RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on Friday, the July 26, 2002 / Sravana 4, 1924 (Saka)

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and Forests; Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development; Ocean Development; Railways; Science and Technology; Steel; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions—155

Sugarcane-based cropping system

1029. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to implement a Centrally sponsored scheme on sustainable development of sugarcanebased cropping system;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds earmarked under the scheme:
- (d) the States where the scheme is proposed to be implemented; and
- (e) the details of steps taken in this regard?

Water crisis due to drought

- †1030. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have taken various long term and short term measures in order to deal with the water crisis arising out of drought situation in certain States due to scanty rainfall;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the extent to which the water crisis is likely to be solved as a result of short term measures; and
- (d) the States which have been benefited thereby?

Development of rice strains

- 1031. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether super rice strains would be coming this monsoon which would double or treble the present yield; and
- (b) if so, the details regarding development of such a variety of rice strains?

Jute production

- 1032. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the quantity of jute production in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

- (b) the quantity of procurement by JCI during the same period, State-wise;
- (c) the minimum support price during the corresponding years and the actual prices prevailing during these periods;
- (d) whether Government are aware that West Bengal farmers started growing jute at the instance of the Central Government, to save the jute industry; and
- (e) whether Government are also aware of complete dismantling of the mandatory Jute (Packaging) Order and the reaction of jute growers thereon?

Banned medicines in U.P. dairies

- 1033. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that dairy owners of Uttar Pradesh are using banned medicines for faster milking;
- (b) if so, the action taken by Government to curb such practices; and
- (c) what are the reports from other States?

Targets of cooperative movement

- 1034. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have achieved the targets fixed for the cooperative movement;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether Government have identified the obstacles in achieving the targets of this movement; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to remove such obstacles?

Agricultural proposals of Karnataka Government

- 1035. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the projects and proposals of Karnataka Government pending for approval/sanction in the Ministry of Agriculture: and
- (b) what action has been taken to clear these projects/proposals?

NATP and CGP network projects in States

- 1036. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of various national and regional NATP and CGP network projects implemented in each phase upto Phase III, indicating the locations, allocations and implementation status;
- (b) the State-wise list of projects under NATP submitted to ICAR and the details of those sanctioned during NATP I, II, III in the NER for Animal Husbandary, Fishery, Agriculture and PHT sector, with separate indication of total allocation and implementation status; and
- (c) the details of ICAR *ad-hoc* research projects submitted from the NER, institution-wise, the details of projects approved, indicating the total allocation and sector-wise implementation status in Agriculture, Animal Husbandary and PHT, during the last three years?

Misappropriation of funds at KVKs

- 1037. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of complaints regarding corruption and misappropriation of funds in Krishi Vigyan Kendras especially at Sironi, Distt. Vidisha (MP);
- (b) the details of NGOs running such Kendras;
- (c) whether any inquiry committee was set up in respect of Kendra mentioned in part (a) above; if so, when the report was submitted and the findings thereof; and
- (d) since how long the action is pending before Government and whether any responsibility has been fixed for delaying the action; if so, the details thereof?

Seed crop insurance

1038. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plan to educate the farmers to buy seeds only from Government retail stores;
- (b) if so, whether Government would consider insuring the crop if the seeds have been brought from Government retail stores;
- (c) whether in case of failure of yield, the compensation would be granted to farmers; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Animal husbandary, poultry and fisheries schemes in Gujarat

1039. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the schemes being implemented by Government for animal husbandary, poultry and fisheries for the last three years;
- (b) the details of the amount allocated for their implementation during the same period in Gujarat;
- (c) whether any subsidy is also provided by Government for these schemes; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Monsoon failure

- 1040. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 10th July, 2002 captioned, "Rains elusive, drought cloud over Rajasthan and people in Madhya Pradesh praying to rain gods";
- (b) whether the monsoon has failed this year to keep its June-end date in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, which are reeling under a hot, sultry spell; and
- (c) if so, what relief measures Government propose to give to farmers and save crops from monsoon failure in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh?

Subsidies to cotton growers

- 1041. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government plan to give more subsidies to the cotton growing farmers;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government would ensure to enforce in all the markets, the ban on spurious cottonseeds that was the root cause of cotton farmers committing suicide; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Agriculture accidents and insurance

- †1042. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been consistent increase in accidents in the agricultural sector;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide compensation to the deceased persons;
- (c) in how many districts in the country the agriculture insurance has been introduced so far and the steps taken by Government to extend benefit of insurance for agriculture throughout the country; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Appointment of National Director of NATP

- 1043. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the candidate selected by Agriculture Scientists Recruitment Board for the post of National Director, National Agriculture Technology Project during 1999, could not join since a case of corruption was pending;
- (b) whether ASRB had selected and recommended only the above name for the above post;
- (c) whether ICAR submitted another name erroneously to the President, ICAR, leading to the appointment of the present incumbent of the post;
- (d) whether the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture had initiated notings regarding above in the file during 2000; and
- (e) if so, whether action is proposed to be initiated after an enquiry?

Achievements of National Agricultural Policy

1044. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of achievements of National Agricultural Policy which was announced in July, 2000?

Losses of DMS

†1045. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Milk Scheme has been constantly suffering losses for the past few years;
- (b) if so, the financial loss this institute suffered during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 separately;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of products of this institute were during the last few years to be at par with that of other products available in the market;
- (d) if so, when this increase was affected the time:
- (e) the reasons for the loss to this institute despite this increase in prices; and
- (f) what steps are being taken to render the DMS profitable?

Post-harvest management for fruit products

1046. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study on Indian food products industry has revealed that India,

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

with around 46 million tonne or 10 per cent of world's fruit production, is considered to be the second largest producer of fruits in the world;

- (b) whether the study has pointed out that the country must improve post-harvest management, logistics, to compete the world market and has pointed certain suggestions in this regard; and
- (c) if so, whether Government are considering to implement those suggestions?

