

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the November 24, 2005/Agrahayana 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; Urban Development; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions —155

Development of sports in A.P.

130. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the allocation of funds for the development of sports stadium and its infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have provided/allocated the funds in this regard, State-wise; and

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

PMRY in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) the details of the funds released during the last two years under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana, State-wise;

(b) whether any assessment has been

made about the utilization of these funds;

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

(d) the details of unemployed youths of Andhra Pradesh receiving funds under the PMRY, district-wise?

Sale of Khadi products

132. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production and sale of Khadi products had registered a decreasing trend after 1998-99;

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

(c) whether Government would make it mandatory for Government/Public Sector Organization to buy khadi products according to need, to develop Khadi industries?

Traditional and cottage industries

†133. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

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

(a) whether inspite of several steps taken by Government for improving the traditional and cottage industries during the last few years, the migration of rural youths in search of jobs towards the cities has increased manifold;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the reasons for migration of youths to the cities from village;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check this tendency ?

Package for tiny sector

134. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy initiative or separate package of incentives for tiny sector to improve their competitive Resilience;

(b) whether there is inter sectoral co-ordination and cooperation mechanism among the concerned ministers and other ministries;

(c) whether a 'Swot' analysis was done on the working of small scale and tiny sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Commercial operations at Kundankulam

135. SHRIMATI C. PERUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to expand nuclear power station at Kundankulam and other stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for commencement of commercial operations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Coal shortage

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether after alarm call of a 95-million tonne of coal shortage by 2012 Government have drawn up an emergency coal production plan;

(b) whether under this plan India's production target of 525 million tonne by 2011-2012 would be achieved;

(c) whether there is a dispute over this fact that additional production had not come into extent that it was expected due to non-approval of projects in Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(d) if so, what were targets set in Tenth Five Year Plan and to what extent it has been achieved;

(e) whether long term measure of coal are being considered in Eleventh Five Year Plan period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Alignment of domestic coal prices

137. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, while inaugurating a two-day seminar on coal in Delhi on the 19th October, 2005, stated that it was time to align domestic coal prices with international prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Non-payment of compensation by MCL

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. had issued notification in 1979 to acquire land at Padmabatipur in Angul district for mining of coal and did not pay any compensation to the owners of land during the last 26 years even though the land remained virtually under its control;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said company had violated the provisions of Relief and Rehabilitation Scheme in other cases as well in grant of compensation and jobs for livelihood; and

(c) if so, the details of such violations with the action plan of Company to help affected families by way of grant of adequate compensation and jobs as per rules?

Illegal mining and black marketing of coal

139. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:
SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal worth Rs. 300 crores is mined and blackmarketed every year in Jharkhand and West Bengal;

(b) what action has been taken/initiated to curb such illegal mining of coal in these States or elsewhere; and

(c) whether Government would set-up an enquiry into the alleged involvement of officials in this scam?

Scam in CCL

†140. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a scam to the tune of crores of rupees has taken place in CCL by showing the over reporting of coal;

(b) whether it is a fact that a joint team of CBI, CCL and CMPDIL has investigated into this case;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) since when this over reporting scam is being run and people found guilty for the same; and

(e) the action Government have taken against the guilty persons?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Conversion of coal into liquid and gas

†141. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new technique named CTL has been invented under which coal can be converted into liquid or gas;

(b) if so, whether Coal India Limited is formulating any scheme to convert some quantity of coal reserve available in our country into said form by using the above technique; and

(c) the proposed outline of the said scheme?

Extra Departmental Employees

142. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Extra Departmental Employees (EDES) are working in Postal Department;

(b) whether Government are considering to give regular employment to them; and

(c) the status of implementation of Talwar Committee report?

Quality and satisfactory services to customers by mobile companies

†143. SHARIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that private telecom companies are luring

consumers in small and medium cities through various schemes but are totally unable to provide them services;

(b) if so, the steps are being taken by Government to ensure quality and satisfactory service to the consumers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Promotion of Group 'A' Officers

†144. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are Government's view with regard to promotion policy of the Officers after the absorption of Group 'A' (ITS) Officers in BSNL and MTNL;

(b) the reasons for discontentment among the Officers with regard to option provided by Government for absorption; and

(c) if any discontentment, the details and what significant efforts have been made to put an end to the same?

Appointment on compassionate grounds in MTNL/BSNL

†145. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with regard to appointment on compassionate grounds in BSNL and MTNL in different States of the country and the details thereof;

(b) the number of persons appointed on compassionate grounds in these States during the last three years and the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government to expedite such appointments?

Provision of STD/ISD/Fax facilities in villages

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

(a) the number of villages in different parts of the country where Telephone/STD/ISD/Fax facility is still not available;

(b) by when these services would be provided to all these villages which are deprived of above facilities; and

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

Spread of broadband policy

147. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently asked Government to accept its suggestions regarding the spread of broadband in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made by TRAI in this regard and those so far accepted by Government;

(c) the suggestions proposed to be accepted shortly, the time likely to be taken therefor; and

(d) the suggestions not accepted by Government and the reasons therefor in each case?

Amendment in I.T. Act

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

(a) by when Government are going to bring amendments to IT Act to ensure data security and customer protection;

(b) whether Government has identified any areas where the amendments are required to IT Act; and

(c) if so, the details of the areas identified?

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

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

(a) the reasons of avoidance or delaying of the merger of the B.S.N.L. and M.T.N.L.;

(b) whether the final decision for merger of the two Government enterprises is under consideration of Government;

(c) if so, by when these two enterprises would be merged; and

(d) if not, the detailed information thereof?

Recommendations made by TRAI

150. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether looking at the rising gap between urban and rural communication

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

facilities TRAI has recommended for giving incentives for telecom service providers to increase the competition in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by TRAI; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government on the recommendations made by TRAI?

