

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the November 25, 2005/Agrahayana 4, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions —155

Onion shortage

285. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country had been experiencing shortage of onions for the last ten months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the production of onions had suffered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Flood/drought assistance to States

†286. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRIMATI KAMLA
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States hit by floods or flood like situation or were affected by drought during this year;

(b) the loss of life and property in the States affected by droughts or floods;

(c) the amount of financial help demanded by the affected States from the Central Government and the actual amount given to these States, State-wise; and

(d) the reasons for not giving the help according to the demand and whether the remaining amount of help is likely to be given in future, if so, the details thereof?

Prices of onions

287. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the prices of onion skyrocketed throughout India from September 2005, cheap onions rotted in godowns in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the hoarders who created shortage in supply of onions; and

(d) the reasons for which Government had not taken steps to procure and supply cheap Rajasthan onions throughout the country to bring down prices of onions?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Farmers living below poverty line

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

(a) the total number of farmers in the country, and percentage of total population of the country;

(b) how many of the above farmers are living below poverty line, the percentage thereof, and how does it compare with total percentage of people living below poverty line for the whole country;

(c) the per capita income of the above farmers who are living beyond poverty line, and how it compares with average per capita income of the country; and

(d) the special steps being taken by Government to ameliorate the pitiable plight of these poorest of the poor farmers?

Supplying Urea and DAP to States

289. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Urea and Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertilizers are in great demand in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these fertilizers are supplied to States for the use of farmers as per their requirement?

Failure of Bt. Cotton

†290. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether crop of the Bt. Cotton

failed in many parts of the country and the farmers had to incur heavy losses;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to compensate these losses;

(c) whether the Bt. Cotton variety is unnecessary for India; and

(d) if so, the details of the meaningful steps taken to curb the same?

Banning Chemical Fertilizers

291. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have identified thirty-seven chemical fertilizers such as monochrotophas to ban;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether consultations have been held before banning them with the stake-holders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Identification of new varieties of wheat by ICAR

292. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICAR has identified seven new varieties of wheat for release;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how these are suitable to different agro-climatic conditions in the country; and

(c) the advantage identified and the additional yield that the farmers are going to get from these new varieties?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Farmers leaving Agriculture

†293. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the number of farmers leaving the profession of agriculture is continuously on the increase;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the condition of farmers is miserable which is driving them to commit suicides; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Grants under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

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

(a) whether Government provide separate grants to Rajasthan for the single component of Centrally sponsored scheme;

(b) if so, by when this anomaly will be removed; and

(c) whether Government propose to keep the grant limit at 50 per cent as was previously set in the macro-management scheme?

Production of African cat fish in Punjab

295. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite ban on the culture and sale of the African cat fish (Clarian Gariepinus) known as Thai

Magur, which is harmful to the indigenous fish fauna, the fish is being cultured in Punjab and other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details of preventive measures including legal support Government propose to take at national level to stop the propagation of this exotic magur?

Soyabean Crop damaged in Maharashtra

296. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that soyabean crop has been badly damaged by the heavy rain in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra in October, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have sent a Central team there to assess the damage caused;

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

(e) the recommendations made by it and the reaction of Government thereto?

Closure of AGMARK Laboratories

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AGMARK laboratories are facing closure in the name of reorganization of the system;

(b) what is the position of the laboratory based at Bhubaneswar in Orissa and what is the action plan of Government to adjust its staff, once it is closed down;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are aware that ramifications of reorganization would be very harsh on the health of the consumers when the adulteration will have a free run; and

(d) if so, the action plan of Government to dispel such apprehensions?

NCF recommendation on credit reforms in farm sector

298. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers has called for credit reforms in the farm sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has also suggested to reduce the interest rate on farm credit, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

NCF recommendation on debt survey

299. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has recommended that the all India debt survey should be undertaken, taken into account newer forms of credit and indebtedness and newer forms of bondage; and

(b) whether Government have taken any decision to implement the recommendation in a time bound framework?

Investment in Agriculture Sector

‡300. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of investment made in the agriculture sector through various schemes and projects during the last three years;

(b) whether the investment in the agriculture sector is registering a continuous downward trend;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme to enhance investment in the agriculture sector; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to enhance investment in the agriculture sector?

NCF recommendation on credit reforms and suicide census

301. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Farmers has called for credit reforms in the farming sector to prevent farmers from committing suicides;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has called for proper census of suicides of farmers in the country so as to understand the situation better for better working;

(c) what are the recommendations made by the Commission;

(d) whether Government have examined those recommendations; and

(e) if so, the decision taken thereon?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Legislation for prevention of fake seeds

302. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are coming with a legislation against the sale of fake seeds to farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the other plans of Government to stop the sale of fake seeds; and
- (d) the time by which it will be implemented?

Checking supply of spurious cotton seeds

303. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that cotton cultivators have suffered a lot as spurious seeds are flooding the market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government or proposed to be taken to check the supply of spurious seeds which causes heavy loss of crops to farmers?

Development of modified variety of Rajmah by China

304. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that China has developed a modified variety of pulse 'Rajmah' to challenge Indian produce in international market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

- (c) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interest of Indian producers of Rajmah?

Agro-reforms

305. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agriculture sector is facing a number of problems such as low productivity, floods, decreasing water level, loans at higher rate, adverse market and low private investments;
- (b) if so, whether Government have prepared any plan for agro reforms and increasing private investments to bring the country into higher growth rate; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

National Horticulture Mission in Himachal Pradesh

†306. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a National Horticulture Mission with a view to promote horticulture in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the States proposed to be given priority in this regard;
- (d) whether any special project has been prepared/proposed under the Mission in Himachal Pradesh keeping in view the geographical and environmental conditions of the State;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Checking production and sale of sub-standard pesticides

†307. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total consumption of pesticides in the country and the total number of pesticide producing companies in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the companies are providing sub-standard pesticides to the farmers as a result of which farmers suffer the loss from their crops as well as the financial loss;

(c) if so, the number of companies which have no laboratories; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check the production and sale of sub-standard pesticides?

