

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

Thursday, the July 25, 2002/Sravana 3, 1924 (Saka)

(Ministries : Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution; External Affairs; Labour;
Parliamentary Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and
Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways;
Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and
Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—154

Export of Agro-products to Australia

876. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND
RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has a
vast potential and better market access for
its products in Australia;

(b) if so, the details of the opportunities
that the Indian agro and rural industries have
in Australia; and

(c) the steps being taken by his Ministry
to export more and more agro products to
Australia?

Deteriorating rural and cottage industries

†877. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will
the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of
the fact that the condition of traditional rural
cottage industries is continuously
deteriorating;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose
to take to promote rural industries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

PMRY in HP

878. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the
Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets set up to
generate employment opportunities under
the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana in
Himachal Pradesh during the last three
years, district-wise; and

(b) the number of educated unemployed
persons who have been benefited in the State
during the above period?

Production and sale by KVIC

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

(a) the production and sale made by the
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the personnel working
in various categories for the last three years
at the different sales centres in Delhi;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the amount paid to these personnel of each category; and

(d) the provisions regarding appointment of the temporary personnel?

Evaluation study of PMRY

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

(a) whether any evaluation study of the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana has been made; and

(b) if so, what are the details for the last three years, State-wise?

Allotment of funds through KVIC

881. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the allotment of funds to various NGOs for the promotion of Khadi and Village Industries through KVIC since 1998 year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of applications from Karnataka have been rejected during the last year, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are planning to establish a regional office in Karnataka to promote Khadi industry?

Khadi industries in Bihar

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

(a) whether any special scheme has been formulated and implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to promote khadi and village industry in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Cottage industries in Andhra Pradesh

883. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any action plan or package for the over all development of cottage industries in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the present status of cottage industries in the State with details thereof?

Environmental delay for nuclear power programme

884. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the environmental delays are hampering projects meant to provide raw material for the nuclear power programme;

(b) whether Government have identified any areas for setting up of atomic power stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action contemplated thereon?

Joint venture for mining beach sand minerals

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

(a) the latest positions of the joint venture company, Kerala Minerals and Rare Earths Limited promoted by the Cochin Minerals and Rutilites Limited for mining and mineral

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

separation of beach sand minerals in the coastal area of Kerala;

(b) whether the State Government has issued mining lease to mine beach sand minerals to private companies or joint venture companies;

(c) whether the State Government had declared its mining policy to allow private participation in the mining of beach sand minerals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Nuclear Energy Corporation

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

(a) whether Government propose to set up new corporations on nuclear energy based on light water reactors from Russia and France;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Revamping of Post Office Saving Bank facility

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

(a) what steps are being taken to revamp the Post Office Saving Bank facility to offer more value-added banking services to the public considering the phenomenal growth in the small savings sector and of the advantage the postal department enjoys through a nation-wide network of post offices;

(b) whether the Department of Posts have entered into a tie-up with IDBI/UTI banks to offer such services across the Post Office Saving Bank counters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Outstanding amount against Radio paging licensees

888. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge outstanding amount to be paid to Government by radio paging licensees as licence fee agreed to as part of the contract for a protracted period of time;

(b) if so, the details thereof with licensee-wise data; and

(c) the course Government propose to pursue to recover this amount?

Cellular and WLL services in NER

889. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for alleged security consideration cellular and WLL services are being denied to the North-East;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that addressing security concern in the North-Eastern Region does contain a development dimension as well; and

(c) if so, whether Government would withdraw the denial of the said Telecom Services to the North-Eastern Region?

Subsidised services to poor

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

(a) the extent to which the services to the poor are subsidised out of the increased revenue from corporate/business sectors;

(b) whether it is a fact that considering the delays in transmission of mails/articles and the hike in postal tariffs the poor are resorting to telecommunication which has become affordable now; and

(c) what steps are being taken to evolve a better efficient and cheaper mode of postal communications to the poor in comparison to telecom facility?

Termination of licence of M/s Koshika Telecom Ltd.

891. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not terminated licence of M/s. Koshika Telecom Ltd. a licensee operating in Uttar Pradesh (East) circle, despite the fact that the company did not honour the condition of migration to New Telecom Policy 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the outstanding dues on the company as on the 31st May, 1999 and as on date?

Decline in postal traffic volume

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

(a) whether the Universal Postal Union (UPU) of which India is a member has predicated the steep decline in postal traffic volume in developing countries due to rapid advances in communications technology field;

(b) what are the major factors identified by the UPU that adversely affect the growth in the postal traffic volume; and

(c) whether there has been improvements in mail transit/sorting and delivery of mails both in urban and rural centres commensurate with the recent increase in postal tariffs?

Village Public Telephones

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

(a) the number of village Public Telephones set up during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the target set for the year 2002;

(c) the number of Village Public Telephones installed in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise and district-wise; and

(d) what kind of assistance Government are extending to private people who have come forward to install VPTs in the country?

Sino-Indian agreement in I.T. Sector

894. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and China have acquired leading positions in the world in IT software and IT hardware, respectively;

(b) if so, whether any agreement or understanding has been arrived at between both the countries to cooperate in I.T. for their mutual benefits;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the safeguards taken to protect Indian hardware industry?