Privatization of MTNL/BSNL

151. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than thousand Group 'A' officials were reverted to parent department during October, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the reasons therefor the above mass scale reversion;

(c) if so, the steps taken in details to avoid a rudderless situation in MTNL and BSNL after the reversion of the above senior officials; and

(d) if so, whether there is any move to privatize the above two public sector companies?

Change of faulty PCOs in Ajmer

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the equipments installed at the PCOs in the rural areas surrounding Ajmer city are generally out of order and due to this the consumers are deprived of these facilities; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government for changing the equipments and improving the lines as well?

Profit of BSNL

153. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of revenue and profits of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and dividend paid during the last three years;

(b) what has been the revenue generated by various divisions of BSNL viz. (i) Wireline Business, (ii) Mobile Business, (iii) National Long Distance (NLD) and International Long Distance business during the last three years; and

(c) whether BSNL prepares an Annual Report and Balance Sheet like in case of MTNL and if so, the details in this regard?

MoUs with Japan in IT

154. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Japan have decided to develop information and communication technologies together;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a meeting was held recently between India and Japan and some MoUs were also signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of MoUs signed by India and Japan; and

(d) the areas that have been identified by both the countries and the benefit that India is going to get out of these?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Violation of ISP licence by Bharati

155. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued showcause notice to the any private telecom operator for violating ISP licence;

(b) whether it is a fact that 13 internet leased lines subscribers of the said company are receiving international calls and also further illegally switched to various subscribers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Data tampering and e-fraud

156. SHRI R.K. ANAND : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that computerization of Government functions, exposes organization to risk of data tampering and e-fraud;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what arrangement had been made to ensure data safety?

Purchase of SIM cards by naxalites

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

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that naxalites have procured 400 SIM cards from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an inquiry has been ordered

into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the findings of the inquiry and the action taken thereon by Government?

Construction of building by Department of Posts

158. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts is contemplating a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to mobilize non-tariff revenue, by commercially exploiting its surplus land, on the lines of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) or the proposed Railway Land Development Authority;

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

(c) the details of plots of land acquired in the past but the Department has not been able to construct buildings and other estates lying vacant in various States?

Consultative paper on number portability

159. SHRI C. PERUMAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has circulated a consultative paper on number portability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been or proposed to be taken in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Publishing of mobile telephone directory

160. SHRI C. PERUMAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a general demand for publishing mobile telephone directory especially in view of continuous terrorist threat in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to publish mobile telephone directory;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Expansion of telephone/mobile facilities in far flung areas

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

(a) whether Government have fixed any target to extend the existing telephone/mobile facilities to the rural areas/remote areas and hilly areas in the country for better communication means;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any schemes in this respect?

Pan Africa Project Network

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

(a) whether Government have offered Pan Africa Project Network for the development of communication system in African countries;

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

(c) the estimate expenditure to be incurred in this regard;

(d) by when the project is expected to be completed; and

(e) the extent to which India shall be benefited?

Provision of wireless Internet connectivity

163. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide wireless internet connectivity in the country;

(b) the projects proposed to be undertaken by Government and private companies in this regard; and

(c) the details of the coverage available so far?

Charges of Limited Mobile phones

164. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently issued a notice under which Fixed Wireless Phones (FWPs) which were treated as Fixed Phones have been reclassified as Limited Mobile/WLL (M) phones;

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

(c) whether Government are aware that after the issue of this notice, persons calling limited mobile/WLL (M) phones from

BSNL lines have to pay almost triple the charges; and

(d) if so, how many complaints have been received in this regard and the steps being taken to remove this anomaly in the interest of BSNL subscribers?

Subsidized telephone rates

165. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile subscriber base is growing by roughly 5-8 per cent every month as compared to subscriber base of BSNL;

(b) whether it is also a fact that inspite of stagnant subscriber base of BSNL, Government have not considered the interest of 60 million mobile subscribers by subsidizing telephony cost; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard in the interest of 60 million mobile subscribers?

Competitive bid for NLD business

166. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to constitute Competition Commission which will look into the economic development by preventing anti-competitive practices, protect customers' interest and ensure freedom of trade;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the date of constitution of the Commission;

(c) whether Government are aware that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) exercise

dominant power over competition in areas like Fixed Lines and not allow competitive bids for its NLD business; and

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

Income from outsourcing consultancy services

167. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has emerged as a leader in the ITES sector in regard to outsourcing consultancy services;

(b) if so, the total income from such services during 2002, 2003, 2004 and that expected during the current year, from Western European countries, US and Canada and other outsourcing countries;

(c) the percentage of world ITES outsourcing business transacted during these years, captured and performed by consultancy players in India during these years; and

(d) the other competing countries in the business, and what incentives are given and being given to Indian players in the business?

Withdrawal of ITS Officers from BSNL and MTNL

168. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the factual position about Government withdrawing ITS officers from BSNL and MTNL;

(b) the number of officers withdrawn and the justification behind this move;

(c) whether this move would help jeopardize the services of MTNL/BSNL and help the private operators; and

(d) the details thereof?

Facilities to US based I.T. company

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

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

(a) whether US based IT services Company providing product development and market analytics services is planning to invest another \$100 million in its operations in next 3-4 years in India;

(b) whether the said company has already invested around 30 million dollars in its Indian operation and has been growing by 100 per cent per year since its inception in India three years ago and is planning to double its growth as market keeps expanding rapidly; and

(c) if so, what are the other facilities, services that would be provided to this company to grow further in India?