Quarantine Bill to prevent entry of pests

- 1047. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to introduce new Quarantine Bill to prevent entry of pests which are infected by diseases;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether due to inadequate testing and detection facilities, several pests infected with various diseases have been imported in the past few years, which has caused considerable damage to agricultural crops; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which introduction of Quarantine Bill would check such entry?

Fall in chilli prices in A.P.

1048. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chilli farmers of Andhra Pradesh are distressed following a sudden steep fall in the price of its Byadigi variety; and (b) if so, the measures proposed to help the farmers who took heavy loans and are unable to sell surplus yields?

Information regarding high quality seeds

- †1049. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether any fresh steps have been taken for providing information regarding high quality seeds to the poor farmers of the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps, providing information about and to provide high quality seeds, to farmers of inaccessible areas throughout the country; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Availability of mixed breed seeds

- †1050. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there is any scheme for easy availability of sophisticated mixed breed seeds, produced indigenously and abroad, for the farmers of all the States of the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether adequate quantity of above seeds have been distributed to each State during each of the last three years;
- (d) whether Government have issued any specific guidelines to State Governments in respect of the scheme for high quality mixed breed seeds; and
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Special facilities to farmers against drought and floods

- †1051. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to provide any special grant or facilities to farmers, in view of the drought and floods situation throughout the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government propose to enact any law to provide benefits to farmers through the schemes, as available to Government servants; and
 - (d) if so, by when and the details thereof?

Allocations under On Farm Water Management

- 1052. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has allocated Rs. 115 crore during the current financial year for On Farm Water Management for increasing crop production in the Eastern States; and
- (b) if so, the details regarding allocation to each State?

Technology Mission on Horticulture

- 1053. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture is being planned for other States, particularly Andhra Pradesh, besides the North-Eastern States; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

Agricultural marketing reforms

- 1054. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the interministerial task force on agricultural marketing reforms has, in its report submitted recently, recommended sweeping amendments in the marketing laws, to allow the private sector to operate the agricultural markets, legalise contract farming, etc.; and
- (b) if so, the details of the major recommendations of the task force and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

Schemes to improve agricultural production in U.P.

- 1055. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of Centrally sponsored programmes formulated and being implemented by Government for Uttar Pradesh, to increase agricultural production during 2002-2003;
- (b) what targets have been fixed for this period; and
- (c) the details of financial assistance given to U.P. for the same, during the last three years?

Central agricultural schemes in H.P.

- 1056. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of Central schemes under implementation in Himachal Pradesh, to substantially increase agricultural production in the State, district-wise; and
- (b) the results achieved therefrom, so far?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Unstable prices of agricultural products

- 1057. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the measures being undertaken by Government to protect farmers from unstable prices of agricultural products;
- (b) whether the farmers are getting full protection through these measures;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government propose to take any concrete measures in this regard;
 - (e) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Likely reduction in production cost of cotton in USA

†1058. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that production cost of cotton for cotton growers in USA is likely to decrease due to governmental financial aid to them;
- (b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment in this regard, so far;
- (c) if so, the facts in this regard, on the basis of said assessment; and
- (d) whether it is also a fact that this would have adverse effect on the cotton producers of India?

Amendment to the Seeds Act

- 1059. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have decided to amend the existing Seeds Act;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor:
- (c) whether it is a fact that sometime back, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh made some suggestions to him as to the amendments which Government should carry out to the Seeds Act;
- (d) if so, whether the same have been carried out in the draft amending Bill; and
- (e) by when the amending Bill is likely to be put in place?

Encouragement for production of wheat and paddy

1060. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of land under cultivation of wheat, paddy, oilseeds, pulses and other coarse foodgrains including vegetables and fruits in the country during each of the last two years, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (b) whether the farmers in various States have shown interest in production of other crops instead of wheat and paddy;
 - (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to encourage the farmers to produce wheat and paddy?

Inclusion of cold and heat waves under CRF/NCCF

- 1061. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have prescribed a set of norms and items of expenditure for assistance out of the Calamity Relief Fund/ National Calamity Contingency Fund, to mitigate distress conditions of the people

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

emerging due to cold wave and heat wave conditions experienced by the States;

- (b) whether the Orissa Government has made a proposal for inclusion of the "Heat Wave and Cold Wave" as State specific subject for incurring expenditure out of CRF/ NCCF; and
- (c) if so, the present status of the proposal and the time by which the approval of the Centre would be accorded in the matter?

Changes in retention price of urea

1062. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fertilizers Association of India has expressed its deep concern over the latest decision to make changes in the retention price scheme with retrospective effect from 7th and 8th pricing policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Tax on production of fertilizers

†1063. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government charge various types of taxes on the production of chemical fertilizers including urea in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such taxes togetherwith the rates at which these taxes are charged; and
- (c) the items of raw-material used for production of chemical fertilizers which are

imported togetherwith the rates at which import tax is charged thereon?

Power consumption by fertilizer units

- †1064. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are considering to formulate some rules governing consumption of power by fertilizer units;
- (b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Import of fertilizers

†1065. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the demand of chemical fertilizers in the country is met with domestic production;
- (b) if not, the percentage of average annual demand met by imported fertilizers;
- (c) whether Government have fixed any target for making the country self-dependent in respect of fertilizers; and
- (d) if so, the time-limit fixed for achieving the target?

Settlement funds for Bhopal gas victims

1066. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICMR carried out research on the effect of gas exposure in

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bhopal based on which official agencies and the Supreme Court have concluded that population from only 36 wards of Bhopal Municipal Corporation area was affected:

- (b) if so, whether Government called a meeting on Bhopal disaster on June 7th, 2002 to discuss balance of settlement fund of Rs. 1360 Crores which was attended by the representations of concerned Ministries and the MP from Bhopal;
- (c) if so, whether the meeting concluded that all people from all the 56 wards would be entitled to funds; and
 - (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Prices of fertilizer abroad

- †1067. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Urea and other chemical fertilizers in the international market during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 have been lower than the prices of Urea and other chemical fertilizers produced in India;
 - (b) if so, the facts in this regard; and
- (c) the prices of Urea and other chemical fertilizers in the international market during the said years and the expenditure incurred for bringing them in India?