Releasing new varieties of pulses by ICAR

308. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR is going to release some of the new varieties of pulses to sustain in various agro-climatic zones of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how those new varieties are different from the existing ones?

Flood/drought assistance to States

†309. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of life and property due to floods and droughts that hit different parts of the country recently, State-wise;

(b) the amount of financial aid provided by Government, State-wise;

(c) whether Government scrutinize the expenditure of money provided to States to prevent floods; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Subsidy to agriculture sector

310. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether developed countries provide adequate subsidy to agriculture sector in their countries compared to India and other developing countries;

(b) whether any proposal has been mooted to provide comparable subsidy to agriculture sector with a view to making it globally competitive;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Recommendations of NCF

311. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the major recommendations made by National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to implement the recommendations?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Subsidy by National Horticulture Board

312. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which subsidy was given by the National Horticulture Board during the last three years ending 31st March, 2005 and so far during 2005-06 under Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for construction/expanding/modernization of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of cases in which subsidy could not be used, according to stipulated conditions, by recipients till 31st March, 2005, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Board for recovery of unspent subsidy; and

(d) if no action was taken for recovery of unspent subsidy, the reasons therefor?

Reviewing norms of NPPA

313. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to review the norms, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) now follows in deciding how much cost a company can incur under various heads in taking a product to the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this exercise is likely to be completed?

Fertilizer production

314. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of fertilizers in the country has been hit;

(b) if so, the data for last two quarters; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

Price control of essential drugs

315. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government, in consultation with the major pharmaceutical MNCs, have lately taken any effective steps and evolved a policy to bring down the prices of essential drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the policy so evolved; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction and the outcome thereof?

VAT on medicines

316. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP
SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that VAT is also applicable to life saving medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proper to charge VAT on medicines in the country like India where thousands of people die every year without medicines;

(d) whether Government are planning to abolish VAT on life saving medicines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the names of such life saving drugs?

**Closure of drug manufacturing units
due to Government Policy**

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that medicine
manufacturing units of Punjab, Haryana,
Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan,
Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu
and Gujarat are at the verge of closure due
to Government policies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that
organizations of these units have drawn
the attention of Government in this
direction; and

(c) if so, whether the crisis being faced
by these units has been mentioned before
Government and the action by Government
in this regard?

**Small scale medicine manufacturing
units**

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that small scale
units manufacture medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of such units
functioning in the small scale sector in each
State of the country;

(c) the value of medicine manufactured
by these units on an average annually; and

(d) the percentage of value of such
medicines out of the value of total
medicines produced?

Subsidy to nitrogenous fertilizers

319. SHRI N.K. PREMA-
CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allow subsidy
for the nitrogenous fertilizers and the
policy, if any, maintained by Government
thereon;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government
decontrol the production of Ammonium
Sulphate to the disadvantage of FACT,
while controlling the price of Urea;

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

(d) whether Government would
consider to include the Ammonium
Sulphate produced by the FACT under
subsidy scheme to compensate the loss
sustained by the company; and

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

Sky-rocketing of drug prices

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

(a) whether Government are aware that
despite assurances that prices of drugs
would not increase pursuant to
implementation of the Patent Law, prices
of several drugs and medicines in the country
have been sky-rocketing;

(b) whether any review of the situation
especially with a view to ascertain the
reasons for such rise in the prices has been
carried out;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps contemplated, if any, to
make drugs and medicines available to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

common men and the poor at reasonable prices?

Shortage of urea

321. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of urea and other fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the names of the States where supply of fertilizers was not according to the demands of farmers during the current year; and

(d) the action taken by Government to meet the demand for fertilizers?

Single regulatory authority for drug pricing

322. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Task Force Report headed by Shri Pronab Sen recommended for debranding essential drugs and a single regulatory authority for drug pricing;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Task Force recommended for price ceiling for 314 medicines which fall under the category of "essential drugs";

(c) what are the other major recommendations made by the Task Force;

(d) whether Government have studied the Report; and

(e) if so, the action that has been taken by Government?

Case against Union Carbide Company

323. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to bring the two foreign corporations charged with culpable homicide, namely Union Carbide Eastern, Hong Kong and Union Carbide Corporation, USA to justice;

(b) the reasons for which Government have not taken any action towards the extradition of the authorized representatives of these two corporations; and

(c) what factors are preventing Government from resuming attempts to extradite Warren Anderson, former Chairman of Union Carbide Corporation and prime accused in the criminal case and produce him in the ongoing criminal case in Bhopal?

Commodities and futures regulator

324. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning a commodities and futures regulator to monitor the trade of commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the status of the proposal;

(c) whether Government have decided to ask Securities and Exchange Board of India to regulate commodities exchanges also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

SDF loans to Maharashtra for cane development

325. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals for grant of Sugar Development, Fund loans from Government of Maharashtra for cane development in the State have been pending with Government;

(b) if so, the number and the details of such proposals at the beginning of 2003, 2004 and 2005 and loans sanctioned during each year; and

(c) the reasons for delay in processing and sanctioning of such loans to the detriment of the sugar growers in the State?

Cutting down of costs by FCI

326. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FCI has been able to cut down costs by around Rs. 800 crores in the last fiscal; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to improve its image?