Performance of DoP

†170. SHRI SURENDRA LATH :
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR :

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

(a) whether Government are aware that performance of private sector in the field of courier, speed-post and parcel services is better than the department of posts;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the performance of the department of posts; and

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

FDI in telecom sector

171. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet has decided for foreign direct investment in Telecom sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent;

(b) if so, what is the total number of investment that is coming forth to India in view of the modified policy; and

(c) what will be the status of foreign nationals holding top positions like CEOs and MDs in telecom sector after the issues of said guidelines?

Quality of reception of mobile phones

172. SHRI THENNALA G.
BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:
DR. M.A.M.
RAMASWAMY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that quality of reception of mobile phones in our country is below international standard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve this essential service by improving the quality of reception of mobile phones?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Action against Internet Service Providers

173. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Internet Service providers charge subscribers for value additions without obtaining their explicit consent; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

Promotion of WLL services

174. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided that fixed services could now be provided only through wireline and through WLL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that it is prohibitive to lay wireline network in rural areas, hilly areas and very congested urban centers; and

(d) if so, the reasons for which Government are not promoting WLL technology for the last mile connection to the consumers?

Terrorist training camps in Pakistan

175. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India conveyed its resentment to Pakistan about Pak still training extremists and holding camps in various parts of Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether infiltration from Pakistan is continuing;

(c) whether Prime Minister during his visit to USA has conveyed US Government about continuation of Pakistan training militants and also operating camps in Pakistan and in PoK area;

(d) if so, whether Pakistan has already been given proof of its camps and operation of these camps from Pakistan by India; and

(e) if so, what is the action Pakistan Government has considered to take as promised by them earlier?

Paul Volcker Report

176. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an independent Inquiry Committee, headed by Paul Volcker, appointed by the UN Secretary General had identified several Indians including former External Affairs Minister and a Political party as non-contractual beneficiaries of Iraqi oil sales in 2001 to a Swiss Oil Company under the UN Oil for Food Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the persons/entities identified in the report;

(c) whether any action is contemplated by Government on the Persons/entities in the report; and

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

Assistance to Pakistan for rehabilitation of earthquake hit areas

177. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the financial and other assistance, so far given by India to Pakistan for the relief and

rehabilitation of those who suffered due to the earthquake on 8th October, 2005?

Indo-US agreement on nuclear power generation

178. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether substantial capacity augmentation in nuclear energy generation in the country is envisaged in the Indo-US joint collaboration agreement signed in July, 2005;

(b) if so, the feature of the steps taken and/or initiated by each party towards implementation of the agreement, so far;

(c) the details of the road map indicating potential volume of generation capacity planned to be added, if any, at respective stages of implementation of the agreement;

(d) whether separation of our civilian nuclear activities from the defence related ones has been one of the demands from the side of the United States; and

(e) if so, the rationale thereof?

Government's view on Iran's nuclear programme

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

(a) the reaction of Government to the pressure being built by USA and European Union on Iran to curtail its nuclear programme;

(b) whether Government have discussed this issue with USA and other countries as its non-resolution may lead to another war;

(c) if so, the details of the discussions and if not, the reasons therefor especially as the issue reflects on India's security concerns; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to

take to express its solidarity with countries which are pursuing nuclear programmes to meet their energy needs and face opposition from nuclear countries like India did a few years ago?

UN report on scam in Oil for Food Programme

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

(a) whether Government are aware of news items published in a newspaper dated 30.10.2005 captioned "Saddam Scam: Natwar smells conspiracy in UN Report";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a political party of the country has also been involved in the report; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

Abductions of Hindus in Pakistan

181. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Hindu men and women are being kidnapped and their abductions have increased in Sindh (Pakistan);

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with Pakistani counterpart;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government of Pakistan in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Indians in British jails

182. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian nationals, at present, in British jails;

(b) the number, out of them, who have undergone the sentences awarded by courts but still not released; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to secure their release?

Pre-conditions on Indo-US nuclear agreement

183. SHRIMANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Administration has proposed a fresh set of pre-conditions for India to be fulfilled before the former could present the potential nuclear agreement to the Congress for approval;

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

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Convention on International Terrorism

184. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India during the recent 60th Session of the UN General Assembly Session, while cautioning the world body against a selective approach to terrorism, called for global collective efforts for fighting the menace and to adopt a strong counter terrorism agenda;

(b) if so, the response of the world body thereto;

(c) whether the draft comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism initiated by India was adopted; and

(d) if so, the details of the Convention?

Pendency of passport application in Punjab

185. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated time required for the issuing of a new passport in Punjab circle;

(b) the number of application lying pending in Punjab for the purpose;

(c) the steps taken by Government for their quick disposal; and

(d) whether the staff strength is sufficient to clear the backlog?

Maoist insurgency in Nepal

186. SHRIMANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any offer for help from the Chinese authorities to control the Maoist insurgency in Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Non-returns of athletes participating in international meets

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many athletes who went abroad particularly to USA and Canada in the past did not return after participating in international meets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to bring them back; and

(d) steps proposed to be taken to ensure that players sponsored to the participating in games abroad do return in time?

Vote against Iran on nuclear issue

188. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make a reversal of Iran vote;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to Iran vote the relationship between India and Iran had been suffered badly; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to normalize the relationship between the two countries?

Permanent seat in Security Council

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of an editorial in a leading newspaper saying that the Indian Government's foreign policy is in danger of becoming hostage to its "obsession" with securing a permanent seat in the U.N. Security Council;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) whether our efforts are effective to mobilize world opinion to India becoming a permanent member of Security Council?