Cutting down production cost in fertilizer units

1068. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the so-called subsidy is being given to support the fertilizer units, where the cost of production is higher, despite the fact that the higher

- cost of production is a result of their inefficiency, obsolete plant, technology etc.;
- (b) whether Government are taking any steps to cut down the cost of production of such units; and
- (c) if so, the action Government propose to take in this ragard?

Retention price of fertilizer units

1069. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the retention price being paid to various fertilizer units ranges from Rs. 4356.00 per MT to Rs. 16454.00 per MT, resulting in a subsidy ranging from Rs. 292.00 per MT to Rs. 11804 per MT;
- (b) whether units with higher cost of production get more subsidy than the units having lower cost of production; and
 - (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Import duty on life saving drugs

1070. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that essential life saving drugs that are imported, attract an import duty;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government plan to dismiss any or all import duty on essential life saving drugs that need to be imported and are not manufactured in India; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Research Centres for reproductive fluid and tree improvement

- †1071. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1430, given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd August, 2001 and state:
- (a) how many of the 35 afforestation Research Centres are functioning in Uttaranchal;
- (b) how many of the 200 Research Centres for reproductive fluid and tree improvement through genetics are functioning in Uttaranchal and the location thereof; and
- (c) the locations of nurseries set up in Uttaranchal for providing plantation materials for better species of plants and their respective areas, in hectares?

Clearance of environmental projects in Maharashtra

- 1072. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of environmental projects from Maharashtra, pending for approval by Government, alongwith the reasons therefor;
 - (b) the details of the cost of each project;
- (c) whether any additional information has been sought from the State Government or the organisations concerned; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Zoo Health Advisory Committee

- 1073. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a Zoo Health Advisory Committee has been constituted by Government recently;

- (b) if so, whether such authority would be constituted for all the Zoos in the country;and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Environmental action by corporate sector

- 1074. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware of a study, DISHA, conducted by the Tata Energy Research Institute;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that the study has found that many corporates do not take environmental action;
- (c) if so, what are the details of the study; and
- (d) what action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

Corruption in forest management

- 1075. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that thousands of indigenous people of Assam have become homeless due to the ongoing eviction operation, in the name of clearance of forest land;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the large scale departmental corruption in management of forests is responsible for the present degradation of forest properties in Assam; and
- (c) if so, whether Government would institute any commission to enquire into the departmental corruption?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Protection of rare species in Manipur

- 1076. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the rare brow-antlered deer Sangai and several varieties of birds available in Manipur are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the action taken to protect the rare species from extinction?

Waste forest land for public use

1077. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

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

- (a) how many requests from the State Governments are pending in his Ministry to release the waste forest land for the public use;
- (b) whether it is a fact that many such applications from Karnataka Government are pending in his Ministry for consideration; and
- (c) if so, the details of the proposals and the action taken by his Ministry in this regard?

Eviction from Forest land

- 1078. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the forest coverage and action taken to restore the required forest cover in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the present eviction is specific to the forest land of Assam only or is a part of National Policy implementation;
- (c) the data relating to eviction drive in other States;

- (d) the factual position of eviction circulars and other bans imposed, including applicability of specific directions of Supreme Court, indicating date of order and implementation status, State-wise, till June, 2002; and
- (e) the encroachment and eviction status in wild life sanctuaries, including Kaziranga National Park of Assam?

Protection of Pahari Maynah

- 1079. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact, that talking Bird Pahari Maynah, a rare species is on the verge of extinction in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, as reported in India Today dated 24th June, 2002;
- (b) what steps Government propose to take against poachers of such birds; and
- (c) the details of steps Government propose to take for preservation, against poaching and for growth of such birds?

Central funds for forest protection

1080. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether Government provide funds to State Governments for forest protection activities, for procurement of wireless sets and other equipments; and
- (b) if so, the amount provided to State Governments during the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

Mangrove plantation to check environmental damage

- 1081. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRON-MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Central assistance has been provided to Andhra Pradesh for mangrove plantations, to enrich existing mangrove areas and for Coastal Shelter belt plantations, in order to minimise environmental damage and loss of life and property due to natural calamities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and
 - (c) the result achieved therefrom?

Death of tigers/lions due to trypanosomiasis

- 1082. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware of the parasitic disease, Trypanosomiasis, among tigers and lions in various zoological parks/wild life sanctuaries across the country;
- (b) if so, number of tigers/lions died due to this disease during the last three years, year-wise and sanctuary-wise; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken to check spread of this disease?

Effect of global warming

- 1083. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRON-MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Global Warming will hit rice, wheat yields",

- appearing in the Hindu dated 2nd May, 2002:
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the measures to be adopted to address problems highlighted in the news-item, to counteract the adverse impact of global warming?

Extinction of birds of rare species in NE

- 1084. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRON-MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the North-Eastern States were once the habitats of many exotic and majestic animals and beautiful birds, which are facing extinction;
- (b) if so, whether Government have enquired into this problem; and
- (c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

Funds to States for conservation of forests

- †1085. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of funds allocated by Government to States for conservation of environment and afforestation during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and
- (b) the funds utilised so far, which States are yet to utilise the funds and the reasons therefor and the instructions issued to States in this regard?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Area of forest cover

1086. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Forest Survey of India has, of late, prepared a report on the forest cover of India by remote sensing satellites;
- (b) if so, when it was last made, the percentage of forest cover in each State determined on the basis of this survey, the comparative corresponding figures brought out by the earlier three surveys, indicating the percentage decline of forest cover and the reasons for the decline; and
- (c) the steps taken and being taken to improve the forest cover, indicating the safe forest cover in each State and the steps envisaged and targets contemplated under the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Phasing out of waste incineration

1087. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a meeting of the Sixth Inter Governmental negotiating Committee on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was held in Geneva, recently:
- (b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the environmental organisations had protested against the waste incineration systems, urged the respective Governments to put a stop to this practice and move towards sustainable waste management systems;
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government in this matter; and
- (e) the steps taken to phase out all forms of waste incineration and promote clean

production, zero waste and sustainable discard management systems?