Closed sugar mills in Madhya Pradesh

†327. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of those sugar mills

which are lying closed in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the assistance provided to the State to restart these mills and the number of mills which have been made operational by now;

(c) whether the action plan has been made by Government for those workers who have become unemployed due to the closure of these mills;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Forced deposits in cooperative sugar mills by farmers in Maharashtra

328. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cooperative sugar mills in Maharashtra have been enforcing deductions from due payments of farmers supplying sugarcane, as deposits to be utilized for modernization/ expansion of mills and promising refunds thereof with interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including identity of the mills which collected such deposits and the total sums collected by each;

(c) the details of mills which carried out modernization/expansion;

(d) the mills which have repaid deposits with interest to respective sugarcane suppliers and those who defaulted to repay indicating the sums outstanding against each mill; and

(e) the action taken against defaulters?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Issue of new BPL cards *vis-a-vis*
Supreme Court order**

329. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step so far, to deal with the situation arising out of the interim order of the Supreme Court to maintain *status quo* with regard to issuance of new BPL cards for the public distribution system;

(b) whether BPL quotas are derived from BPL census or from Planning Commission estimates of poverty; and

(c) the manner in which Government intend to arrive at such quotas in future?

Subsidy to sugar mills

330. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to give Rs. 525 crores subsidy to ailing sugar mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of ailing sugar mills which will be benefited by this subsidy;

(d) to what extent it will help to improve our GDP; and

(e) the details thereof, State-wise?

**Handing over FCI operations to
private companies**

331. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy to hand over certain operations of FCI to private companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Amending Essential Commodities Act

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

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

(a) whether Government are considering sweeping changes in the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955 to bring it in consonance with the liberalized economic environment;

(b) if so, whether some of the changes proposed are restricting ECA to specific sectors like drugs, edible oils, petroleum products, seeds of foodcrops, wheat, paddy, rice, sugar and sugarcane;

(c) whether there is also a move to empower the Central Government to add or remove any essential commodity from the list and also to amend schedules in other ways; and

(d) if so, by what time, a final decision in regard to amending ECA is likely to be taken and the main amendments that are likely to be considered?

Monitoring food supplies

333. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are monitoring the food supplies being distributed under

the Targeted Public Distribution System through fair price shops in the country;

(b) if so, the *modus operandi* thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Climate change in India

334. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recently released study report on "Climate Change in India" undertaken by his Ministry alongwith the UK's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs forecasting that by 2050, India will be getting dangerously hot with worst, floods in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and drought in Rajasthan leading to reduction in wheat, onion and rice yields; and

(b) if so, what policies Government propose to formulate so as to meet the challenges of climate change particularly increased green-house gas emission as reportedly suggested by Dr. G.B. Pant of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in this regard?

Forest land from Periyar Tiger Reserve for development of Sabarimala

335. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Competent Authority has issued final clearance for providing forest land from Periyar Tiger Reserve for development of Sabarimala;

(b) if so, the details of land provided and conditions, if any;

(c) whether land is provided as per any master plan prepared by any private/ Government agency;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal in the master plan to mobilize fund from the market for Sabarimala Temple Project; and

(e) if so, the details of the agency that prepared the master plan and the estimated amount, if any, to be mobilized from market?

Encroachment of forest land

†336. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) whether there has been alarming increase in the cases of encroachment of forest land in the country;

(b) if so, the details of percentage/area of forest land encroached, State-wise alongwith the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether certain laws permit the use of forest land for other purposes also;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is a need to amend the existing laws in order to check encroachments; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Fund allocation for forest development schemes

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 11,444

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

crores had been allocated for the forest development schemes in the country;

(b) if not, the total amount allocated during Tenth Five Year Plan and the amount spent on the forest development schemes till 31st March, 2005, out of the total amount; and

(c) the percentage of amount spent out of the total allocated amount by each State in the country till 31st March, 2005?

Decrease in tiger population due to poaching

338. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the population of tigers in the country is fast depleting due to poaching;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that China and Tibet are the most popular markets for tiger products due to which poachers kill tigers recklessly;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to revive the protocol on tiger conservation with China which was signed in 1995;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures taken to protect the tigers from being poached recklessly?

Poaching in Bandhavgarh sanctuary

339. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bandhavgarh sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh continues to be a poachers' paradise and hunting ground for tigers;

(b) if so, the number of cases of tiger poaching detected or reported during 2004-05 and so far; and

(c) whether a tiger with a wire-noose around its neck was spotted in early November this year; and if so, the steps taken and being taken by Government to effectively prevent tiger hunting in Bandhavgarh and other sanctuaries in the country?

Bt. Cotton

340. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur has said that certain varieties of Bt. Cotton would not be successful in India;

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

(c) the details of the action taken by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in this regard?

Forest cover

341. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special schemes have been formulated in the Tenth Plan to bring 33 per cent of the country under forest cover by 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present percentage of forest cover in the country, State-wise;

(d) the targets fixed for each State and their achievement in this regard; and

(e) the allocations made in the Tenth Plan period for bringing more areas under forest cover, State-wise and the steps taken/

to be taken to achieve the target within the stipulated time?

Forest Development Agency

342. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the formation of Forest Development Agency for implementation of forest development works takes place in forest divisions under the National Afforestation Plan;

(b) whether different conditions of climate, soil and bio-pressure prevailing in various States have been considered while prescribing ideal cost norms for forest development works under the said scheme;

(c) whether any proposals have been received from Rajasthan for amending the sanctioned cost norms for fencing of tree plantation area; and

(d) whether Government propose flexibility in Ideal Cost Norms according to the request made by Rajasthan State?