Amritsar-Lahore bus service

190. SHRI VARINDER SINGH
BAJWA:
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS
KAUR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a further confidence building measure to improve and increase people to people contacts between India and Pakistan, Government have introduced a weekly bus service between Amritsar and Lahore;

(b) whether bus service has been started as per schedule;

(c) if so, the welcome result of the introduction of the bus service so far;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by

when a fresh date is likely to be announced; and

(e) what steps have been taken to prevent misuse of the bus service for smuggling and illegal traffic of arms, drugs and humans?

Indo-Iran gas pipeline project

†191. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there would be any negative impact on gas pipeline project as India is not supporting the nuclear programme of Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government of Iran in this regard?

Foreign Minister's Pakistan visit

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

(a) whether the former Minister of External Affairs was on a tour of Pakistan recently;

(b) if so, the issues on which he had a dialogue with the Government of Pakistan and the issues on which both of them reached on a consensus;

(c) whether it is a fact that even today infiltration of terrorists is going on from Pakistan's border; and

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

Indo-China talks held in New York

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

(a) the bilateral issues discussed by the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Prime Minister of India and the President of China during their meeting in New York and the issues on which they arrived at consensus; and

(b) the details of controversial issues and the decision taken for their redressal?

Sixth round of boundary talks with China

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

(a) whether India and China have started their sixth round of talks on boundary dispute;

(b) if so, the outcome of the negotiations; and

(c) whether there is any headway in the negotiations and what are the reasons for carrying out the discussions in-camera?

Pending cases in Industrial Tribunals in labour courts

195. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending for trial in Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals in the country, upto date;

(b) whether pendency is increasing every year; if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of cases which end in favour of labourers; and

(d) what steps Government contemplate to take to improve the scenario and to make it labourer friendly?

Recommendation of Arjun Sen Gupta's Committee

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee was constituted by Government under the Chairmanship of Arjun Sen Gupta for getting suggestion to create large number of employment opportunities in unorganised sector;

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

(c) the details of responsibilities assigned to the Committee and by when the Committee is likely to submit its report to Government?

Rehabilitation of child labourers working in hazardous industries

197. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of child labourers in the country which are in main occupation/inudstries for their employment;

(b) how many of above are engaged in hazardous industries;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government for improving the conditions of children rescued from hazardous employment in the light of directions of the Supreme Court of India in the M.C. Mehta Vs. State of Tamil Nadu (1997);

(d) the total number of child labourers thus rescued and rehabilitated, in the country, during last five years;

(e) the steps Government are taking to strictly implement the Labour Laws to prevent employment of children in various industries and establishments in the country; and

(f) under law could a child labourer be termed as 'forced labour' or 'bonded labour'?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Unlawful activities among educated youths

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the grave unemployment situation in the country and the educated youths are taking to unlawful activities;

(b) what action Government propose to create more employment opportunities to contain unemployment in the country; and

(c) the details thereof?

Exposure of EPF in equities

199. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the investments made by the EPF during the last one year and the returns earned therefrom;

(b) whether the EPF had appointed a consultant to suggest investment of options to EPF;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations given by the consultant;

(d) whether Government are considering the exposure of EPF in equities; and

(e) if so, by when and the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

Rehabilitation of child labour employed in fire works

200. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of

overwhelmingly large number of bonded children below 14 years of age employed in fire works and match factories in different South Indian States, including Sivakasi fire work factories from twelve to fourteen hours a day in dark and dingy conditions; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government during the past three years to liberate such bonded child labour and how many of them have been emancipated from such bondage and rehabilitated during the period?

National-wide coverage drive for uncovered establishments

201. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a nation-wide coverage drive for uncovered establishments/factories, including beedi-workers during January-February, 2005;

(b) the details of the number of establishments/factories and beedi workers establishments detected, State-wise, during this Nation-wide Drive with regards to under reporting their employment strength, evasion of coverage of membership under the EPF Act and cases of defaulting in monthly remittance of statutory contributions and timely submission of returns under EPF Act;

(c) the details of action taken against the defaulted establishments State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Facilities to talented people

202. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent report

by the United Nations Development Programme estimates that 100,000 Indian professionals leave the country every year to take up jobs in the United States;

(b) if so, the main driving force for the brain-drain and potential economic losses to the country due to this mass migration; and

(c) what incentives/facilities Government propose to give to our exceptionally talented people so that they may stay back in India?

Special project on child labour

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

(a) whether a special project on elimination of child labour is being implemented jointly by the Union Labour Ministry and the U.S. Government in addition to the regular National Child Labour Elimination Programme (NCLEP) of the Government of India;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the two parallel programmes running simultaneously in the country?

Social security to workers

204. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers in the country, and their break-up in organized and unorganized sector; male and female categories;

(b) what kind of social security cover is provided to them at present;

(c) whether Planning Commission has recently made any recommendations in this context; and

(d) if so, the steps being considered to implement them?

Application of labour laws in IT sector

205. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the existing labour laws are not being applied in the IT (private) sector in the country;

(b) if so, whether this situation deprive the workers in this sector of the labour rights workers enjoy in other areas;

(c) if so, the steps considered by Government in this regard; and

(d) the details thereof?

Working hours for women employees

206. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the prescribed working hours for industrial and other workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that this norm is not strictly followed in various organizations, particularly in private sector financial institutions, resulting in exploitation of the workforce and leading to complications relating to mental and physical stress, particularly, among female employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would consider issuing directions to all organizations to strictly adhere to the working-hour norms, particularly in respect of women employees; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

MoU with China

207. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seven member delegation of China headed by Chinese Vice-Minister on Labour and Social Security visited India recently;

(b) if so, the purpose and the outcome of the visit;

(c) whether a MoU on exchange in employment vocational training and social security was signed during the visit;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to learn more from China from its success in these fields; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Employment exchanges

†208. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

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

(a) the details of working employment exchanges in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the total number of job seeking persons whose names are registered in each of the employment exchange and the professions for which their names are registered;

(c) the number of persons out of them belonging to physically handicapped, SC/ST and OBC category, employment exchange-wise; and

(d) the number of persons provided with employment through these employment exchanges during last three years and current year, employment exchange-wise, State-wise and category-wise?