Protected ridges in Delhi

1088. MISS MABEL REBELLO: SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

- (a) the details regarding the area and location of protected ridges in Delhi;
- (b) whether Government have any plan to include more reserved forests in and around Delhi; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

Cost of cleaning Yamuna in Delhi

1089. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that the 22-km stretch of Yamuna between Wazirabad and Okhla barrage in Delhi is only 2% of its catchment area, but it contributes about 80% of the river's total pollution load;
- (b) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard and what are the plans of the CPCB, the cost involved in the entire operation and what is the allocation for this financial year; and
- (c) whether any time-frame has been laid down to achieve this objective; if so, the details thereof?

Emission of green house gases

1090. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

 (a) the India's position in respect of contribution in release of Green House Gases in the world;

- (b) the share of industrial, transport and domestic sectors in emission of Green House Gases in the country;
- (c) whether Government have taken any measures to check release of GHG from these sectors; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Use of waste plastic bags in road construction

- 1091. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it has come to notice of Government that a firm in Bangalore has developed a process to use waste plastic bags in road construction, to combat plastic menace; and
- (b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to encourage such firms to develop the technology, to fight plastic pollution problems?

Bifurcated U.P. Forestry Project between Uttaranchal and U.P.

- †1092. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1425, given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd August, 2001 and state:
- (a) what are the reasons for the 53:47 ratio of bifurcation of the World Bank assisted U.P. Forestry Project between Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh while 75 per cent of the total forest cover of undivided Uttar Pradesh has gone to Uttaranchal; and
- (b) by when this division between Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal is likely to take place and the Centre's role therein?

Sight of vultures going extinct in Rajasthan

- †1093. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that herds of vultures, which are beaming extinct, have been cited in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save this bird from extinction, by giving complete protection to them?

Forest Divisions in Uttaranchal

- †1094. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3983, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 2002 and state:
- (a) the total number of Forest divisions in Uttaranchal and by when their expansion is likely to be taken up, with a view to getting permanent co-operation from forest committees in the form of public cooperation, for safeguarding the forests against fires; and
- (b) whether the amount of rupees 542.20 lacs received under this head during 2000-2001 has been utilised completely, stating whether extension of this head to the whole State for this scheme would have been proper?

Import of genetically modified foods

- 1095. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that genetically modified foods are entering in our market from abroad;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not put any restrictions or curbs on import of such harmful food products; and
- (c) what safeguards have been prescribed against import of such harmful foods in our country?

Action plan for conservation of coastal and marine environment

- 1096. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRON-MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are considering to prepare an action plan for the conservation of coastal and marine environment;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of achievements made by Government in this field during the last ten years?

FPIs in rural areas

- †1097. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are formulating any scheme to set up more and more units of food processing industries based on agriculture in the rural areas, for proper development of the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Value addition to fruits and vegetables

1098. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that while India is the largest producer of fruits and vegetables with 132 million tonnes, its processing level is hardly 2 to 3 per cent, as compared to 83 per cent in Malaysia, 72 per cent in Thailand, 70 per cent in UK and 50 per cent in Brazil; and
- (b) if so, whether Government are thinking of utilizing the immense scope for value addition, so that our farmers get adequate price for their produce and country's exports also get the boost?

Employment opportunities in FPIs

†1099. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCES-SING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that expansion in the Food Processing Industries in the country has been made during the past few years;
- (b) if so, the percentage of the total workers in the country provided employment in the Food Processing Industries by the end of March, 2002; and
- (c) the installed capacity of processing fruits and vegetables of the industrial units set up till that date and what percentage this capacity constitutes to the total production of fruits and vegetables in the country?

Expansion of FPIs

†1100. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESS-ING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food processing industry in the country has expanded during the last few years;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the average annual rate of said expansion during the last three years;
- (c) the number of units in food processing industry functioning in the country at the end of March, 2002; and
- (d) what was the total capital investment in said units?

World Bank assistance for development of women and children

1101. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of financial assistance given by the World Bank for implementation of schemes and programmes for women and child development in the country, during the last three years, State-wise/Schemewise:
- (b) whether the funds granted by the World Bank for implementation of various schemes for women and child development have been fully utilized by Government; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Conversion of Regional Engineering Colleges into National Technical Institutes

- †1102. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to convert Regional Engineering Colleges into National Technical Institutes;
- (b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this direction so far; and

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

Advertisements of fake universities

1103. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1443, given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd August, 2001 and state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that fake universities publicise through reputed print/ electronic media, misleading the student community;
- (b) if so, whether Government propose to take legal action against the publishers of such advertisements;
 - (c) if so, details thereof; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Vacant posts in KVs in Silchar Division

†1104. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR: SHRI R. N. ARYA: SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: SHRI D. P. YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many posts of teachers in different subjects have been lying vacant for quiet a long time in many Kendriya Vidyalayas under Silchar Division in the North-East; if so, since when and the details thereof;
- (b) the details of vacant posts before 29th April, 2001, Vidyalaya-wise, category-wise, subject-wise and post-wise (not All-India and Division-wise); and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the number of posts filled up after 30th April, 2001, giving vidyalayawise, subject-wise, category-wise, details thereof?

Jamia Millia Islamia's agreement with a Moroccan organisation

- 1105. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia has signed an agreement with Morocco based Islamic Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation;
- (b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the agreement; and
- (c) whether such agreement has been signed by the Jamia Millia Islamia with some other foreign organisations also; if so, the details thereof?

Indira Mahila Yojana in Andhra Pradesh

- 1106. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the status of Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether Government have reviewed its progress in that State;
- (c) if so, whether any shortcomings were noticed therein;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) what corrective measures Government have taken in this regard?