Telephone subscribers in Manipur

895. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone subscribers in Manipur as on date;

(b) whether administrative Headquarters including sub-divisions and Sub-Dy. Collector have been connected with telephones;

(c) the applications in hand with subscription fees paid and unpaid, separately; and

(d) the steps being taken or to be taken to meet the demands at (b) and (c) above?

Introduction of contract system in telephone exchanges

†896. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to introduce contract system in the telephone exchanges;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action so far, in this regard; and

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

Norms for telephone exchanges in rural areas

897. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised

the norms for opening of new telephone exchanges in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Conversion of overhead telephone wires into underground cable

†898. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to lack of departmental foresightedness, overhead telephone wires connecting chamurkha village under Kurebhar Telephone Exchange of Sultanpur district in Uttar Pradesh are routed through dense jungles of bamboo and mango trees which often remain broken and the demand for laying underground cable is turned down on one or the other pretext;

(b) whether Government would convert overhead cable of atleast between last two poles to underground cable so as to tackle with the said problem;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Norms for business of IT education

†899. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any norms in respect of the business worth thousands crores of rupees being conducted in the name of education in the field of Information Technology by a number of national and multinational private companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Strike at Central Store of MTNL Delhi

†900. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cable, drop wire, PVC, telephones, tools and other material lying at the Central Store of MTNL, Delhi as on 30th June, 2002 alongwith the item-wise value thereof;

(b) since when these items are lying in the store;

(c) the items alongwith quantity and value thereof, which MTNL Delhi would still procure during the year 2002-2003; and

(d) the details of the works for which the above items have been kept togetherwith future planning in this regard?

Attending office by Chief Manager, BSNL, Mainpuri

†901. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present Chief Manager of BSNL under district Mainpuri attends his Mainpuri Headquarter's office for only two or three days in a week rest of time he spends in Sitapur;

(b) whether he puts his signature for the dates on which he spends his time in Sitapur after returning to the Headquarters;

(c) whether he has created a chaos deliberately in telephone system of Mainpuri and telephones remain out of order for months and the Chief Manager doesn't pay attention to it;

(d) whether Government have received serious complaints against the Chief

Manager and the action taken or being taken against him; and

(e) if not, justification for the same?

Installation of Telephones in Mainpuri

†902. SHRI GHANSHYAM
CHANDRA KHARWAR:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question 536 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry has since been completed, if so, the result thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the follow up action taken/ contemplated against persons found responsible for such incidents and if not, the reasons therefor?

Loss to VSNL

903. SHRI KARTAR SINGH
DUGGAL:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in The Times of India dated the 28th June, 2002 that VSNL is likely to suffer a loss of about \$115 million if Worldcom files for bankruptcy; and

(b) what steps have been taken to retrieve the situation if the worse happens?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Poor performance of postal services

904. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal services in the country has not been found to be upto the mark and Government itself have expressed concern over its poor performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to remove bottlenecks in their smooth running;

(d) whether any efforts have been made to compete with private courier service operators and to upgrade postal services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Cellphone Telephony

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

(a) whether Government have proposed to start Cellphone Telephony in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern Region in the larger interest of integrating these regions with the rest of the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons for giving up the proposal?

MTNL's decision to provide fund to Maharashtra Krishna Valley Corporation

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

(a) whether MTNL has given Rs. 250 crores to Maharashtra Krishna Valley Corporation recently; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the fund transfer, the justification therefor?

Restrictions on 180, 197 and 198 services of Fatehpur exchange

†907. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered to suspend the call booking service on 180 from Fatehpur (U.P.) exchange and to connect it from Kanpur and has limited the services on 197 and 198 up to 8.00 p.m.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Post offices with speed post facility in Maharashtra

908. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices with speed post facility presently operating in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to set up more speed post centres to cope up with the increasing demand; and

(c) if so, by when and the locations where these centres are likely to be set up?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Village Public Telephones

909. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have presented and claimed that 4,68,862 villages have been provided with VPTs by the end of March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether BSNL has provided 4,68,016 VPTs while six private operators are reported to have provided 846 VPTs;

(c) whether according to the reports, 1,39,475 villages are yet to be provided with VPTs;

(d) if so, the reasons for variations between Government and private figures;

(e) the actual position thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken to see that actual figures are provided in future?

Software piracy

910. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that software piracy is on increase in the country;

(b) the estimated loss from the pirated software in 2001; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the loss?

WLL technology in Tamil Nadu

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

(a) whether Wireless in Local Loop

(WLL) technology is being used throughout the country in a big way;

(b) whether the technology has also been introduced in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Telecom facility to the villages of U.P.

†912. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the villages in U.P. have been provided with telecom facility;

(b) the number and details of the electronic exchanges installed in U.P. during the year 2001-2002; and

(c) whether all the electronic exchanges are working smoothly together with the number of the electronic exchanges installed in Moradabad and Badayun districts and also proposed to be set up there in future?