Tsunami Warning Centre

†209. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to set up a Tsunami Warning Centre in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had received proposal from various State Governments to set up Tsunami warning systems in their respective States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Research centre at Antarctica

†210. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a new research centre in Antarctica;

(b) the number of scientists working in these research centres at present;

(c) whether deaths have occurred due to very bad weather conditions since 1981 to till date;

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) the amount of annual budget allocated for the research centre situated in Antarctica;

(f) whether Government propose to increase the budget and number of scientists for these centres; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Problems faced by overseas Indians

211. DR. K. MALAISAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the major problems faced by overseas Indians in general and the gulf countries based Indians in particular;

(b) whether there has been any marked improvement in dealing with such problems after the creation of this new Ministry or still there are lot of teething troubles;

(c) whether Government are aware that many of overseas Indians are ignorant of the right step taken by Government in offering dual citizenship facility to them; and

(d) the measures taken or to be taken to make them known and to avail the facility?

Creation of posts for CSS Section Officers

212. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government created about 1800 posts of CSS Section Officers recently to remove stagnation of CSS Assistants;

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

(c) whether 50 per cent of these posts were diverted to departmental examination candidates;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether on account of such diversion, the real objective of easing stagnation in Assistant grade has not been achieved, as a number of Assistants are continuing to stagnate in the same grade for over 10 years;

(f) whether the proposal would be reversed;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Legislation for redressal of public grievances

213. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a national legislation to govern redressal of public grievances; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Infrastructure development

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

(a) whether Government have proposed to set up a public body with a view to make arrangements for the funds to develop infrastructural facilities for roads, bridges economic zones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of present scheme of Government for increasing, developing and improving the said infrastructural facilities in the backward districts of the country and the necessary steps being taken in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Human Development Report-2005

215. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNDP's Human Development Report-2005 has placed India at 127th position out of 177 countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was our ranking in the last five reports?

Starvation in States

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

(a) whether it is a fact that article 47 of the Indian Constitution provides nourishment for the people of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government run schemes for poverty and starvation alleviation in the different States of the country especially in the three districts of Western Orissa—Bolangir, Koraput and Kalahandi and the tribal areas of Rajasthan alongwith the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu; and

(c) what percentage of males and females are the victims of starvation and malnourishment in the above said States?

Infrastructure development in districts

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

(a) whether Government have prepared a comprehensive plan for the infrastructure development in the backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details of projects

undertaken for execution during the current year; and

(c) the details of funds proposed to be granted for the same?

Human Development Index

218. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the number of Indians living in poverty has gone down from 35 per cent to 26 per cent during the last decade, India still ranks 127 out of 177 countries for the second year in a row on the Human Development Index of the United Nations;

(b) if so, what are the determinant norms and criteria laid down, besides basic health and education, for determining the index reading; and

(c) what is the plan of action, if any, for the ensuing decade, for improving India's position on the UN Human Development Index, and the targets contemplated thereunder?

Current poverty line

219. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider the current poverty line decided by the Planning Commission to be appropriate in the present context;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has formed an Expert Group to revise the poverty line; and

(c) if so, whether the Planning Commission has decided upon a time-frame for the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Regulatory framework in the country

220. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the regulatory framework in the country is transparent, autonomous and professionally run;

(b) the status of the work done by the Planning Commission to prepare a policy paper on regulatory framework for the infrastructure sector;

(c) the steps Government propose to undertake to ensure that appointments in such regulatory bodies are done through a transparent and fair procedure as appointments in autonomous regulatory authorities in the past have created controversies;

(d) whether Government are making rules, which ensures functional autonomy for the regulatory bodies; and

(e) in what manner Government would ensure effectiveness of Parliamentary oversight over regulatory authorities?

Gadgil formula for transfer of funds to States

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Gadgil formula for transfer of Plan funds

to States has not been able to mitigate regional imbalances, especially of the backward cash-strapped States such as Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh etc;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to revise this formula to ensure better human and infrastructure development by way of better funding of deficient areas in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Indo-China border trade

222. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposed Indo-China trade through Nathu La border has been put off;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the revised schedule of opening trade links?

GDP of the country

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of America and Japan during the year 2003 was 10,857.2 billion dollar and 4,317.1 billion dollar respectively while GDP of India was only 591.5 billion dollar;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that by utilizing its enormous manpower, India can raise the above level of GDP; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the reaction of Government and the prospective targets fixed by Government in this regard?

Measures for tackling earthquake and other natural disasters

224. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake preparedness measures for earthquake and other natural disaster on the lines of Tokyo and Los Angels;

(b) if so, the details thereof including cities/areas proposed to be covered under this scheme and the costs involved thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Natural Hazard Warning Centre

225. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would assure of locating a Natural Hazard Warning Centre and National Hazard Research Centre at Visakhapatnam, for establishing a Tsunami Warning System in view of the various Departments located in Visakhapatnam namely, IMD office with a Doppler radar, a regional centre of the National Institute for Oceanography, a major Andhra University with a advanced Meteorology and Oceanography subjects with their advanced research Department and with high mountains to prevent damages to Tsunami Warning Systems, and Eastern Naval Command, Naval Science Laboratories, Oceanological Survey of India; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Forecasts of natural calamities by Indian Meteorological Department

226. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Meteorological Department is unable to forecast natural calamities accurately with the available inputs;

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to improve its capabilities to monitor, verify and predict natural calamities more accurately; and

(c) whether Government have any plans to upgrade the scientific know-how to realise this?