Basic education for children in Rajasthan

- 1107. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that there are 9.48 lakh children in rural areas and 1.17 lakh in urban areas in Rajasthan, who are still deprived of basic education;
- (b) whether the children who do not have access to schools in Rajasthan, are in the age group of 6 to 14 years;
 - (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) what steps are being taken by Government to reach education at the residence of Children?

Standard of primary education

- †1108. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that standard of primary education is constantly declining;
- (b) whether any survey at national level has been conducted in this regard; and
 - (c) if so, the findings thereof?

AICTE approved Engineering Colleges in Orissa

- 1109. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of AICTE approved engineering colleges functioning in Orissa;
- (b) the number of seats in different disciplines; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of engineering colleges declared as 'A' grade colleges in the country and in Orissa?

AICTE project to assess skilled and untrained workers

- 1110. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the All India Council for Technical Education is setting up a project to assess and certify skilled and untrained workers:
- (b) whether camps are being organised in all the industrial centres in the country, to identify such workers;
- (c) whether this attempt would bring trades like carpentry, mechanics, etc., to the level of other recognised trades; and
 - (d) if so, the details of the project?

Medium of instruction in Kendriya Vidyalayas

- 1111. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the medium of instruction for humanities stream subjects like Social Science in Kendriya Vidyalayas is Hindi, instead of English; if so, what are the reasons therefor;
- (b) what is the relevance of teaching in Hindi medium, when higher study of subjects is not complete and effective without English medium in today's era when public schools are imparting education in English medium; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating any steps to teach these subjects in English medium and to create environment for English conversation in schools?

Funds to NGOs for upgrading education

- †1112. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the amount allocated, State-wise, including Bihar to Non-Governmental Organisations for upgrading level of education in the rural areas during the last three years;
- (b) whether any complaint regarding misuse of allocated money has been received by Government; and
- (c) if so, the details of action taken by Government in that regard?

Nutritional support to school children in Karnataka

- 1113. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the Centrally-sponsored Scheme aimed at providing nutritional support to children studying in primary schools:
- (b) the amount released to each State/ Union Territories during the last three years under the scheme;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government has submitted a proposal for providing hot cooked meal to primary school children in the State belonging to Scheduled Castes; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, what are the details thereof, Government's reaction thereto and by when the required allocations would be made?

Improvement of science education

- 1114. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the Centrally-sponsored scheme for improvement of science education in the country;
- (b) the allocation made under the scheme to various States/Union Territories during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Karnataka Government has requested for allocation of funds for implementation of the IX Phase of the scheme in the State; and
- (d) if so, what are the details thereof and by when the amount is likely to be released?

Stopping dissection of animals in schools

- 1115. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that CBSE has recently issued orders for stopping dissection of animals at school level; and
- (b) whether similar instructions have also been issued by State Education Boards and if so, what are the details thereof?

Schools in Gujarat with foreign assistance

- 1116. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of primary schools opened/proposed to be opened with foreign

assistance in Gujarat, district-wise; and

(b) the amount provided to each district for this purpose during each of the last three years?

Facilities for students of other States in Delhi

- 1117. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government of Delhi has rescinded the order in respect of providing similar facilities which are available to students of Delhi, to students of other States included in the NCR;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government would frame any legislation for the students coming from other States for medium and higher education; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Primary Education Centres in U.P.

- †1118. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the total budget of Central Government for education for the year 2002;
- (b) what is the number of villages in various districts of Uttar Pradesh where there is no Primary Education Centre;
- (c) whether Government are contemplating to start Primary Education Centres in all such villages; if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) what is the total number and details of Primary Education Centres opened in Moradabad and Badayun districts during 2001-2002?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Kerala

- 1119. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) how many districts in Kerala have implemented the new scheme of education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;
- (b) the amount allotted to Kerala for implementing the scheme and the progress achieved by the districts in that State, for implementing the scheme;
- (c) whether Government would consider to introduce any new development measures for successful implementation of the SSA Scheme; and
 - (d) the reaction of Government thereto?

Revision of syllabus by NCERT

- †1120. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) has revised the syllabus of various classes from this years;
- (b) if so, the syllabus of which classes has been revised by NCERT and the number of books published for each of the same:
- (c) whether complaints are being received by NCERT to the effect that these books are not available in adequate quantity; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by NCERT in this regard?

Degree and diplomas by foreign universities

- 1121. SHRI SUNIL SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that several foreign universities have started awarding degrees, diplomas and offering certain courses through their private centres in India;
- (b) if so, whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard;
 - (c) if not, the reasons thereof;
- (d) whether these universities have sought prior permission from Government in this regard:
- (e) whether Government are considering to permit private sector in setting up universities in the country as the foreign private universities are already functioning in India; and
 - (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Financial shortfalls in SSA

- 1122. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) what were the annual financial shortfalls in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in totality and financial requirements projected by the Constitution (93rd Amendment) Act; and
- (b) how Government are going to meet the financial shortfall in the current year and till 2010?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Elementary education under SSA

- 1123. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the District Elementary Education Plans for all the districts of the country under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan have been approved;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor and the State-wise list of districts, whose plans were not approved; and
- (c) whether it is proposed to revise the time limits set by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to put all the 6—14 age children in schools/ Education Guarantee Scheme/alternative school by 2003 and all children complete eight years of schooling by 2010?

Fake degrees

- 1124. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that many rackets of issuing fake degrees of various universities have been unearthed during the last three years;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases detected where persons have already taken the benefits on the basis of fake degrees and the action taken against them; and
- (d) the steps taken to detect remaining fake degrees?

Fake certificate racket

- 1125. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item 'Fake certificate racket busted, 3 held', published in the Asian Age dated 10th May, 2002;
- (b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the preventive and corrective measures to be adopted in this regard?

Trafficking in women and children

- 1126. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the recent report of the United States, State Department, published in The Hindustan Times dated 10th June, 2002, under the caption, "Trafficking in women and Children is widespread in India":
- (b) if so, what is Government's reaction on this issue; and
- (c) what steps Government propose to stop the menance?