Hiring vehicles on contract in Sanchar Nigam

†913. SHRI D.P. YADAV:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that to invite open tender for hiring vehicles on contract in Sanchar Nigam is mandatory;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the present manager of Mainpuri had cancelled the tender for vehicles during his tenure; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any tender was given in newspapers for the vehicles hired on contract in Mainpuri Telecommunication Corporation, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the model of the vehicles, alongwith the name of their owners, hired on contract in Mainpuri during the last one year togetherwith the amount paid to each of them?

Surrender of telephones by BSNL consumers

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

- (a) whether lakhs of consumers of BSNL have surrendered their telephones during the year 2001-2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) the revenue loss as a result thereof; and
- (e) Government's reaction thereto?

Network of IT parks

915. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any schemes for setting up networks of IT-parks in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and other States;
- (b) if so, the number of IT parks planned for Uttar Pradesh and other States and the central aid/contribution allocated or committed therefor; and
- (c) the progress made in this regard, so far?

Towers on residential complexes

916. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cellular operators have built towers on the residential complexes without taking the permission of the landowners and/or the competent authority in Delhi;

(b) if so, Government's stand on such illegal constructions?

Edible oils for Andhra Pradesh

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

- (a) the monthly requirement of edible oils in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether the requirement is being met through the Central allocation for PDS of the State;
- (c) whether State Government has demanded more edible oils for its PDS in the recent past; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

Allocation of foodgrains to States

918. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the details of the allocation of foodgrains made to various States during the last three years under the 'Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana' and 'Food for work programme', State-wise and year-wise?

Decontrol of sugar

919. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government would go ahead

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

with the plan of complete decontrol of sugar by March, 2003;

(b) whether the system of monthly or quarterly quotas for sugar mills would be done away with;

(c) whether obligation of 10 per cent levy on the mills would also be withdrawn;

(d) whether any time frame has been drawn for completing the decontrol; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Godown facility in States

920. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-bound programme/plan has been prepared to provide required godown facilities in every State in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plan; and

(c) the details of the special plan, if any, for the food deficit States of the N.E. Region in respect of storage?

Supply of foodgrains in NER

921. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the States which are surplus and deficit in foodgrains production;

(b) the production and supply figures of foodgrains in eight States of North Eastern Region including Sikkim;

(c) the arrangement being made to meet the deficit; and

(d) the complaint/defect on the arrangement made and the corrective measures taken, if any?

Non-payment of sugarcane dues

922. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private, public and cooperative sugar factories in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the names and details of the factories which have not paid dues to the sugarcane growers for the sugarcane supplied together with the unpaid amount as on the 31st March, 2002 and since how long these are pending, factory-wise;

(c) what are the reasons for non-payments, factory-wise; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take/taken to clear the unpaid amount with interest and by when?

Rice export from India

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

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

(a) whether during the war-fears in the months of May-June, 2002 India's rice exporters had suffered a great deal;

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any efforts were made to improve the position; and

(d) if so, what is the latest position regarding exports of goods especially rice?

Printing of maximum retail price

924. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stockists and retail sellers are swindling consumers by printing maximum retail price on the product packets as reported in India Today dated the 24th June, 2002; wherein one shopkeeper sold the same item for Rs. 2,200 and another for Rs. 500;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to fix the price of the products with cost basis; and

(c) what are the steps Government propose to safe guard the interest of consumers?

Sale of foodgrains to exporters

†925. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether Government had started a scheme of selling wheat and rice to exporters at market rates and subsequently refund them the difference between export price and market price;

(b) if so, whether Government have withdrawn the said scheme now;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to restart the said scheme as this decision would adversely effect export of foodgrains; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Removal of cement from purview of Essential Commodities Act

926. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to remove cement from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) if so, whether Government had decided in the inter-ministerial meeting held in September, 2001 that it was essential to first check whether similar quality control order could be issued under some other law;

(c) if so, whether this issue has been examined by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

(d) if so, the details of its report thereon; and

(e) the reasons for removing the cement from the purview of ECA?

BPL families in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) whether there is difference between Central Government and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding number of BPL families in the State for providing subsidised foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken to resolve the difference so that BPL families of the State do not suffer?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Abolition of Essential Commodities Act

†928. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to abolish the Essential Commodities Act; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government for consumer protection?

Recovery for storage and transit loss of foodgrains

929. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI authorities have started recovery as well as other penal action on employees as well as official of north eastern region responsible for handling storage and transit loss in excess of the permissible limits;

(b) if so, the criteria on which accountability is fixed and the number of staff brought under the purview of such penal action; and

(c) the reasons for exempting some officers from within and outside the region who are also accountable for such loss as a controlling officer?

Production of bottled water

930. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "How safe is bottled water?" as reported in the 'Times of India' dated the 8th June, 2002;

(b) if so, whether a large number of units producing bottled water in and around Delhi do not conform to the norms prescribed by BIS;

(c) if so, whether in view of violation of BIS norms by units producing bottled water, Government propose to take any further action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Free distribution of foodgrains

931. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to distribute 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains free of cost to take up wage employment works;

(b) if so, what is the difference between 'Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana' and 'food for work scheme'; and

(c) the details of the allocation of foodgrains under various schemes to the State since 2000-2001?