Pollution of sea water on the West Coast

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

(a) whether sea water on the West Coast of India is polluted with hazardous chemicals;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra and Goa have taken any steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Pollution due to nitrogen dioxide in Delhi

344. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI HARISH RAWAT: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that due to increased use of CNG in Delhi, the level of nitrogen dioxide is increasing thereby polluting environment and causing ailments like asthma and bronchitis as per the recent air quality survey of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB); and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to reduce the level of nitrogen dioxide?

Loss of forest cover, mangroves and wetland

345. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had lost half of its forest coverage, 40 per cent mangroves and a significant part of its wetland in the past couple of centuries, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the schemes being implemented by Government to save the forest cover of the country, and the achievement made therein during the last three years; and

(c) the total financial allocation for such schemes in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Death of lions in Gir Sanctuary

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that eight Asiatic lions have died in Gir forest since August this year;

(b) if so, what are the causes of these sudden deaths;

(c) how many Asiatic lions are at present there in the sanctuary in Girnar district; and

(d) whether wild-life like lions are adequately protected there?

Construction of Vasant Kunj Mall

347. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is constructing Vasant Kunj Mall illegally on ridge land and water catchments area where no construction or ground water withdrawal is allowed/permissible;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against DDA for damaging ridge/water catchments area and to stop the construction of Mall; and

(c) what is the policy of Government to remove illegal encroachments/constructions from green areas?

Illegal trading of elephants from Assam

348. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of illegal trading of elephants from Assam;

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to stop such illegal activity in Assam;

(c) whether it is a fact that some forest officers are also involved in this; and

(d) if so, the justification for it?

Shrinking of forest cover

349. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the latest forest survey, the dense forest cover of the country shrunk by 26,245 sq. km between 2001 and 2003;

(b) if so, whether the efforts of afforestation proved to be futile since forest cover has come down drastically in these two years; and

(c) how Government propose to achieve the goal of increasing forest cover by 5 per cent by 2007?

Share in trade of processing of fruits and vegetables

350. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the largest producer of fruits and vegetables, but its share in the global trade of processed fruits and vegetables is less than 1 per cent; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that only 0.8 per cent of the horticulture product is processed in India?

Plan for increasing capacity of cold storage and food processing units

351. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any action plan to increase the capacity of existing cold storages and food processing units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such units in the States, as on date and the details of the units Government propose to set up during 2005-06 in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the current financial year?

Financial assistance to FPI under Plan Development Schemes

352. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing financial assistance under the Plan Development Schemes to food processing industries sector in the country;

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

(c) the other incentives Government gave for the entrepreneurs for setting up food processing industries in the country during the last three years particularly in Jammu and Kashmir?

Processing of potatoes

353. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge scope of indigenously processing the potatoes, available in the country, into a processed food;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the potato-based processed food items in the country are controlled by the multinationals; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to promote and develop indigenous industry in this field?

Loss of fruits and vegetables in FPI sector

354. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that large quantity of fruits and vegetables perish in the country due to non-availability of proper processing facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the quantity of fruits/vegetables that perish daily due to lack of processing facilities;

(c) whether Government have chalked out/propose to chalk out any scheme to augment processing facilities in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made/likely to be made as a result thereof?

Funding food parks, packing centres, modernisation of slaughter houses and integrated cold storage chain

355. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government make available fund for construction of food parks, packing centres, modernisation of slaughter houses and integrated cold storage chains;

(b) if so, the ratio of loan and grant therein and expected contribution from States in these schemes; and

(c) the amount sanctioned to the Andhra Pradesh during the last two years, year-wise, scheme-wise and programme-wise?

Non-essential and hazardous drugs

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

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

(a) whether the National Commission on Macro-economics and Health have identified 10 popular medicines like Becosule, Digene, Combiflam, Evion, Revital, etc. being irrational, non-essential and hazardous;

(b) if so, whether Government laboratories would be asked to make random investigation on two to three such medicines with a view to maintaining the faith or otherwise of the existing users; and

(c) if so, what is the time frame thereof?

Amendment of Drugs and Magic Remedies Act

357. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move in Ministry to amend the Drugs and Magic Remedies Objectionable Advertisements Act to make illegal any advertisement for unvalidated cures for medical conditions by any medical practitioner; and

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

Sarva Swasthya Abhiyan

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

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

(a) whether, while launching National Rural Health Mission, the Planning Commission has proposed a Sarva Swasthya Abhiyan (Health for All) along the lines of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education for All);

(b) if so, whether it wants health mission entirely to be Centrally funded because the States have regularly failed to set aside funds for health; and

(c) if so, whether the Abhiyan would enhance quantity and quality of the health sector?

Rules for preventing food adulteration

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

(a) the details of the rules and regulations governing prevention of food adulteration in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the existing laws have proved to be ineffective in preventing food adulteration in the country;

(c) whether any comparative study has been undertaken between the Indian laws and those adopted by the Developed Nations to learn how those countries have succeeded in early eliminating food adulteration and the shortcomings of the Indian laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether such a study would be instituted?

Adulteration in milk products

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

(a) whether it is a fact that incidence of food adulteration, particularly involving milk products, is taking place rampantly unhindered across the nation;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of cases detected during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the existing laws are not stringent enough to totally eliminate food adulteration in the country;

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to amend the laws so as to incorporate severe penal action, including death penalty, against the culprits; and

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

Blood Banks in the country

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

(a) the number of blood banks functioning in the country at present;

(b) the quantum of blood collected every day in these banks; and

(c) the extent to which this quantity is less or more than the total requirement in the country?

Allocation of funds to AIIMS

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

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

(a) the details of the total amount allocated by Government to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the purpose of establishment of AIIMS is to carry on with new researches in Medical fields;

(c) if so, the details of researches in AIIMS during the last three years; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned by Government for research during this period?