Grants for computer education in universities

- 1127. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the amount sanctioned by the University Grants Commission to different Universities for promoting computer education, during the last three years;
- (b) whether UGC has received utilization reports from the universities in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the number of persons trained by computer education during the above period?

Millennium Parcel Trains

- 1128. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Millennium Parcel Trains have been introduced on Delhi-Mumbai route:
- (b) whether such trains are proposed to be introduced between Delhi-Chennai and other Southern destinations;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

New A.C. coaches in Aravali Express

- 1129. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Western Railway has included new A.C. sleeper coaches in Aravali Express;
- (b) if so, whether innovations have been made in these coaches;
- (c) whether such coaches would be introduced in other trains also; and
 - (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Diphu-Karong BG line

- 1130. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have a policy to link by rail the capitals of the seven North Eastern States, as announced by the former Minister of Railways, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, on the floor of Parliament;
- (b) whether, as a part of the policy, B.G. line from Diphu to Karong was also announce as the first phase;
- (c) if so, the present status of rail links referred to in parts (a) and (b) above; and
- (d) whether there is change in the above policy; if so the reasons therefor?

Recommendation against new Railway Zones

- 1131. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Reforms Committee had suggested in 1984 the creation of very few new Zones and did not suggest bifurcation of Eastern Railway;

- (b) whether the Rakesh Mohan Committee has also recommended against creation of too many Zones;
- (c) the amount allocated for formation of the new Zone;
- (d) whether any financial cost-benefit analysis for the new Zone formation project has been made; and
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

Losses of Konkan Railway Corporation

- 1132. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Konkan Railway Corporation is running under huge
- (b) if so, the details of the amount to be paid by the Corporation to various State Governments as royalty; and
- (c) the steps taken by his Ministry to convert loss-making corporation into a profitable one?

Railway claims for pilferage of foodgrains

- 1133. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the number of claims for pilferage of foodgrains received during the last two years;
- (b) how many of them have since been settled, along with the amount of compensation paid to the claimants; and
- (c) the number of cases wherein responsibility for the pilferage has been fixed on the staff and the action taken against them during that period?

Transfer policy in Ministry of Railways

- †1134. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the transfer policy of his Ministry in respect of officers/employees working therein;
- (b) whether it is a fact that above rules are not applicable on officers and employees working on Jaunpur (City), Jaunpur, Varanasi, Mughalsarai, Allahabad, New Delhi, Old Delhi, Nizamuddin, Kalyan, Mumbai Central, Churchgate, V.T. Stations, etc., who are posted at one place/post since long; and
- (c) by when the proper/timely implementation of transfer rules would be ensured?

Inter-city train between Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam

- 1135. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Orissa Government has written to his Ministry for introduction of an Inter-city Express train between Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam as there is no direct train originating from Bhubaneswar to Visakhapatnam;
- (b) whether this request has been made for development of trade between Orissa and Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) by when this direct inter-city train would be introduced, to meet the long pending demand of the people of the State?

Trolley at Nagpur Railway Station

- 1136. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Railways have received complaints from passengers regarding non-

- availability of trollies and high-handed behaviour of porters at Nagpur station;
 - (b) if so, the action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether it is mandatory for the Railway authorities to provide trollies to the porters at the station;
- (d) if so, the number of trollies provided at Nagpur station during the last three years;
- (e) whether these trollies are sufficient to handle luggage at the station?

Remodelling of Nagpur Railway station yard

- 1137. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the proposed Nagpur Railway station yard remodelling project has been started:
- (b) if so, the details thereof, along with the work to be undertaken;
- (c) whether the Railways propose to develop Ajni Railway station as alternative and second station for Nagpur city;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Greenery in vacant railway land in A.P.

- 1138. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has asked the Railways to comply with the State Government's directions to raise greenery in vacant lands under its possession, failing which it may have to pay vacant land tax and non-agricultural land tax:

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, whether Government are considering to take back the land provided to them long ago;
- (c) whether Government have taken up the question as proposed by the Chief Minister; and
- (d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Expansion of Golden Quadrilateral

1139. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have sought Government's approval for forming an umbrella special purpose vehicle to raise funds from the domestic market for their Rs. 12,000 crore expansion programme on the Golden Quadrilateral and its diagonals;
- (b) if so, whether the Railways are looking for multilateral lendings besides borrowing from the domestic FIs;
- (c) whether Government have okayed the proposal; and
- (d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

Advance purchase of rail tickets

- 1140. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Railways are considering a pilot project wherein a passenger can buy an unreserved ticket well in advance for any journey he plans to undertake from any reservation counter in Delhi region;
- (b) if so, whether this would remove the present practice of purchasing unreserved tickets only at the station;

- (c) if so, the what extent it has helped the passengers to obtain the tickets;
- (d) whether this scheme is likely to be introduced at all the stations in the country; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Sale of etables in running trains

- †1141. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that eatables are sold by unauthorised persons at double rates in running trains, except in "Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express"; and
- (b) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government so far to check this practice?

Railway projects in Madhya Pradesh

- 1142. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the present on-going railway projects and surveys in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) the reasons for slow progress and the expenditure incurred thereon so far, alongwith the estimated cost thereof, projectwise:
- (c) by when, these projects are likely to be completed; and
- (d) the funds allocated to each project during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-

Failure of chain pulling system

- 1143. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Passengers force train to reverse after man

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

falls off" published in the Hindustan Times dated 10th July, 2002;

- (b) if so, whether Mussoorie Express was hijacked and passengers forced the driver to run it back to pick up one of their fellow passengers;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Chain pulling system in the train was ineffective, leading to passengers forcing the driver to run the train backwards;
 and
- (e) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken by the railways to check such incidents in future?

Kumarghat -Agartala rail line

- 1144. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) by when the work of Railway construction from Kumarghat to Agartala would start and be completed;
- (b) whether work is running as per the time schedule: and
- (c) whether the work would be finished as per schedule?