Purchase tax on procurement of foodgrains

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

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

(a) whether his Ministry has proposed to prevent States from milking Government to the tune of Rs. 3,000 crore annually in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the form of a purchase tax on the foodgrains procured from their farmers;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to pit the farmers, the beneficiaries of procurement, against their State Governments to bring the tax down;

(c) if so, whether any legislation in this regard is being considered; and

(d) if so, by when this legislation is likely to be introduced?

Pakistan's offer to China to establish reconnaissance centre at Makrana coast

† 933. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards news-item published in Nav Bharat Times dated 30th June, 2002 captioned "Pakistan Cheen se Bharat ki Nigrani karwana chahta hai" where in Pakistani leaders have made an offer to China to establish reconnaissance centre at Makrana coast;

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

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Reconstruction of Buddha's idols

† 934. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 'Museum of World Religions' of Taiwan has decided to reconstruct the idols of Buddha of Bamiyan which were destroyed by Taliban ruler of Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether Government are considering to contribute in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Under utilisation of budget allocated for publicity to counter anti-India propaganda

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

(a) the amount spent on publicity and advertisement to counter anti-India propaganda during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry failed to utilize the budget allocation for publicity in 2000-2001 inspite of Kargil crisis; and

(c) if so, the reasons for less expenditure for advertising and publicity?

Steps taken by India and Pakistan toward restoration of peace

936. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government propose to take to bring peace between India and Pakistan;

(b) the details of the measures that Pakistan took in this regard and whether these measures are satisfactory; and

(c) the observations of international community towards the steps taken by India and Pakistan in maintaining peace?

Pakistan's measures towards maintaining peace in the sub-continent

937. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the progress of the

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

measures taken by Pakistan towards maintaining peace in the sub-continent like completely stopping infiltration across the Line of Control, giving up terrorism as an instrument of state policy, disbanding terrorist training camps, stopping financing and providing infrastructural support for terrorists and their organizations and handing over of 20 Indian criminals and others who are taking shelter in Pakistan?

Indo-Bangladesh relations

†938. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that relations with Bangladesh are not congenial;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps, so far, to improve relations with Bangladesh; and

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

Expenditure on rent abroad

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report captioned "8% of MEA Budget spent on rents abroad" which appeared in the 'Asian Age' dated the 20th May, 2002;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the report?

terrorism by USA

940. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has agreed to verify claims on cross-border terrorism;

(b) if so, the method adopted by US;

(c) whether Government had already given them the list of areas where cross-border terrorism is taking place; and

(d) if so, whether USA has satisfied and has agreed to check the reports given by India?

Russia, UK and USA's efforts to defuse Indo-Pak tension

941. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia, UK and United States have made a number of proposals to India to defuse the crisis and have suggested a number of measures including joint patrolling on LoC;

(b) if so, whether these proposals were rejected by India;

(c) whether India has given any time-frame for Pakistan to stop infiltration before taking any action;

(d) if so, the time given to Pakistan; and

(e) whether any assurance was given to India in this regard?

Verification of claims on cross-border

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Creation of a separate department for overseas Indians

942. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for creating a separate Department in his Ministry to look after the problems and interests of overseas Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider such a proposal, if requested?

British opinion about Kashmir

943. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news analysis published in 'The Hindu' dated the 4th June, 2002 under the caption, "British opinion not with India on Kashmir";

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to impress upon the British Government and drive home the point that so far as India is concerned, Kashmir was a settled issue *vis-a-vis* the position taken by British Foreign Secretary that Kashmir was an unfinished business?

Test fire of Ghauri missile by Pakistan

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

(a) whether Pakistan test-fired its Hatf-V-"Ghauri" missile on May 25, 2002, and conducted a series of short and medium range missile tests between May 25 to 28, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the missiles tested and the success achieved therein; and

(c) the reaction of Government, US, Russia and other world powers thereto?

Removal of restriction imposed on entry of Pakistani aircrafts

† 945. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to remove restriction imposed on entry of Pakistani aircrafts into the Indian air space by amending its foreign policy with regard to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the decision to remove the restriction has been taken due to America's pressure;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the reasons for removing the said restriction together with Government's reaction in this regard?

Meeting between India and European Union

946. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an official level meeting was held in New Delhi between India and European Union on May 1, 2002 to review the relations; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far to improve relations with the European Union?

Sponsor for issuance of visas

947. SHRI SUNIL SHASTRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries who insist

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for a sponsor before issuing visas to Indian Nationals;

(b) whether Government also propose to adopt similar rules/policy while issuing visas to foreign nationals; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Haj Act

948. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Haj Bill passed by Parliament has received assent of the President; and

(b) if so, by when the Haj Act is going to be notified for implementation?

Seminar on Kashmir

949. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a seminar on Kashmir is sought to be organised under the aegis of the United Nations Security Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have communicated its viewpoint with regard to this indirect attempt to internationalize the Kashmir issue; and

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

Lifting overflight ban imposed on Pakistan

950. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lifted overflight ban imposed on Pakistani aircrafts and called back battle ships following an assurance from U.S. that Pakistani President was serious about checking infiltration of militants into Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what reciprocal action Pakistan Government took in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that as reported in an interview to the Washington Post, President Musharraf has stated that he had not promised to shut down terrorist camps in PoK; and

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

Unsettled issues between India and Bangladesh

951. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues pending settlement between India and Bangladesh; and

(b) what steps have been taken for early settlement of pending issues to ensure improvement in the relationship between the two neighbourly countries?

