

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

#### **Extradition treaty between India and Poland**

3648. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Poland have signed an extradition treaty; and

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

#### **Death of Indians in Iraq**

†3649. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the death or injury of any Indian nationals during war waged by US in Iraq has been confirmed officially;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken for safety of the Indian living in Iraq and other Gulf countries?

#### **Indus Water Treaty**

3650. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly has passed a resolution urging upon the Central Government to review the Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan;

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

(c) whether it is proposed to take up the matter with Pakistan; and

#### **Activities of ISI in the country**

3651. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any evidence to prove that spur in bomb blasts in the country during the last few months is at the behest of the Pakistan agency ISI;

(b) if so, whether Government have protested to Pakistan about the nefarious activities of ISI in India and/or any other international forum;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Gurdwaras in Pakistan**

3652. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the historical Gurdwaras in Pakistan are not maintained properly and require extensive maintenance and repair; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Loss of hydrocarbons due to US-Iraq war**

3653. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US and allied forces have torched many oil fields in Iraq war;

(b) if so, the loss of hydrocarbon availability to the universe;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether there is any provision in the UN Charter that no country would destroy the natural gifted global utility sources in other country;

(d) if so, whether it may be enforced in war on Iraq; and

(e) what would be impact of the destruction of the Iraqi oilfields to economies of India and the world?

#### **Indo-German agreement**

3654. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the German President recently visited New Delhi;

(b) if so, the agreement or MoUs signed during the visit for closer ties between the two countries; and

(c) whether he supported India's claim for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council?

#### **Re-negotiation on Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty**

3655. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks have been held with Nepal for re-negotiating the existing Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty and extradition treaty; and

(b) if so, the progress made, so far, in this regard alongwith the details of the new treaties, if any, since negotiated?

#### **Withdrawal from International Hockey Tournament**

3656. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stay away from an International Hockey Tournament in Malaysia to protest over the action of Malaysian police against some Indian IT professionals;

(b) if so, whether Government consider using sports as an instrument of achieving foreign policy objectives; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Deportation of UAE criminals**

3657. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand from UAE Government for deportation of the criminals who have taken shelter in India;

(b) if so, the number of such criminals; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

#### **Sufferings of Indians in Malaysia**

3658. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sufferings of the other Indian workers in Malaysia in addition to more than 200 I.T. professionals who were raided by Malaysian police;

(b) if so, whether the Indian High Commission in Malaysia has taken up the grievances of both the I.T. professionals as well as the unskilled Indian workers working in Malaysia; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the results achieved thereby?

### **Sanctions against Pakistan**

3659. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Government has lifted sanctions against Pakistan, imposed in 1999 after the military coup;

(b) whether this step has been taken by the US to solicit the support of Pakistan in the Security Council;

(c) whether this decision came a few days after India declared its military unwillingness to permit the US aircrafts, en-route to the Gulf from refueling in its territory; and

(d) if so, the latest position of our relations with US?

### **Exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh**

3660. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether regarding exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh, there has been any efforts to ratify the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974;

(b) the number of Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and Bangladeshi enclaves in India alongwith the area and population, enclave-wise;

(c) the factors hampering the smooth and quick exchange of enclaves and the measures taken to overcome them; and

(d) the details of Government's efforts in this regard?

### **Demarcation of Indo-Bangla border**

3661. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that still portions of the Indo-Bangla border remains undemarcated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons or factors behind the inability to demarcate the same;

(d) the consequence as a result thereof;

(e) whether Government have taken up the matter with their Bangladesh counterparts; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

### **Pressure on North Korea to dismantle atomic weapons**

3662. SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has urged the US that they should build pressure on North Korea instead of dealing with Iraq alone;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the US Government is considering to pressurise China on North Korea;

(c) whether both the countries, US and China, have been able to persuade North Korea to dismantle its atomic weapons; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

### **Expenditure by Indian Missions and Posts**

3663. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 756 crores in foreign exchange is being spent annually on our 156 Missions and Posts abroad;

(b) whether some austerity measures are being introduced and if so, the percentage of savings anticipated thereby;

(c) whether any study has been conducted towards relocation of some of the Indian Missions to make them cost effective; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Indians in Pakistani jails**

3664. SHRI AMAR SINGH:  
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian nationals-civilian and defence personnel, separately, according to Government's estimates, at present languishing in Pakistani jails; and

(b) the steps taken during the last two years to seek their release and the results thereof?