Autonomy to scientific institutions

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to grant more autonomy to scientific institutions in the country for providing better opportunities to the scientific community to pursue their R&D;

(b) what are the measures Government are taking to codify the intellectual property rights to enable scientists to exercise more claims on their products; and

(c) whether giving deemed university status to CSIR would promote interdisciplinary studies and research works?

Setting up of biotechnology centre

228. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a biotechnology centre under the auspices of UNESCO and sponsored

by the Department of Biotechnology and the Ministry;

(b) in what way, the proposed institute is going to protect the patents in biotechnology, help in having a strong database on sharing genetic resources as well as traditional knowledge;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the institute is going to offer PG courses; and

(d) if so, the details thereon?

Setting up of Bio-IT Park

229. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are looking for a suitable location for the proposed world's first Bio-IT Park project being promoted jointly by M/s ITCO and Department of Bio-Technology;

(b) if so, whether Government would assure of considering Hyderabad as a suitable location for this prestigious world's first Bio-IT Park in view of Hyderabad already housing the best IT companies such as Microsoft, Oracle, Satyam, Wipro, Infosys and GE, and leading world's research institutes such as International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) and Hyderabad being the Pharma Capital of India; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Agreements for institutional assistance

230. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agreements

Government have signed with International Organizations in the field of Science and Technology during the last three years;

(b) the details of institutional assistance received during the said period; and

(c) the details of the progress made with the help of these institutional assistances in the field of Science and Technology during the last three years?

Comprehensive S&T agreement

231. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and US signed a comprehensive Science and Technology agreement that would include, collaboration in research in health and weather monitoring;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in what way this move would improve our technology in terms of health and weather monitoring;

(d) whether Government have any time-frame for India-US agreement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Research in Nanotechnology

232. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AIIMS and IIT have launched an initiative for collaborative research in Nanotechnology;

(b) if so, the details of the areas that they are going to cover; and

(c) in what way the Nano intervention techniques help in controlling the diseases?

Research in biotechnology

233. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have launched a scheme for funding biotechnology research by small and medium organizations;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the status of its implementation; and

(c) the details of any other incentives that Government are planning for promoting research in biotechnology in India?

Quality of research

234. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality and quantity of science students and research at the university level has been declining;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have proposals to set up new institutions devoted to science education and research;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether these institutions are proposed to be located and the time by which these institutions are likely to start functioning?

Road proposals from Rajasthan

235. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan have sent any proposals to convert some State Highways into National Highways and to widen certain existing National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of State Highways out of them for which Government have agreed to convert them into National Highways;

(d) the National Highways for which Government have agreed to widen them into four/six lanes etc.; and

(e) the time-frame thereof?

National highways in Canacona

236. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct Galjibag and Tolpona bridges on National Highways in Canacona Taluka of South-Goa;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the construction; and

(c) the details of the progress with respect to the construction made so far?

Package for road widening

237. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved Rs. 22,750 crore package for converting 6,500 km. of four laning of highways into six laning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have put any time-frame for this project;

(d) whether this project would be executed under the new model concession agreement under public private partnership; and

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

Length of national waterways

238. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total length of national waterways under use as of now in the country;
- (b) the steps taken to increase the coverage of national waterway; and
- (c) whether Government would take up Buckingham Canal and develop it for waterways transportation?

for the country's maritime sector including ports, shipping, inland waterways and ship building would be submitted before the Cabinet for approval;

- (b) whether this policy was finalized after draft of the proposed policy was discussed at the interministerial coordination committee meeting;
- (c) if so, what are main points of maritime policy;
- (d) whether Cabinet has approved it; and
- (e) by when it is likely to be announced?

Four-laning of National Highways

239. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Highway Authority of India has signed some agreements for four-laning of nearly 200 kms. of highways on BOT basis Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the expenditure involved in this project; and
- (d) by when the work on the project is likely to be completed?

Fencing on highways

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

- (a) whether fencing is being considered on Delhi-Chandigarh, Delhi-Agra and Delhi-Jaipur Highways to prevent stray animals on the roads causing accidents;
- (b) if so, whether it is being considered to put-up such kind of fencing on other highways also which are passing through Delhi; and
- (c) if so, the financial provisions made for coming years for the same?

National maritime policy

240. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR
SANGHI:

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

- (a) whether national maritime policy which envisages a comprehensive strategy

Funds for upgradation of national highways

242. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA
RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

- (a) whether out of Rs. 1,526.57 crore

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

released by Government for upgradation of national highways, States have used only Rs. 279.22 crore during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, whether out of Rs. 632.74 crore released by Central Government for maintenance of highways, States have utilized only Rs. 178.96 crore;

(c) if so, the main reasons for poor performance of States for not utilizing full amount for developing National Highways and also not fully utilizing the repairs work; and

(d) the States that have failed to advice and what action has been taken against those States?

Restructuring of NHAI

243. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the board of NHAI has approved restructuring package for the organization;

(b) what is the "flexi-organization structure" approved by the board of NHAI;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are not in favour of restructuring the board of NHAI; and

(d) what progress the NHAI made with regard to inter-connecting of NHAI offices with their construction and toll booths across the country?

Roads in J & K

244. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the

upgradation of the State Road from Jammu to Suchetgarh in Jammu and Kashmir has been sanctioned till R.S. Pura;

(b) if so, the reasons for not upgrading it till Suchetgarh; and

(c) the details thereof?