Train halt at Vasundhara (Ghaziabad)

- †1145. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that most of the persons residing in sectors-2 to 6 in Vasundhara (Ghaziabad) are Government employees working in Delhi and they face inconvenience while arriving in and departing from Delhi;
- (b) if so, whether Government would seriously reconsider to set up a railway halt at Vasundhara between Ghaziabad and

Sahibabad, to meet the problems being faced by the people;

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

Unmanned level crossings in Maharashtra

- 1146. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of railway level crossings in Maharashtra, not provided with gates, so far, and
- (b) what is Government's planning for providing gates at railway level crossings to avoid accidents?

Manhandling by RPF personnels

- 1147. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Chhattisgarh Express was abruptly stopped at Nagpur Station on 4th-5th July, 2002;
- (b) whether a number of RPF personnel cruelly assaulted and manhandled some passengers, including ladies, travelling in this train;
- (c) whether any RPF personnel have been arrested in this regard, if so, what action Government propose to take against them;
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether it is a fact that due to undue influence of the RPF association, no arrest of RPF personnel has been made; and
- (f) what action Government propose to take against the RPF association for its undue interference?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Funding of Railway projects

- 1148. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank have agreed recently to extend assistance/loan worth Rs. 1500 crores each to the Indian Railways, for their various on-going projects; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the specific projects to be funded, the timeschedule for completion and their present status?

Obsolete rail tracks

- †1149. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the railway tracks in the country have become obsolete;
 - (b) if so, their length, State-wise;
- (c) the amount likely to be spent State-wise, on replacement of these tracks; and
- (d) by when the same are likely to be replaced completely?

Vacancies in Railways

1150. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in each Zonal Railway as on 31st March, 2001 and 31st March, 2002;

- (b) the number of appointments made on compassionate grounds in various Zonal Railways in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;
- (c) the number of casual labourers absorbed in service in various Zonal Railways during the same period; and
- (d) the number of workers recruited from the open market to the services in each of the Zonal Railways, during the same period?

Train accidents

- †1151. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of train accidents that took place during the last two years and the loss of life and property in each accident;
 - (b) the reasons for each accident;
- (c) the measures taken to check the same and when; and
- (d) the amount of compensation given for the deceased and to the injured and on what basis the same was given?

Railway projects in Karnataka

1152. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many railway projects like new rail lines, gauge conversion, extension of platforms, electrification and doubling of rail lines have been pending completion in Karnataka for the last ten years;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) the expenditure incurred on each of such projects so far, the expected time of their completion and the reasons for the delay in their completion;
- (c) whether gauge conversion of Mangalore-Hassan Rail line has been pending for a number of years, owing to lack of funds from the Central Government; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to expedite the project?

SRSF to prevent rail accidents

1153. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Rs. 17000 crore Special Railway Safety Fund would be used for speedy replacement of age-old systems and for skill upgradation;
- (b) whether statistics show that about two-thirds of rail accidents take place due to human failures and mistakes;
- (c) if so, to what extent this fund has been utilized so far, to check rail accidents;
- (d) whether any concrete steps have been finalised for implementation; and
- (e) if so, to what extent rail accidents have been reduced since then?

Cracks in platforms at Ganj Basoda Railway Station

1154. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred

- Question 2192, given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd March, 2002 and state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that expansion work done on platform numbers 1 and 2 at Ganj Basoda Railway Station in Central Railway early this year, developed more cracks after few rains after completion of the said works, as a result of which extensive repairs have to be carried out, causing financial loss to the Railways;
- (b) if so, whether a thorough inquiry in the matter has been ordered, to fix responsibility on the contractor and the officers involved therein; and
- (c) if so, what are the findings thereof and the action taken against those found guilty?

Cost of laying rail line

- 1155. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTER-JEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the cost/expenditure for purchasing and laying one kilometer of rail line and how much is needed for replacement of over-aged rail tracks and expansion of rail lines, in various parts of the country; and
- (b) what is the targeted period for replacement of all the over-aged railway tracks and how long the passengers would have to travel at the risk of their lives?

Railtel Project

- 1156. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Railtel Project of the Railways has been commissioned and become operational;
- (b) if so, the total cost involved and the revenue expected from the project;

- (c) whether it is a fact that the Railways have decided to shelve the project; and
 - (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Recovery from railway catering/ vending stalls

- 1157. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether all the relevant factors were taken into consideration before taking decision for recovery of 12 per cent on the gross sales turnover of the catering/vending stalls at small and roadside stations;
- (b) if so, what are the details thereof; and
- (c) whether there is any proposal to relax the recovery from 12 per cent to 8 per cent from catering/vending stalls at small and roadside stations?

Derailment of Shramjivi Express

1158. DR. AKHILESH DAS: SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether inquiry into the causes of derailment of Shramjivi Express on 12th May, 2002, near Jaunpur, has been completed; if so, the details of the findings; and
- (b) the steps taken and being taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents in future?

Route passes to A.H. Wheeler and Co.

- 1159. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a number of 1st and IInd Class card passes are being issued to A.H.

- Wheeler and Co., for travel on Indian Railways;
- (b) if so, whether any amount is being recovered from them, in lieu of the issue of these passes; and
- (c) if not, how the loss so incurred to Government revenue is being made up?

A/c rail fare from New Delhi to Chennai

- 1160. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the rail fare for two-tier airconditioned sleeper coaches from New Delhi to Chennai is higher than IA air fare on the same route; as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 6th July, 2002;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what steps Government propose to take to bring down the rail fare?

ROB at Quilon

- 1161. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) at which stage the construction of Rail over bridge at Quilon in Kerala stands at present;
- (b) the amount earmarked by Government to undertake the work during this year;
- (c) by when the construction is likely to be started; and
- (d) the action taken on the part of State Government so far, to carry out the work?