Difficulties in availing passports under Tatkal Scheme

952. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Tatkal Passport only if you pull right strings" which appeared in 'The Statesman' dated 1st July, 2002; highlighting practical difficulties in availing of the "Tatkal" scheme;

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

(c) the steps taken, if any, to rationalise the scheme to fulfil its original objective to help the genuine people who need passports in a hurry and are willing to pay more?

Misuse of DTAA by OCBs

953. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to review Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Mauritius in view of large scale misuse of this route by various OCBs consequent upon which there is a huge revenue loss to Government;

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

(c) whether Government have brought this fact to notice of the Mauritius Government regarding misuse of DTAA by some OCBs; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Mauritius authorities?

Return of personal clothing of martyrs from Lahore jail

†954. SHRI D. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have demanded from the Lahore jail authorities in Pakistan to hand over the clothes of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, the Martyrs of freedom-struggle; and

(b) the reasons for not procuring the last clothes of these martyrs from Lahore jail keeping in view, the faith of the billions of people in these martyrs?

Pendency of application at Bangalore passport office

955.DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport applications pending with the Bangalore passport office;

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has requested to open new passport offices in the State; and

(c) if so, whether Government have agreed to the proposal?

Organising World powers against United Jihad Council

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

(a) whether Government had taken an opportunity to bring home to the US, Russia, Britain and other international players trying to avert war between India and Pakistan, the reports that only hours before Pak President's speech on May 27, 2002, the United Jihad Council on behalf of militants not built pressure on President Musharraf to scuttled the ceasefire plan that he was going to announce in his speech that day; and

(b) if so, what was the World powers' reaction and response thereto to deal with the so called Jihadis?

Conspiracy by Pak army to drop atom bomb

†957. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Parmanu bomb girane kee sajish thee Pak

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

sena kee" which appeared in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 13th May, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government are of the view that Pakistan would not repeat this type of activity in future; and

(c) if not, whether Government are prepared to face any situation of this kind arising suddenly?

Cases related to forged visas

†958. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases related to forged visas that have come to light during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this regard and out of them how many were Government employees and foreigners alongwith the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to check such incidents in future?

Election of governing body of ILO

†959. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether election of the governing body of the International Labour Organisation was held in Geneva during the 90th International Labour Conference;

(b) if so, the names of the Labour organisations of the country which participated in the conference;

(c) whether Government had refused to permit 'Intak' for going to Geneva as alternative delegate; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Recommendations of First Labour Commission

960. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) when was the first National Commission on labour was set up;

(b) whether all its recommendations have been implemented;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the recommendations of the first Labour Commission which are yet to be implemented?

Employment exchanges in the country

961. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the ratio of employment exchanges with the population in each State, State-wise; and

(c) the rate of employment provided through the employment exchanges during the period 1999 to June 2002, State-wise?

Employment generation in industry and agriculture

962. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the additional employment generated in industry and agriculture in each State during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the effect of disinvestment, privatisation and closing down of various public and private sector companies on employment generation?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Per day wage earnings of workers

963. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state India's rank in the World in respect of per worker per day wage earnings?

Agricultural workers covered under KSSSY

964. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural workers covered under Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana since its inception in July, 2001;

(b) the number of agricultural workers covered in Andhra Pradesh during the above period;

(c) the details of the beneficiaries, State-wise; and

(d) the number of workers that Government propose to cover under the scheme during 2002-2003?

Grant to NGOs and trade Unions for child labour

965. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide grants to certain NGOs and Trade Unions for Child Labour Elimination Programmes and for running schools for them;

(b) if so, the assistance provided to NGOs and Trade Unions for the purpose during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate families of 1,12,85,349 identified child labourers across the country?

ILO recommendation on labour standards

966. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of ILO conventions and recommendations ratified by Government as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has not recommended all the seven core labour standards fixed by ILO such as ILO convention No. 182, 138, 87 and 90;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government propose to implement all the seven core labour standards fixed by ILO?

Consultation with unions on changes in labour laws

967. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report captioned, "Unions want to be consulted labour law changes" which appeared in 'The Hindu', dated the 12th May, 2002;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to bring forward some amendments in the labour laws so as to expedite programme of liberalisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the unions would be consulted before finalising the same?

Eligibility criteria for recruitment of foremen in ITIs

†968. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the eligibility criteria and rules prescribed for recruitment of foremen in various trades in the Industrial Training Institutes under the Technical Education Directorate;

(b) whether it is a fact that various institutes have not observed the rules in recruitment to the above posts during the last two years; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to hold an enquiry into the matter?

Child labour

969. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated figure of child labour in the country with names of major industries where they are employed;

(b) the punishment for employing child labour and whether the State authorities have ever raided these centres and apprehended the guilty officials for violation of the laws, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken a note of the procession taken out by the child labourers as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 1st June, 2002, if so, the action being taken thereon?