Improvement of medical research

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to formulate a scheme for making improvements in the field of medicine and research in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rejuvenating CGHS

364. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH
KHAN AZMI:

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

(a) the schemes contemplated to rejuvenate the CGHS;

(b) the steps being taken to raise the satisfaction level of the beneficiaries of CGHS; and

(c) the complaints and suggestions received from CGHS beneficiaries during the last year and the action taken thereon?

Japanese Enciphalitis

365. SHTIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether Japanese Enciphalitis has claimed a heavy toll of life especially children this year, in U.P., M.P., Chhattisgarh and other States;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported and the number of lives, viz, men, women and children lost to this disease this year and during the past three years, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by Government to effectively prevent and curb this menace, indicating the Central aid sought and given to different States;

(d) whether Government have any scheme for financial assistance to the next of the kin of persons dying of this disease; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

AIDS vaccine

366. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a final AIDS vaccine has been found; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

New drug for diabetes

367. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across any recent drug to take care of diabetics;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete and effective measures taken by Government to stop spreading of diabetes?

Disbanding of CGHS system

368. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to wind up the Central Government Health Scheme, a contributory healthcare scheme for the Central Government employees, etc. covering some 4.4 million beneficiaries and is to be replaced by a new health insurance system;

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

(c) the specific details of provisions made in the new health insurance system to protect the interest of the beneficiaries in the advancing years of their life; and

(d) the details of doctors/para-medical staff to be absorbed after abolishing the CGHS scheme presently in vogue?

WHO report on health

369. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed a recent report of the World Health Organisation titled "Preventing global diseases—a vital investment" highlighting *inter-alia* that over the next 10 years, 388 million people will die from non-communicable diseases such as heart diseases, cancer and diabetes with economic consequences for various countries, including India which would suffer to the extent of some \$ 236 billion;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the details of other major findings/observations contained in the report and the fresh steps initiated for prevention of such diseases and avoidable high death rate?

Corruption in autonomous Councils

370. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to investigate the affairs of autonomous councils under his Ministry after revelations of rampant corruption in these councils;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make the working of these bodies more transparent?

Registration criteria for medical practitioners

371. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of criteria fixed by Government for registration of Medical practitioners in rural/urban areas with the Indian Medical Council;

(b) the details of the total practicing doctors registered with the Indian Medical Council in urban and rural areas as on date, State-wise;

(c) what are the reasons for not posting the MBBS doctors for practicing in the rural areas of the country; and

(d) whether Government have formulated any policy in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

Foreign medical education

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

(a) the number of students who had left for medical education abroad during the last three years;

(b) the names of countries to which Indian students go for medical education; and

(c) whether all the degrees/diplomas given by such countries are recognized by the Medical and Dental Councils of India?

Combating the Bird Flu

373. SHRI THENNALA G.
BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR
SANGHI:

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

- (a) whether Government have prepared itself fully to combat the Bird Flu epidemic;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the decision taken in the meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in this regard?

Dengue and malaria cases in Delhi

374. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of dengue and malaria cases, separately, so far reported during 2005 in Delhi and the number of deaths that occurred as a result thereof;
- (b) how do these figures compare with those of the previous two years *i.e.* 2003 and 2004; and
- (c) the reasons for higher cases of dengue and malaria this year, and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation in this regard?

Lack of modern equipments in intensive care units

†375. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

- (a) whether the WHO has assessed about the fact that Intensive Care Units

(I.C.U.) in Indian hospitals do not match global standards;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the hospitals with I.C.U. facility are equipped with modern equipments;
- (d) if not, the action taken by Government in this regard;
- (e) whether all hospitals are having trained paramedical staff; and
- (f) if not, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Iodised salt and goitre

†376. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

- (a) the methodology to prove that non-iodised salt plays a vital role in causing goitre and mental retardation in children in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government have no means to prevent the diseases caused due to consumption of excess quantity of iodine while using iodised salt;
- (c) if so, the rationale behind making the sale of iodised salt compulsory; and
- (d) the reasons for Government's intention for initiating an international debate on the issue instead of doing it at the national level?

Scrapping of CGHS

377. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government Health Scheme is proposed to be scrapped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be scrapped;

(c) the cities/towns where C.G.H.S. is in operation at present and the manner in which medical/health needs of the Central Government employees are covered;

(d) whether C.G.H.S. is to be replaced by another scheme;

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

(f) whether insurance companies would be able to provide better health service to the employees; and

(g) if so, the justifications therefor?

Increase in dengue cases in India

378. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN
PILLAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the dengue cases have not only been registered during this year but it has increased manifolds;

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

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to control it?

Dismal health status of the tribal communities

379. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the health status of people in the tribal areas remains at the lowest in the country;

(b) whether a study "Health Status Index" conducted in Rajasthan revealed the dismal state of health status of the tribal communities in the State;

(c) whether Government have evolved any comprehensive scheme for the improvement of the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of para-medical staff in CGHS dispensaries

380. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of para-medical staff at various dispensaries particularly at CGHS Dispensary No. 73 (Gurgaon); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to fill the vacant posts and create required number of posts?

CGHS dispensary in Sector 11, Noida

381. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constructed its own building in Sector 11, NOIDA to house CGHS dispensary, but the same is lying unoccupied, whereas Government are paying rent for the place where at present the dispensary is housed;

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

(c) whether Government immediately propose to shift to its own building and save Government exchequer; and

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

Hepatitis-B in National Immunisation Programme

382. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been proposed to include Hepatitis-B in the schedule under the National Immunisation Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country would need six million doses of Hepatitis B vaccine;

(d) the present quantity of vaccine available in the country and

(e) how the shortfall will be made up?