#### **Social Security Cards**

3665. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to issue National Social Security Cards to the EPF account holders; and

(b) if so, the purpose of this scheme and the amount involved as an expenditure on this scheme?

#### **Job opportunities during Tenth Plan**

†3666. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed

the number of new employment aspirants every year during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimates of the creation of new employment opportunities every year during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

#### **Reconstitution of the Central Board of Trustees**

3667. SHRI GAYA SINGH:  
SHRI JANARDHANA  
POOJARY:  
SHRI JIBON ROY:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees Provident Fund has recently been reconstituted;

(b) if so, the details of the rules and regulations governing constitution of the CBT, its aims and objectives, the members with the union affiliations, etc.;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of unions have expressed their resentment over the manner in which the CBT was reconstituted;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the CBT would be further reconstituted; and

(f) the detail of its meetings and the subject discussed therein?

#### **Job seekers in Rajasthan**

3668. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of candidates still on the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

waiting list of job seekers in each employment exchange in Rajasthan, district-wise;

(b) the rate of registration of new candidates per annum; and

(c) the details of the ratio of job opportunities provided by each exchange to the number of registrants during the last three years, year-wise?

#### **Nominees in the CBT**

3669. SHRI PRASANTA

CHATTERJEE:

SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the present employees nominees in the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) whether Government have received names of the nominees of CITU and AITUC prior to March 13, 2003;

(c) the mode of inclusion of employees nominee in the CBT that prevailed for the last 50 years; and

(d) whether Government have disagreed to the nomination of the CITU's nominee and if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Contract labour**

3670. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that contract labour may be allowed in all sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the sectors and services that would be opened for contract labour;

(d) whether a sense of insecurity is gripping the regular employees, particularly Government employees, over the proposed Government's move; and

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

#### **Employment exchanges**

†3671. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment exchanges together with the number of computerised employment exchanges, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to include computerisation programme of employment exchanges under the Central scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve functioning of the employment exchanges?

#### **Work scenario at garment export units**

3672. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

SHRI RAMACHANDRA

KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic work scenario at the garment export units;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any survey regarding working conditions in the garment export units; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the working conditions in these units and to ensure weekly holidays, working hours and wages as per Government's norms?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Gold coins to EPFO employees**

3673. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the 160th meeting of the CBT of the Employees Provident Fund it has been decided to present gold coins to the employees of EPFO;

(b) if so, the head of account wherefrom the expenditure would be met;

(c) the budget allocation for this purpose; and

(d) the estimated expenditure to be made for the purpose?

**Benefit of employees' pension scheme**

3674. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that a number of employees, working in various industries including some multinational companies, have not been given any benefit of the employees' pension scheme following their retirement;

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

(c) whether any follow-up has been/is proposed to be taken to deal with such problems and assist the affected persons to get back their dues; and

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

**Reinvestment in special deposit schemes**

3675. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reduce the interest rate on EPF;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to revise the pattern of reinvestment in the Special Deposit Schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the returns from the SDSs marked a downward trend;

(f) if so, to what extent; and

(g) whether Government propose to introduce any alternative measures to overcome the situation?

**Declaration of interest rate on E.P.F.**

3676. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present rate of interest on the Employees Provident Fund is 9.5 per cent per annum;

(b) whether the interest rate on E.P.F. for the current financial year has not been declared, so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Finance and Investment Committee has been asked to look into the matter;

(d) if so, what are its recommendations;

(e) by when, a decision is likely to be taken; and

(f) whether the Central Board of Trustees would be apprised of it before declaring the interest rate?

**Lifting restrictions on employment of contract workers**

3677. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to lift restrictions on employment of contract workers in certain identified sectors;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the licence regime in respect of the labour contractors, is also proposed to be removed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government have proposed inbuilt mechanism to check exploitation of the labour class by unscrupulous contractors; and
- (f) if so, what are the safety measures proposed by Government?

#### **Ravindra Verma Commission**

3678. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1744 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th December, 2002 and state:

- (a) the details of the recommendations of Ravindra Verma Commission which have been accepted and those turned down; and
- (b) the reasons for turning down or partially rejecting the recommendations?

#### **Non-payment of wages**

†3679. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that salary to the labourers who are performing their duties continuously inspite of their serious illness, is not being paid by his Ministry for the last several years;
- (b) if so, the number and category of the said labourers and the reasons for non-payment of their salaries;
- (c) the officer responsible for non-payment of salaries to the affected labourers and the action taken by Government against him; and

(d) the immediate orders proposed to be issued by Government to provide better treatment and payment of all the wage dues to the affected and ill labourers and by when?