Amendment in the Minimum Wages Act

970. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to bring amendment in the Minimum Wages Act for more stringent provisions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

Coverage of Beedi workers under Group Insurance Scheme

971. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of Beedi workers covered under the Group Insurance Scheme of LIC during the last three years, State-wise?

Legislation for agricultural labourers

972. SHRI MOOLCHAND

MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether being upset over Government's failure to enact a Central legislation for agricultural labourers despite several promises, many organisations have decided to launch a nationwide agitation on the 7th November, 2002;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in introducing the Central legislation on agricultural labourers;

(c) whether this delay caused a great resentment among the agricultural labourers; and

(d) if so, by when, this legislation would be introduced?

Unemployment allowance for educated unemployed youth

973. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government to tackle the problem of growing number of unemployed youths in the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government are considering to give "unemployment allowance" to all the educated unemployed youths registered with the Employment Exchanges in the country;

(c) if so, by when it would be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Welfare of beedi workers

974. SHRI BACHANILEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme for welfare of beedi workers of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes launched in Gujarat; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Social Security net in Second Labour Commission Report

975. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Second Labour Commission submitted on 29th June, 2002 has made any recommendation for a national policy providing social security net for the protection of worker's rights;

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

(c) by when action plan for implementation of this recommendation would be finalised?

Child labour in Karnataka

976. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Government of Karnataka is successful in releasing a number of children from compulsory labour from the clutches of various establishments;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has issued any direction to speed up the process of identification of child labour in various organisations; and

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has allotted funds to Karnataka for rehabilitation of these children?

Plan for skill upgradation of workers

977. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether Government had any comprehensive plan for skill upgradation of construction, forest and agricultural workers in view of the globalization, privatisation and modernisation?

Industrial sickness

978. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a RBI study had pointed out that management failure is responsible for 65 per cent of the industrial sickness than labour which is only 3 percent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any remedial measures to improve the industrial health on the basis of this report?

Statutory dues of workers in CPSUs

979. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers, constituted for liquidating the statutory dues of workers in CPSUs is still functional;

(b) if so, the number of meetings held by the GoM and the actual status of dues before the formation of the Group and as per the latest figure available alongwith details viz. wages, P.F., gratuity etc; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Restoration of commuted pension

980. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pensioners, who commuted one-third of their pension, have attended 15 years of their retirement;

(b) the number of pensioners who have got restoration of commuted portion of pension in their original pension;

(c) the number of pensioners who have not got restoration benefit after 15 years of their retirement;

(d) the reasons for not getting restoration benefit even after expiry of 15 years; and

(e) the GED rules in this regard?

Foreign training to All India Services Officers

981. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of All India Services Officers who were sent for foreign training in the year 2001-2002 and out of them how many were tribals; and

(b) the reasons for not sending tribal

officers in a greater numbers, since they require more exposure than others?

Induction of PSs in US Grade

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to stop induction of PSs in US Grade and participation of PAs in SO Exams;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether representations have been received from the concerned Stenographers Federation/Associations against the unilateral recommendations of the Brahma Committee, etc. in this matter; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps proposed to ensure justice to the Stenographers community by maintaining *status quo*?

Settlement of anomalies received from Departmental Council of DoP&T

983. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 590 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th July, 2001 and state:

(a) whether any progress has since been made in the matter of settlement of anomalies received from the staff side of Departmental Council (JCM) of DoP&T;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken against

the defaulting officers for keeping the issues pending for such a long time?

Resumption of LTC facility

984. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering resuming LTC facility for the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details of the decisions/proposals;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the rules in view of the drastic cuts in air fares; and

(d) if not, whether it would be done, if requested?

Right to Information Bill

†985. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bill related to Right to Information to common citizen is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, when the decision was taken to pass the Bill; and

(c) whether Government would bring the said Bill for consideration and passing in the House during the present Monsoon session?

Corruption in Government departments

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission has identified hundred of departments of various Ministries as areas of corruption;

(b) if so, the names of such departments;

(c) whether Government have so far taken any effective steps to make the functioning of these departments corruption-free; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Efforts by IAS officers to get posted abroad

987. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 21st June, 2002 and 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated the 2nd July, 2002 regarding efforts of IAS officers to get posted themselves in India Tourism offices abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Committee to redress anomalies in the pay scales

988. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee formed to redress the grievances due to certain anomalies in the pay scales of the Central Government employees as recommended by the Fifth Central Pay Commission is still functioning; and

(b) if so, the details of the grievances which could be noted and redressed till date, scale-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

State Human Development Report

989. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many State Governments have brought out State Human Development Reports and others are in the process;

(b) the States which have already brought out such annual reports and which are likely to publish them this year; and

(c) whether any assistance, financial or technical, has been taken from UNDP?