Popularising generic medicines

383. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to popularize generic medicines without brand names;

(b) if so, how the problem of spurious medicines will be tackled;

(c) whether it is proposed to provide quality certification for medicines on the lines of ISI mark;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

National Illness Assistance Fund

384. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been proposed to

popularize National Illness Assistance Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to ask States to compulsorily constitute State Illness Funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether assistance will be provided to States for setting up of funds;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Fixing the level of metals in Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani medicines

†385. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to make it compulsory to fix the quantity of metals in Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines and display it on drug packets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be enforced?

Treatment of diseases by PHCs in Uttar Pradesh

†386. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Primary Health Centres working in the State of Uttar Pradesh are competent enough to deal with the menace of Malaria, Dengue fever, Hepatitis-B, Gastro-enteritis, AIDS, TB, Cancer and other malignant diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the effective steps proposed to be taken by Government to develop these health centres and to bring about improvement in them?

Fund allocation for Primary Health Centres

†387. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds sanctioned, allocated and actually utilized for the setting up of Primary Health Centres in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; district-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of health centres opened, so far, and the details of expenditure incurred thereon in the State; and

(c) the total funds granted by Government for Uttar Pradesh during the current year?

Deficiency of staff in CGHS Siddha Dispensary, R.K. Puram, New Delhi

388. SHRI FAQIR CHAND MULLANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CGHS Siddha Dispensary has started working since March, 2004 in the CGHS building sector 12, R.K. Puram, New Delhi;

(b) whether the dispensary is running since March, 2004 without paramedical staff and one doctor only; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government to appoint doctors and paramedical staff in the dispensary?

Loss due to the lack of fire extinguishers in AIIMS

†389. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDLWAL:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a loss of crores of rupees in All India Institute of Medical Sciences due to recent fire incident therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a lack of fire control equipments in AIIMS and the guidelines of Delhi Urban Art Commission (D.U.A.C.) are not being followed; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Reviving MBBS curriculum

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

(a) whether Government propose to devise a new MBBS curriculum that is more rural based;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plan to make rural training for one or two years after the house-surgeon training compulsory for medical graduates;

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

(e) by when it is likely to be done?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Decline in AIDS deaths due to cheaper drugs

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

(a) whether deaths and percentage of deaths attributable to AIDS have considerably declined since 1997, with the availability of cheaper drugs in India;

(b) if so, the number and percentage of such deaths during these years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken further for making these drugs available to the poor?

Pending medical bills

392. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 565 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 2005 and state:

(a) the exact amounts of pending bills of each private hospital approved by C.G.H.S. which was outstanding as on the 1st August, 2005;

(b) how much amount has been paid to each hospital since 1st May, 2005 if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government had taken against the officials concerned who had delayed the payment to hospitals which has forced them not to attend the C.G.H.S. beneficiaries in emergency on account of inordinate delay in their payment?

Action against mal-administration in Government hospitals

393. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 29th October, 2005, after three bomb blasts in the Capital of the country, the sufferers had to wait for hours and were not provided necessary treatment in a large number of Government hospitals in the Capital; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against such a mal-administration in the hospitals?

Female foeticide in Punjab

394. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that rate of female foeticide in Punjab is much higher than in other States;

(b) whether the Central Government have sought any report from the Punjab Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Failure of National Rural Health Mission

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Rural Health Mission has failed to achieve its target of selecting and training the social health activists;

(b) if so, what is the target for 2005-06 and whether it is moving at a slow pace especially in the backward and poverty-stricken States; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to speed up implementation of this project in the tribal-dominated, cash-strapped Orissa State?

New medical colleges in Orissa

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

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

(a) whether it is proposed to set up new medical colleges in Orissa, one at Bolangir and the other at Rourkela;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the project and its source of funding; and

(d) the details of the help, both financial and physical, Government propose to render to this backward region which is very much deficient in medical infrastructure?

Unsafe injections in India

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

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study conducted by the Indian Epidemiology Network and AIIMS, 63 per cent of the injections used in India are unsafe;

(b) whether it is also a fact that one third of injections used carry the risk of transmitting blood-borne viruses, including HIV;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of

this 63 per cent 68.7 per cent injections are used in the Government health centres/hospitals alone; and

(d) if so, what measures Government are taking or propose to take to reduce this menace?

Mismanagement in Safdarjung Hospital

398. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Safdarjung Hospital, a leading hospital run by the Central Government, has over the years shown an all-round deterioration in management and in providing quality services and treatment;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to tone up its functioning and restore its place of prominence among the Government hospitals in Delhi?

WHO's report on killer diseases

399. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has in its recent report given a wake-up call to India to squarely meet the challenges of some killer diseases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to meet the challenges highlighted in the WHO Report?

Revising of Central Government Health Scheme

400. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is preparing a revised Central Government Health Scheme for the serving and retired employees of the Central Government;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be provided in the revised scheme to make it patient friendly especially for senior citizens who require constant quality medical attention and care at the declining stage of their life; and

(d) whether the revised scheme would be applicable to the sitting and former Members of Parliament also and if not, the reasons therefor?

Reviving MBBS curriculum

401. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to include some traditional Indian practices like Naturopathy and Ayurveda in the MBBS programme;

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

(c) whether the practitioners of modern medicine have reacted favourably to the proposed measure;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, their viewpoint and Government's response thereto?

New hospital in Arunachal Pradesh

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

(a) whether it is a fact that former Deputy Prime Minister had announced to set up a 500 bed hospital in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned, so far for this scheme; and

(c) by when the said scheme is going to be completed and the present status thereof?