Transportation of goods items

245. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian traders are loosing around Rs. 1200 crores every year during transportation of goods items throughout India due to irresponsible attitude of Transport Companies;

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

(c) whether Government are considering to have stringent rules for Road Transport Companies for avoiding transportation loss in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

Shipping project at Kochi

246. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project report seeking sanction to establish an International Bunkering Terminal, Cruise Terminal and Ship Repairing Yard at Kochi in Kerala is pending with Government;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to accord sanction for the above project;

(c) whether Government have permitted to create Special Economic Zones in connection with the Vallarpadam Project in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Upgradation of Highways

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

(a) whether a number of important Highway Sections in various parts of the country have been identified for upgradation into four-lane and six-lane highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof with funds allocated and the targeted date for completion of each section, State-wise;

(c) whether it is proposed to upgrade the B.C. Road-Surathkal Section of the National Highway into a four lane highway;

(d) if so, the request that have been received for upgradation of the said Section into six-lane highway, as traffic on this Section is expected to increase manifold in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

Maintenance of National Highways

248. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government experience hurdles in the maintenance of National Highways;

(b) whether there is a proposal to hand over National Highways to the State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

New Universal Safety Fund

249. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are creating a new universal safety Fund, under the aegis of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on the recommendation of the empowered group on infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to create a separate safety reserve for all Highway projects that were to be undertaken through the new concession agreement;

(c) whether the proceeds from tolls and cess on petrol and diesel would be utilized for financing this fund; and

(d) whether existing Highway Projects on Golden Quadrilateral etc., which were in the first phase of National Highway Projects, also be covered under this fund?

National Highways in J & K

250. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Highways in Jammu and Kashmir where widening, expansion and maintenance has been started from 2003 till date;

(b) the expenditure incurred and the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the details of new projects to be started in near future?

Damage to National Highways

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

(a) whether the recent rain that caused havoc in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have caused extensive damage to the National Highways;

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

(c) the steps taken by Central Government to repair these National Highways of economic importance?

High Security Registration Plates

252. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has issued notice to Government regarding the implementation of the High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) system on motor vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

Delhi-Gurgaon expressway

253. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the budget and time-frame to complete the Delhi-Gurgaon expressway on NH-8;

(b) what are the estimates regarding budget and time to complete the project;

(c) which company is responsible for the delay of project; and

(d) the details thereof?

Condition of National Hiwhways

254. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways in the country particularly in southern States are in very bad condition;

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

(c) whether the recent heavy rain in some parts of the country has badly damaged the already damaged National Highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken to repair these National Highways?

Amritsar-Attari road

255. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether Government have recently instructed the Punjab Government to take up the four-laning of Amritsar-Attari road on a priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by

the Central Government to Punjab in this regard?

(d) whether tender would be invited globally and international companies would also participate in this?

Completion of Golden Quadrilateral Project

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Golden Quadrilateral Project in the country would now cost 35,000 crores of rupees if completed by June, 2006 instead of the earlier estimate of 30,300 crore rupees;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) the anticipated time overrun in the completion of the said project; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

Over bridge on Badarpur Border

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

(a) how much time the proposed construction of over bridge on the Badarpur Border would take which was sanctioned in April, 2005;

(b) whether Government have entered into any financial contract with any private company;

(c) the cost likely to be incurred on the construction of this over bridge and whether cost be recovered through toll tax realised from the vehicles passing through the over bridge and the time-frame for its completion; and

Road accidents in the country

258. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people killed and injured in road accidents each year in the country, during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the efforts being made by Government to minimize accidents;

(c) the causes for such accidents;

(d) in what manner the death scenario in road accidents in India, compare with that of U.K., U.S.A., France, Germany and Pakistan etc. having regard to per lack population deaths; and

(e) what is correlation between increasing number of road accidents and explosion in the number of Vehicles on road?

SSIs in rural areas

†259. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present policy of Government for laying a network of small scale industries, their development and their advancement in the rural areas of the country;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to protect small scale industries, working in the different States of the country from foreign competition

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and providing them adequate protection; and

(c) what are the new initiatives of Government to effectively improve the condition of small scale industries and providing them basic facilities under the existing liberal policy?

Package for SSI sector

260. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the packages envisaged for small scale industries sector under common minimum programme and the achievements made by U.P.A. Government;

(b) what are the threats and effects on this sector in the wake of globalisation and liberalisation;

(c) whether the increase in plan outlay was only marginal comparing the vital role played by this sector in terms of employment, economy industrial output, export etc.; and

(d) whether there is no corresponding importance and priority given considering its vital role?

SSIs in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) the number of SSIs set up in Andhra Pradesh with the help of the Ministry in the last two years; and

(b) the efforts taken by Ministry to improve the infrastructure for the development of SSIs?

SSIs in Uttaranchal

†262. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of extremely small and small scale industries registered and functioning in the Uttaranchal State and the number of people employed therein;

(b) whether Ministry is giving assistance to the State Government for marketing of products including handicrafts manufactured in these industries;

(c) whether there is a proposal to impart training to the small entrepreneurs at district level to improve the artistry of the items manufactured in the above industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Registered SSI units

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

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present 12 million industrial units are operating in SSI sector in the country and out of them 10 million units are not registered;

(b) if not, the assessment of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to implement any scheme to register all the small scale industries operating in the country;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if so, the details of the proposal in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Revival of sick units

‡264. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of six thousand crore rupees of banks is involved in sick units in small scale sector in this country;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether there is any scheme to revive these units by way of fresh capital investment in them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of Central Sector Projects

265. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 156 of the Central sector projects are running behind schedule, thereby pushing up the cost of these projects by about Rs. 6000 crores;

(b) if so, the details of these projects and the reasons for their delayed execution, the likely cost and time over-run in each case and revised schedules drawn up for their execution; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to fine-tune the monitoring mechanism for speedy implementation of these projects?

Per capital income

266. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita income in the country at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that existing per capita income is lower from the development point of view of the country; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps, Government are going to take for increasing per capita income?