National Human Development Report

990. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the National Human Development Report 2001 poverty has declined in the country during the last two decades;

(b) whether the conditions in poor States like Bihar and Orissa have worsened as the report has revealed;

(c) if so, the steps initiated by Government to bring the poor States at par with developed States in the matter of development; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

Failure of scientific institutions to attract adequate manpower

991. SHRI Sk. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has sounded an alarm about the failure of

the scientific institutions to attract adequate manpower as science has few takers among youths;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Indian science has failed to contribute much while comparing with other countries not to speak of developed countries, as there is little incentives for scientific research and development; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

Changes in Gadgil Formula

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

(a) whether Government propose to bring about changes in the Gadgil Formula on allocation of Central assistance to the States;

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

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the States performing fairly well in the field of State tax collection and fiscal management stand losers as a result of the proposed changes?

Reforms for creation of ten million jobs

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

(a) whether a Planning Commission panel has recommended drastic reforms in the areas of marketing, training and credit in non-corporate and agricultural sector to fulfil Prime Minister's directive of creative ten million extra jobs annually in ten years; and

(b) if so, the details of the reforms and the action taken/being taken in pursuance thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Action plan for KBK districts in Orissa

994. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi has submitted the evaluation of the schemes report for the revised long term action plan for the KBK districts in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

Irrigation projects of first plan

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has pointed out that 171 major irrigation projects of the First Plan at a current estimate of Rs. 97,937 crores have spilled into the Ninth and Tenth Plans;

(b) if so, whether according to the Planning Commission irrigation would have to increasingly compete with other sectors not just for funds but even for water itself over the next two decades;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered these views; and

(d) if so, what are the steps being taken to implement the suggestions made by the Planning Commission?

Cut in Plan expenditure by States

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has warned that any cut in plan expenditure by the States would seriously affect the process of poverty eradication;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has suggested that increased agricultural productivity be made a focal point of the country's development strategy;

(c) whether Government have examined the suggestions made by the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, what are the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Corruption in the country

997. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether corruption is endemic to Indian Society and manifests itself in poor governance; and

(b) the solutions proposed to the problem and improve quality of life of the people?

Poor performance by States

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

(a) the States whose performance has been poor in respect of implementation of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the implementation percentage of Ninth Five Year Plan by each State;

(c) the reasons for such poor implementation;

(d) the action being taken by Government against such States; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

External aid for National Highways

999. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways which are externally aided alongwith the amount received from the external agencies for the last three years;

(b) the number of projects out of these funded by World Bank, OECF, ADB and any other agencies separately; and

(c) the quantum of funds received from these agencies during the last three years, road built in kilometres by this money, project-wise?

National Highways in West Bengal

1000. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any request pending from the West Bengal Government, which has international boundaries with neighbouring countries, for enlisting Highways as National Highways; and

(b) if so, the name of the highways and the action taken on the request?

Corridor between Assam and Gujarat

1001. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Purba-Paschim Corridor O Uttarbanga" in Ganashakti dated the 3rd July, 2002 reading East-West corridor connecting Assam to Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the changes in the alignment in North Bengal as suggested in the news-item; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Golden Quadrangle Project

1002. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided that a part of the Eastern and Western expressways in the Golden Quadrangle being constructed by the National Highways Authority of India would pass through Delhi Territory;

(b) if so, the areas through which this Highway would pass; and

(c) by when the work on it would commence and by when it would be completed?

Length of National Highways in Eastern States

1003. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the length of the National Highways in Maharashtra, U.P., Uttaranchal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal?

Maintenance of State roads

1004. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that State roads across the country especially in

Orissa are in bad state due to lack of proper maintenance, paucity of funds and frequent natural calamities;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any action plan to provide assistance to improve conditions of the State roads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Outlay for Central roads

1005. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Central road sector outlay expenditure for the year 2001-2002;

(b) the achievement of the target, actual target and physical target, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated under different schemes during the year 2001-2002 to different States, State-wise?

Upgradation of State Highways in H.P.

† 1006. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that keeping in view the increasing number of road accidents in Himachal Pradesh during the last few years, it has become necessary to convert State Highways into National Highways;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to upgrade State Highways;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to avert accidents?

National Highways in Gujarat

1007. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has requested for upgradation of Mandvi-Nalia-Narayan Sarovar road into National Highway;

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to the request; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

National Highways in U.P.

1008. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways sanctioned by Government for Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details of the amount disbursed on National Highways in U.P. during this period;

(c) the number of NHs proposed to be opened/sanctioned by Government during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount sanctioned for each National Highway?

Use of Hindi on registration plates

† 1009. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 5384 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Hindi appears to be neglected in the National Capital Region itself;

(b) if so, the necessity on Government's

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

part for spending such a huge amount on the promotion of Hindi; and

(c) whether Government would reconsider the above question keeping in view the aforesaid facts?

Resurfacing of Delhi-Mathura Road

1010. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SHRI ANIL SHARMA:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news- item captioned, "NHAI lets loose its crater" appeared in the 'HT Faridabad Live' dated the 1st July, 2002;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the NHAI to resurface the 50 metres stretch of the road before monsoon;

(c) by when the above work would be completed; and

(d) the reasons for not resurfacing the stretch despite the fact that trunk sewer line was repaired in April/May, 2002?

Accidents on National Highways in Himachal Pradesh

1011. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the fatal road accidents on the highways in Himachal Pradesh and the proportion by which such accidents have risen during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government to make the National Highways in the hilly areas more safer?