Failure of National Rural Health Mission

403. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Rural Health Mission has failed to achieve its target of selecting and training the accredited social health activists;

(b) what is the target set in 2005-06, State-wise;

(c) what is the fund allocated for this Mission in 2005-06; and

(d) the funds released to various States identified under this programme, State-wise?

Irrational drugs

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

(a) whether the National Commission of Macroeconomics and Health (NCMH) set up by Government has identified drugs like Liv-52, Digluce, and some blood tonics,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

analgesics, nutrients, liver-drugs, as irrational, useless or needless drugs;

(b) whether 10 of the 25 products sold in India in 1999 were found belonging to one of these categories, if so, the details of these drugs; and

(c) if so, the steps taken and being taken to prevent manufacture, import and sale of such drugs or to rationalize the same?

Amending MCI Act

405. SHRIDATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed amendments to the Indian Medical Council Act to reconstitute the Medical Council of India (MCI), making it accountable to the Parliament and to reorient and standardize medical education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the amendments in the Medical Council Act are likely to be carried out?

Anti-malaria insecticide net

406. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. has lately developed an anti-malaria insecticide net, with Japanese collaboration to effectively tackle the menace of malaria;

(b) the salient features of the anti-malaria insecticide and its effectiveness to prevent the menace; and

(c) the number of malaria deaths in the country and in the different States during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05?

Human trial of inhalable insulin

407. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports that insulin that can be inhaled to keep the blood sugar under check, named by its manufacturer as EX UBERA, has been put to experimental use on humans in US and other countries;

(b) if so, whether any such experimentation on inhalable insulin has been carried out in India also; and

(c) if so, the outcome of such experimentation and the follow up action in this regard?

Hygienic Drainage Disposal System

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

(a) whether Integral Coach Factory in Chennai is coming up with a proto-type of Hygienic Drainage Disposal System which would be operated by engine driver ahead one km. before the station;

(b) if so, what further steps are being taken by Government to install the new system in all the trains;

(c) whether the present system to control discharge in toilets installed in a couple of Rajdhani trains is costlier than the proposed one; and

(d) whether the old system would also be replaced by new ones in all Rajdhani trains?

Gauge conversion/laying of new rail lines in Chhattisgarh

‡409. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of many projects on gauge conversion/laying of new rail tracks in Chhattisgarh approved already by Government is going on with a very slow pace due to the lack of adequate budget provision;

(b) whether these projects have been approved many years back by Government;

(c) whether his Ministry is taking steps to make the budget provision adequately in order to complete the ongoing works of laying of new lines and gauge conversion early;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rail accidents

‡410. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR
SANGHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of accidents have taken place resulting in scores of deaths;

(b) whether Government have pondered over recurrence of such accidents at frequent intervals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Broad gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu

411. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Southern Railway administration has urged Government to give priority to broad gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu making out a case and justification; and

(b) whether it is a fact that quick conversion is imperative in the wake of container traffic growth, increase in the freight revenue, convenience of passengers and traders?

Gauge conversion in Southern Railway

412. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the stage of broad gauge conversion at all India level and out of which how much is yet to be done in Southern Railway and in Tamil Nadu in particular;

(b) when and how this neglect of regional imbalance can be set right by completing the broad gauge conversions in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether there can be a time-frame for broad gauge conversion between Manamadurai and Rameswaram and between Trichy and Manamadurai; and

(d) how the link between Mandapam and Rameswaram across the sea has been proposed and when it will be executed?

Train accidents

413. SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents which have taken place during the last two years in spite of various ways and means suggested by

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Committees appointed by Government from time to time;

(b) whether the recommendations/suggestions made have been implemented;

(c) the reasons for the accidents/mishaps taken place; and

(d) the steps taken or likely to be taken by Government to prevent accidents/mishaps in future?

Execution of new rail lines in Tamil Nadu

414. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about a dozen of new railway lines pertaining to Tamil Nadu for which surveys have been completed since 1997-98 have not been taken up for execution;

(b) if so, the details of those railway lines indicating the length and estimated cost of each line;

(c) the reason for non-execution of these surveyed lines, so far; and

(d) by when Government are likely to take them up for execution?

Computerised reservation counter at Pendurthy

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Pendurthy Mandal of Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh, is a fast growing and industrial area, which requires Computerised reservation counter;

(b) whether his Ministry is considering to set up a computerised reservation

counter for catering the needs of the commuters;

(c) if so, by when it is likely to come into existence; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Outdated rail bridges

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

(a) the number of rail bridges declared outdated particularly in Andhra Pradesh and the measures taken to replace/repair them during the last five years;

(b) whether in order to caution the concerned operational personnel about the state of rails, his Ministry propose to issue mobile phones to the Gangmen who inspect the tracks;

(c) if so, by when mobile phones would be issued to them all over the country; and

(d) the measures taken for timely maintenance of rail tracks and passenger safety?

Booking of materials on ticket

417. SHRITARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that booking of materials on ticket has been closed by the Parcel Department of Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons for this closure;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many a times, luggage bogies go without luggage due to which the Ministry faces financial losses; and

(d) whether he has directed the concerned for starting booking of materials on ticket also?

Harassment of passengers by ticket checkers

418. SHRI FAQIR CHAND MULLANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the ticket checking officials are harassing the genuine reserved passengers on the pretext of luggage checking in the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such complaints received by Government during the period from July 2005 till date, particularly in train No. 2626, Kerala Express; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty ticket checkers?