Reduction in rail fares

- 1162. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Ministry is considering proposal to reduce

fares in upper classes in respect of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor:
- (c) whether the proposed reduction in fare is likely to be extended to other trains and other classes of travels; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

CAG report on Railway Zones

- 1163. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether he has reportedly stated that his decision on zonal reorganisation did not cover Eastern Railway alone, but almost all the existing nine Zones, except the North East Frontier Railway;
- (b) whether it is a fact that his above unilateral decision has neither the support of CAG report nor Rakesh Mohan Committee's recommendation on creation of new Zones;
- (c) whether the implications of Zonal bifurcation have led to tension between Bihar and West Bengal; and
- (d) if so, whether Government propose to review Zonal reorganisation matter, afresh?

Stoppage of trains at Dabra Station

- †1164. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether some suggestions are pending for the last one year with the Railway Board for stoppage of Punjab Mail, Jhelum Express and other long distance trains at Dabra Station under Jhansi Division of Central Railway;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether creation of a stoppage at Dabra Station which is an important business centre, would be in the public interest; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Rail Board thereto?

Employment scandal in Railways

- †1165. PROF. RAM DEO BHAN-DARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Railmantri quote se naukari ke nam par croron kee thagi", which appeared in 'Dainik Jagran', dated the 5th June, 2002;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) the details of action taken by Government and outcome thereof?

Operating ratio in Railways

- 1166. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Railways have achieved higher savings in working expenses during 2001-2002, better than projections contained in Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates;
- (b) whether the operating ratio has also improved during the year and if so, to what extent;
- (c) whether the budgetary allocation for Special Safety Fund has been enhanced; and
- (d) whether the Railways are in a position to repay the borrowings from the public exchequer and if so, to what extent?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Representation from passenger Association

- †1167. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have received any representation from Kadhi Passenger Association, Kadhi, District Mehsana, Gujarat in May, 2002 with regard to trains;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what action Government propose to take on the said representation?

Impact of reduction in rail fare

1168. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of steep cut in fares by Indian Airlines and other airlines, the Railways have decided to reduce fares at certain routes and for certain classes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the reduction in rail fares would have any impact on any other Railway projects; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

ASSOCHAM's strategic vision for technology industry

- 1169. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNO-LOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry has formulated a strategic vision for technology industry;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action has been taken/proposed to be taken thereon;

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

Import of plastic wast by Pepsi

- 1170. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Pepsi Company is importing 45,000 tones of plastic wastes to India annually;
- (b) if so, what details of steps are taken by Government in this regard to meet with this problem; and
- (c) the names of major foreign companies that cause waste disposal problem in the country?

National policy on Science and Technology

1171. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are preparing a new National policy on Science and Technology;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
 - (c) by when the policy is likely to be
- (d) whether Government have decided to overhaul the functioning of various scientific and research laboratories under Government in various parts of the country, including CSIR; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for undertaking this exercise ahead of the announcement of the new policy and before the objectives and priorities are framed thereunder?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Over-hauling of CSIR

- 1172. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHAERJEE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "CSIR may be overhauled", which appeared in The Hindu, dated the 23rd June, 2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that proposed overhauling does not prevent the CSIR from functioning in tune with the scientific and technological environment in the country?

Closing of seismic activity observatories at Bhakra Dam

- 1173. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Meteorological Department is likely to close its seismic activity observatories at Bhakra Dam:
- (b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and
- (c) from where the Dam authorities would get feedback on this?

Prices of steel products

1174. SHRI GAYA SINGH: SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Steel industry has raised the prices of its products four times, since April this year;
 - (b) if so, the details of the prices of

- various types of steel raised since April by various steel companies and how do they compare with the variation in the international steel prices;
- (c) whether this upward revision has helped to improve the financial position of Indian Steel Companies and their production; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Production cost of steel

1175. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country's largest steel producer, the State-owned Steel Authority of India Ltd., is finalising a plan to bring down its production cost;
- (b) if so, whether the SAIL, which produces 11 million tonnes of steel over four plants spread across the country, is learnt to be working on a major cost reduction programme that would bring down the production cost by two per cent or by about Rs. 250 per tonne; and
- (c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

VRS for SAIL's non-executives

- 1176. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that SAIL is embarking upon introducing an immature retirement scheme for non-executives, with a view to ease out a large chunk of employees; if so, why it is meant for nonexecutives only;
- (b) how many workers have opted for VRS in SAIL for the last ten years;

- (c) whether there already exists a scheme for executives and hence, the present scheme is for non-executives only; and
- (d) if so, how many executives have been immaturely retired in SAIL since inception?

Increasing steel production

- †1177. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:
- (a) the total quantity of steel produced in the country during the last three years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that steel production has declined in comparison to its requirement;
 - (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures being taken to increase steel production?

Olympics in India

- 1178. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that India is planning to make a bid for the 2012 Olympics in India;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how Government are planning to push the case before the IOA, to get a nod for hosting 2012 Olympics in India?

Language problem with foreign coaches of SAI

- 1179. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that many foreign coaches appointed by the Sports Authority

- of India to train Indian sports persons are not fully conversant with English or Indian languages;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the foreign coaches have been allowed to bring their own interpreters;
- (c) if so, the salaries being paid, in foreign exchange, to such interpreters; and
- (d) the reasons for not providing Indian interpreters for better communication with Indian players and to save foreign exchange?

Foreign coaches for hockey and wrestling

1180. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are open to hiring foreign coaches; and
- (b) if so, whether Government are considering hiring foreign coaches for our sporting men and women for hockey and wrestling?

Functioning of SAI

1181. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the functioning of Sports Authority of India could be made more professional; and
- (b) if so, what steps would be taken to implement professionalism there?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Controversy regarding Arjuna Award

- 1182. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there was any controversy regarding selection of eminent sports persons to be given Arjuna Award;
 - (b) if so, what were the main objections;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken for making this selection transparent; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of sports

- 1183. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:
- (a) what policy Government have to promote sports in the country;
- (b) what type of help is given to sports associations in States; and
- (c) how Government help the North Eastern States in general and Manipur in particular?

New Delhi; *The* 20th July, 2002 *Asadha* 29, 1924 (Saka) R.C. TRIPATHI, Secretary-General.

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