Rubberised roads

1012. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to rubberise the roads in rural and urban areas;

(b) Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any States have introduced rubberisation of roads;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any States have expressed their willingness to undertake rubberisation of roads; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Kollam By-pass in Kerala

1013. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether phase II of Kollam By-pass in Kerala has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the work which is yet to be completed and the reasons for the non-completion of such work and the stage at which the work stands at present and time by when the pending work is likely to be completed;

(c) whether any steps have been taken for commencement of the third phase; and

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

National Highway No. 31A in Sikkim

1014. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway No. 31A which is the only life-line linking Sikkim to the rest of the world needs to be broadened and carpeted in view of the landslides and other such natural calamities; and

(b) if so, the scheme prepared for it and the time-frame laid down for its early completion?

Improving NH No. 52

1015. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the details of the action plan finalised to improve, widen and strengthen National Highway No. 52 during the current financial year and during the Tenth Plan indicating plan, allocations and target set including construction of bridge at Choukighat to reduce the distance by 50 kms.?

Central funds for National Highways in A.P.

1016. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Central funds and grants provided to Andhra Pradesh for development of National Highways and other roads development projects during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the projects started and those completed during the said period, year-wise and project-wise; and

(c) the present status of the projects and by when each of them would be accomplished?

Golden Quadrilateral Project

1017. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 5840 Km. Golden Quadrilateral Project linking the four metros is likely to overshoot the deadline set down for its completion;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be undertaken for clearing the bottlenecks in the way of timely completion of the project?

SSIs in Himachal Pradesh

†1018. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government for establishment of Small Scale Industries in rural areas of Himachal Pradesh under the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount proposed to be spent under this head in the State during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

Sick SSIs

1019. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of Small Scale

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Industries functioning in the country as on the 30th June, 2002, State-wise/SSI-wise;

(b) the number of SSIs lying closed now;

(c) the reasons for the closure and sickness of SSIs; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken by Government to revive them in the national interest?

Safeguarding SSIs

† 1020. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any policy measures to safeguard and protect Small Scale Industries and to streamline the loan system to enhance foreign investment; and

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

Legislation for SSIs

1021. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact single comprehensive legislation for the rationalisation of the existing laws and procedures relating to Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the CII has suggested any measures in this regard; and

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

Facilities for SSIs

1022. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

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

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation to provide conducive environment which would enable the Small Scale Sector to face global competition;

(b) what would be the features of the legislation; and

(c) whether any consultations with the representatives of the sector have been held in this regard?

Promotion of SSIs in Andhra Pradesh

1023. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any joint comprehensive package with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for promotion and development of SSI Sector in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to formulate such a package in the overall interest of SSI sector in the State and if not, the reasons therefor?

Favourable environment for SSIs

1024. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "create hassle free environment for Small Units, CII" appearing in 'The Hindu' dated the 25th June, 2002;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the news-item in order to provide favourable industrial environments for the small scale industrial units in the country so that they can face competition in the international market?

Lending of transponders to private organizations

1025. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to lend its transponders produced through ISRO's Insat-4 series to the private organizations;

(b) if so, how many transponders would be pressed for commercial service and the amount expected through the lease; and

(c) the details of the fields where these transponders could be utilized and the life of these transponders?

Projects running behind schedule

1026. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the corrective measures Government claim to have taken to contain time and cost-over-run in projects, more than 220 projects in the Central sector and public sector, involving over Rs. 79,000 crores, are running behind the schedule;

(b) if so, whether according to Government sources, the anticipated cost of these projects have increased from Rs. 79,000 crores to over Rs. 98,000 crores;

(c) if so, what are the details of the projects, sector-wise, which are running behind the schedule and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps being considered in this regard?

Diversion of MPLAD Fund in Orissa

1027. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MPLAD Fund given for a specific project for public roads and buildings is being deposited in the State Government's Consolidated Fund and after depositing, the State Finance Department is releasing the LC; and

(b) whether Executive Engineer of Panikoili R and B Division, Orissa has diverted the MPLAD Fund and paid Rs. 40 lakhs on other work, other than the MPLAD project as result of which the regional MPLAD project work is pending?

**Committee to review regulatory
procedures for Government funded
projects**

1028. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the
PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the expert
committee set up to review the regulatory
procedures for Government funded projects
has *inter-alia* recommended a complete

overhaul of the investment appraisal format,
implementation methodology and post
implementation scrutiny undertaken by the
various Ministries; and

(b) if so, the details of the major
recommendations made by the committee
and the action taken/proposed to be taken
thereon with the present status of their
implementation?

NEW DELHI;
The 19th July, 2002

Asadha 28, 1924 (Saka)

R. C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	:	—
Agro and Rural Industries	:	876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883,
Atomic Energy	:	884, 885, 886,
Communications and Information Technology	:	887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932,
External Affairs	:	933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958,
Labour	:	959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979,
Parliamentary Affairs	:	—
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	:	980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988,
Planning	:	989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998,
Road Transport and Highways	:	999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017,
Small Scale Industries	:	1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024,
Space	:	1025,
Statistics and Programme Implementation	:	1026, 1027, 1028.