Safety measures in Southern Railway

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway is taking measures to strengthen the safety measures in the Southern Railway Region ;

(b) if so, the measures that the Southern Railway is thinking of introducing in its trains, etc.;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Southern Railway is thinking of spending Rs. 19 crores in this financial year for security works; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Rail accident near Nalgonda

420. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers killed and seriously injured, separately, in the rail accident that occurred in the early hours of 29th October, 2005 near Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the amount of *ex-gratia* paid by Government in respect of those killed and injured;

(c) the cause of accident as established in the inquiry and the action taken in regard thereto; and

(d) what precautionary steps are proposed to be taken to avert such accidents in future?

Passengers killed in rail accidents

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

(a) the number of railway passengers who lost their lives in rail accidents, including those holding valid travel rail tickets who were killed in a stampede at New Delhi Railway Station in November, 2004 and during 2004-05 so far separately, year-wise; and

(b) the number out of them whose next of kin have, so far, filed compensation claims with the respective Railway Claims Tribunals?

World heritage status for railway stations

422. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are actively seeking world heritage status for some railway stations in the country;

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

(c) the current status of these proposals?

Upgradation of railway stations

423. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to upgrade some railway stations in the country;

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

(c) the total estimated cost of the upgradation of these railway stations; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to complete the upgradation?

Improving rail line capacity

424. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that present rail engines are more powerful than the earlier coal/steam engines;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Rail lines so used now in the country are the load feelers of the old engines;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the weak load feeler rail lines are unable to bear the forceful speed of the rail engines today and as a result thereof accidents are increasing; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve to rail line capacity?

Suggestions of Committees on rail accidents

425. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that suggestions of the Committees set up after the rail accidents are not being followed by Government;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that as a result thereof the rail accidents are increasing in the country rapidly;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government for the protection of the rail passengers in the country; and

(d) if delayed, the reasons therefor?

Gauge conversion of Jaipur-Ringas-Sikar-Loharu rail line

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

(a) whether any proposal of gauge conversion on rail route Jaipur-Ringas-Sikar-Loharu in North West Zone is under consideration;

(b) whether the said work is proposed to be covered under BOT; and

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

Gauge conversion projects

427. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial allocation for the gauge conversion projects for the past three years, State-wise;

(b) the total number of kilometers

converted from metre-gauge to broad-gauge during the past three years; State-wise;

(c) the target fixed by Government for total gauge conversion of all railway lines, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to achieve this target?

Khanna rail accident report

428. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khanna railway accident report has been submitted and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

Appointment and working of vigilance officers

429. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed vigilance officers in each division to see misdeeds of Railway Divisional Managers;

(b) whether these vigilance officers are permanent employees of Railways and instead of checking misdeeds of Divisional Managers they are reporting to Divisional Managers in place of reporting to CVC;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to appoint vigilance officers from other than railway employees; and

(d) the measures taken to curb corruption/irregularities in railways and the details of vigilance cases instituted against the officers of Northern Railways and divisional managers during the last three years?

Sexual harassment by railway officers

430. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during last three years, several senior railway officers had been charged with sexual harassment;

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

(c) whether inquiries had been conducted by committees of lady officers senior to perpetrators or by retired judges and perpetrators had been transferred to ensure free deposition in all cases;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether committees recorded statements of witnesses and perpetrators in presence of victims allowing cross-examination and copies of findings were given to victims in all cases; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government?

Suitability of tracks for super-fast trains

431. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that existing tracks are not suitable for super-fast trains;

(b) if so, whether steps are being considered so that the permitted speed limit of all super-fast trains including Rajdhani's are not required to cut down speed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof keeping in mind the risk and safe travel of passengers?

Railway projects from Tamil Nadu

432. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects received from Tamil Nadu during each of the last 3 years;

(b) the action taken by Government thereon;

(c) the details of the works undertaken for improvement and expansion of railway network in Tamil Nadu during the said period; and

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon during the said period?

High speed of trains on dilapidated rail tracks

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the speed limit of trains on railway tracks should not exceed from 40 to 45 km. per hour but approximately 5000 trains are running at the speed of 90 to 140 km. per hour on dilapidated rail tracks which can be a cause of major accident any time; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to prevent occurrence of such kind of accident?

Delta Fast Passenger train accident

434. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed/injured in the Delta Fast Passenger train which is reported to have jumped the rail line near Hyderabad;

(b) the precise reasons for the mishaps; and

(c) whether responsibility has been fixed in this case and if so, the details thereof?

Steel production

†435. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of steel produced in the financial year 2003-04 and the quantity of steel likely to be produced in the country by the year 2020 and the expected demand at that time;

(b) the total quantity of iron-ore needed for the required steel production;

(c) the total quantity of iron-ore likely to be available in the country at present; and

(d) the names of the States in the country having iron ore mines and the number of ensuing years upto which the iron ore would remain available?

Green field projects

436. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many large international steel companies have approached Government with proposals for Greenfield projects across India;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any policy to grant mining rights of iron ore to the foreign companies;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) whether the policy also covers right to export iron ore by foreign companies?

Reservation of iron ore for PSUs

437. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the known reserves of iron ore in the country, State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh;
 (b) whether it is a fact that certain proportion of these ore being reserved for Central PSUs and the State PSUs; and
 (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Iron ore

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

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that keeping in

view the deposits of the iron ore in the country there may arise the crisis of raw material before the steel producing projects in the country;

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

(c) the deposits of the iron ore in the country at present; and

(d) the annual likely demand of the steel for this steel producing projects in the country during the ensuing 20 years?

MoU with M/s Mittal Steel

439. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an MoU was recently signed with M/s Mittal Steel for a Rs. 40,000 crores-2 million tonnes Greenfield steel plants to be set up at Ranchi;

(b) if so, the main terms of the agreements indicating the phases in which the plant is to be set up; and

(c) how the deal favourably compares with the POSCO plant's deal?

NEW DELHI;
The 19th November, 2005
 Kartika 28, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
 Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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