#### **Payment of minimum wage**

†3680. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the provision of wages to be paid to men, women and minor labourers under Minimum Wages Act;
- (b) the reasons for variation in amount paid as wages by the States; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure uniformity in the interest of labourers?

#### **BPL population**

†3681. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people living Below Poverty Line in the first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) the target set by Government for upliftment of the people living Below Poverty Line during the Ninth Five Year Plan period and to what extent the same has been achieved; and
- (c) whether Government are considering to act under a special plan to meet the target set for Tenth Five Year Plan?

#### **People Below Poverty Line**

†3682. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a survey

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

conducted by the Planning Commission in 1999-2000 revealed that the number of people living below poverty line has been reduced *vis-a-vis* that in 1997;

(b) if so, the estimated number of such people living Below Poverty Line during 1999-2000 in each State; and

(c) the monthly income of the people of this category in each State?

#### **Per capita income in Gujarat**

3683. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per-capita income in Gujarat and how does it compare with the per-capita income at the National level; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to bring per-capita income in the State at par with the National level?

#### **BPL population in Uttar Pradesh**

3684. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of people Below Poverty Line in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the definition of poverty line in comparison to the international definition;

(c) whether Government have any package to reduce poverty; and

(d) the number of people living Below Poverty Line, State-wise?

#### **Allocation of funds to Assam**

3685. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated to Assam under the Centrally sponsored programmes during the Tenth Plan; and

(b) the steps being taken to utilize the funds allotted for the schemes in the State?

#### **Non-profit Organisations**

3686. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:  
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:  
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:  
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the sources of receipts of Non-Profit Organisations engaged in development work in the country;

(b) whether Government have analysed their activities or propose to do so; and

(c) the outcome of such a survey, if any?

#### **Upgradation of Trichy-Rameswaram Highway in Tamil Nadu**

3687. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from Tamil Nadu to upgrade the State Highway from Trichy to Rameswaram via Pudukottai, Thirumayam, Thondi, etc., into National Highway; and

(b) if so, by when it would be approved by the Central Government along with the financial allocation for this project?

**Flyover on T-junction of Delhi  
Faridabad-Jaitpur village**

3688. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:  
Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT  
AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed flyover to  
be built at T-junction of Delhi-Faridabad-  
Jaitpur village on NH;

(b) the names of Government and non-  
Government agencies involved in it;

(c) the proposed date to start its  
construction and projected period of its  
completion; and

(d) the strategy evolved to complete the  
proposed project on time?

**Constitution of National Motor Vehicle  
Licensing Tribunal**

†3689. SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:  
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether Delhi High Court has  
suggested to constitute the National Motor  
Vehicle Licensing Tribunal for issuing  
licences to Motor Vehicle drivers;

(b) if so, whether Government have  
apprised of its observations to the Court;

(c) the steps taken by Government to  
constitute the Tribunal; and

(d) by when, it would be constituted?

**Recruitment of under qualified  
engineers**

†3690. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an  
advertisement was given by the Union  
Public Service Commission on the 22nd  
September, 2001 for the post of  
Superintendent Engineer (Civil) and if so,  
the qualifications prescribed for the same;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of the 33  
selected persons most of them do not fulfil  
all the qualifications;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these  
engineers are being assigned the  
responsibility of the National Highways  
projects; and

(d) if so, the basis thereof and who  
would be responsible for the durability of  
the highways constructed by them?

**National Highways in Madhya  
Pradesh**

†3691. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:  
Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT  
AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the National Highways in Madhya  
Pradesh together with their length;

(b) the amount released for maintenance  
of these highways during the last three years  
and the amount utilised; and

(c) whether Government are considering  
to declare some more highways as National  
Highways?

**Traffic jam due to Kanwariyas**

†3692. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will  
the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND  
HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of  
the fact that normal traffic gets jammed on  
the Delhi-Meerut-Haridwar-Rishikesh  
highways during a number of months  
because of the Kanwariyas movement  
thereon;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government propose to construct some parallel road for their movement;

(c) if so, by when the construction work is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by Government to solve the problem arising out of their movement?

#### **Two wheeler accidents**

3693. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two wheelers accidents are increasing alarmingly in the country due to riding of more than two persons, particularly carrying children on two wheelers;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to prevent such incidents; and

(c) the details of the persons died/injured as a result thereof in Karnataka during the past three years?