Law to regulate brokers in land and housing transactions

267. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether currently there is no law to oversee the activities of brokers involved in land and housing transactions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the brokers demand hefty commissions from both vendors and buyers/house owners and tenants for their services and, this being unaccounted money, the brokers pay no tax on such commissions;

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

(e) whether Government propose to bring in a legislation, whereby only licensed brokers are permitted to broker land and housing transactions; and

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

Overhaul of system of registration of cooperative housing societies

268. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether following revelation of the

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

recent enormous cooperative land scam, involving Group Housing Societies in Delhi, Government have taken steps to overhaul Registrar Cooperative Societies system;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the long term and short term objectives of such reforms; and

(c) the steps since taken in that direction?

Classification of Hyderabad as A-1 City

269. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government to declare Hyderabad City as A-1 City on the basis of 2001 population which has already crossed the population of 55.34 lakhs by which Hyderabad City is incited to the status of A-1 category at par with 4 metro cities in India;

(b) the reasons for the delay in keeping this issue pending for a long time, without declaring Hyderabad City as A-1;

(c) whether Government would assure of declaring Hyderabad as A-1 City at the earliest to enable Andhra Pradesh Government to get special grants for further improvement of Hyderabad City; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Regularisation of unauthorised colonies

270. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unauthorised colonies to be authorised/approved in Delhi, colony-wise;

(b) whether any policy/guidelines have been formulated in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to implement the above policy in the public interest; and

(d) by when these un-authorised colonies are likely to be approved/declared authorised?

Development of cities in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for release of funds for development of cities in the State;

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

(c) the amount of Central funds released during the current year for development of cities in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of utilisation of these funds, city-wise?

Scheme for development of infrastructure in cities

272. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a scheme to address the infrastructure need of 25 cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme is in operation now; and

(d) if so, the details of Central share during the last three years?

Integrated development of townships

273. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have submitted project reports on integrated development of townships particularly in backward areas of the States during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of projects out of the total number of projects that have been approved/rejected along with the reasons for rejection;

(d) whether Government have received project reports on integrated development of towns from various States during the current financial year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Schemes for urban sanitation

274. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population and households in urban areas devoid of toilets facilities;

(b) the percentage of such population still devoid of drainage facilities; and

(c) the steps being taken and the Tenth Plan targets in regard to provision of such facilities to the urban population in the country?

Schemes to prevent flooding of cities

275. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any innovative schemes have been formulated to tide over the

flooding of cities as it happened in Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Land allotment to religious organizations

276. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that during the last three years plots have been allotted to several religious organizations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and names of such organizations; and

(d) whether the criteria has been followed while allotting the land?

Metro Rail services

277. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government propose to implement Metro Railway project in the major cities of the country in cooperation with the State Governments concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the time by which the projects are likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Illegal encroachments in Delhi

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

(a) whether in one of the strongest statements against illegal encroachments in Delhi, the Supreme Court has said that illegal settlements cannot be allowed on public lands;

(b) if so, the details of public land under illegal encroachment in Delhi acquired by CPWD, Directorate of Estate or DDA;

(c) the time from which this illegal encroachment has taken place;

(d) whether any action was or has been taken against those officers responsible for allowing this illegal encroachment;

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

(f) the action plan chalked out to free Government land/property from illegal encroachment?

Status of Nanavati Commission report

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

(a) whether the Nanavati Commission on unauthorized colonies and constructions submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and by when the same are likely to be accepted by Government;

(c) whether the recommendations propose regularization of all unauthorized colonies that have come up till 2002 and unauthorized constructions till 2005;

(d) if so, the penalty Government propose to fix for regularization or unauthorized constructions and colonies;

(e) the response of Government to the recommendations; and

(f) by when the same are likely to be implemented so as to mitigate sufferings of lakhs of Delhiites?

Status of Delhi Master Plan-2021

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

(a) the present status of the Delhi Master Plan-2021;

(b) by when the plan is to be finalized and notified;

(c) whether Government have set a deadline of December, 2005 to finalize the plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay;

(e) whether the proposals for "Influence Zones" in 500 metres corridors along MRTS with enhanced FAR and height have been included in the final plan; and

(f) the details of the proposal?

Guidelines to the National Sports Federation

281. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued guidelines in August, 2001 to the National Sports Federation that prominent sports persons of outstanding merit be included as members of respective sports federations;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and when these guidelines were required to be implemented;

(c) the names of sports federations which have implemented these guidelines and those which have not done so alongwith the reasons given by such federations therefor; and

(d) the action proposed by Government against the defaulter federations?

**Central assistance for completion of
stadiums in the States**

282. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the sports for promotion of which grants are provided and the amount released for this purpose during the last three years;

(b) the Government's plan to provide basic amenities/facilities for the development of sports in the States with the Central assistance during the current year;

(c) the number of stadia completed or yet to be completed with Central assistance, State-wise; and

(d) the Central assistance likely to be provided for completion of these stadia during the current year?

**Corruption in Hockey Federation of
India**

283. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 64 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 2005 and state:

(a) the details of the letter by six Olympians written to him about irregularities and corruption in the Hockey Federation of India;

(b) the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when action thereon is likely to be taken?

Honour for sports talent

284. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about media reports about outstanding performance of Indian sportswoman, Ms. Sania Mirza;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to develop the rare sports talent with a view to encourage youth of the country to actively participate in sports and games to bring our sports standards to the Olympic level; and

(c) what honour has been bestowed on our proven sports talent, especially the females in the last years?

NEW DELHI;
The 18th November, 2005
Kartika 27, 1927 (Saka)

N.C. JOSHI,
for Secretary-General.

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