#### **Additional assistance for Maintenance of NHs in Rajasthan**

†3694. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allocated any additional assistance for construction and maintenance of National Highways in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the items of work, to be taken up in respect of the National Highways in the State has been finalised?

#### **Repair of NH-52**

3695. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1018 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the breached portion besides most part of pits and potholes of the NH-52 remain unrepaired till March, 2003, as assured;

(b) whether the area beyond Samarajan Breach is susceptible to cut off during summer;

(c) if so, the details of the repair work done and the action taken to ensure road link during summer;

(d) whether Bailey Bridge is considered a solution in those vulnerable areas;

(e) if so, the response thereto; and

(f) the action plan finalised to strengthen, widening and protection of NH-52 during the Tenth Plan showing work-wise outlay, target fixed, allocation made and the achievements?

#### **Construction of National Highways**

3696. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Gujarat and other States where National Highways have been constructed from January 1, 2001 till date alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the number of National Highways proposed to be constructed during the current Five Year Plan, year-wise, alongwith the amount proposed to be spent thereon;

(c) the details of the existing two-lane highways;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government propose to convert two-lane National Highways into four-lane; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **National Highways in Tamil Nadu**

3697. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for upgradation and maintenance of the National Highways in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government for conversion of some of the State Highways into National Highways;

(c) whether Government have approved the proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial allocation for this purpose?

#### **National Highways on East Coast**

3698. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to construct a National Highway on the East-Coast;

(b) whether the State Governments have submitted any proposals in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have examined their proposals; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

#### **National Highways projects in Andhra Pradesh**

3699. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some external agencies have provided assistance for the National Highways projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of each of such projects?

#### **Declaration of National Highways in Rajasthan**

3700. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has proposed to declare more roads in the State as National Highways;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government intend to consider the proposals based on the criteria forwarded by the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Funds for roads in Assam**

3701. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the details of the financial allocation made for Assam during the Tenth Five Year Plan for widening, expansion and repair works of various National Highways?

### Assistance under CRF

3702. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided assistance from the Central Road Fund for construction of bridges and improvement of roads in the State;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals pending with Government for release of funds, State-wise; and

(c) by when these proposals are likely to be cleared?

### Grants for maintenance of National Highways

3703. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the non-plan grants for maintenance and repairs of the National Highways during each of the last five years, State-wise;

(b) the amount utilized so far, State-wise;

(c) whether maintenance and repair grants are proportionate to the length of the National Highways in the States; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### Bridges/roads in Orissa under CRF

3704. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain proposals from the State Government of Orissa for construction of bridges and improvement of roads under the Central Road Fund are pending with the Central Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their estimated cost; and

(c) by when the grant for the above proposals are likely to be released?

### Capital investment in SSIs

†3705. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to increase the ceiling of the capital investment in small scale industries; and

(b) if so, what is the present ceiling and to what extent it is proposed to be increased?

### Growth rate of SSIs

3706. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth rate of SSI sector is far better than the industrial growth rate during the last five years;

(b) if so, the ratio of growth rate of the SSI sector and the industrial sector, during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) what steps his Ministry is taking or propose to take to improve the growth rate of SSI?

### Capital subsidy to SSIs

3707. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 12 per cent of the capital subsidy is provided to the SSI units for investment in technology for its upgradation;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of units that have availed of this subsidy during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the loan that has been disbursed under this scheme during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

#### **SSIs in Rajasthan**

3708. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals under Government's consideration for promotion of small scale industries in Rajasthan;

(b) the details of the financial allocations for promotion of small scale industries in the State; and

(c) by when a final decision would be taken in this respect?

#### **Status of SSIs**

3709. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of the small scale industries in different parts of the country in terms of implementation of the schemes under his Ministry;

(b) the efforts made by his Ministry to

encourage the small and medium industries; and

(c) the growth in the small scale industries during the past five years, State-wise?

#### **Launching of satellites**

3710. MISS MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of the ISRO in launching satellites, successfully testing of launch vehicles and the new initiatives in space applications during the year 2002; and

(b) whether these satellites can forecast natural calamities such as cyclones, earthquakes, cloud bursts and the like?

#### **Manned lunar landing project**

3711. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY:

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for a manned lunar landing project;

(b) if so, its aims, objectives and the cost;

(c) the time frame for such a project; and

(d) the funds allotted for the project?

NEW DELHI;  
The 17th April, 2003  
Chaitra 27, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
Secretary-General.



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