

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the February 27, 2003/Phalguna 8, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

Industrial development in Assam

922. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rural industries development schemes under implementation in Assam;

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

(c) the details of the funds allotted/sanctioned, released, and utilised for this purpose during the last three years?

Khadi and Gramodyog Commission

†923. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any plan to expand branches of the Khadi Gramodyog throughout the country through the Khadi and Gramodyog Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what effective steps have so far been taken by Government to establish small industries related to Khadi in the country, particularly in rural areas of the country?

Rural industries in HP

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

(a) what initiative Government have taken to provide more employment opportunities in Rural/Snow bound/Backward areas in Himachal Pradesh to promote Rural Industries in the State;

(b) the steps taken to improve village industries in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise; and

(c) what assistance has been extended to the State under this scheme?

Leakage from Rawat Bhata Atomic Power Plant

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

(a) whether controversies relating to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

radiation leakage from 'Rawat Bhata Atomic Power Plant' in Rajasthan and 'Jaduguda Uranium Mines' have never been resolved;

(b) whether Government have conducted a high level and impartial enquiry regarding the leakages;

(c) if so, the details of the reports; and

(d) whether these reports can be made available?

Progress in software

926. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been admitted in the Science Congress held in Bangalore that India's progress in software has been service based but not product-based;

(b) whether it has also been admitted in the Congress that the World is moving towards China because of China's stride in I.T. sector; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that the country does not lag behind China in this vital sector?

ATM's in post offices in Karnataka

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

(a) whether Government propose to install ATMs in post offices of Karnataka;

(b) if so, how many post offices have been identified for this purpose in the State;

(c) whether some banks have approached the Department of Posts in Karnataka for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the decision if any taken in this regard?

Cell phone consumers

928. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cell phone consumers under various categories of cell phone operated by Government;

(b) what is the turn over on account of this cell phone industry;

(c) what is response of the public towards various schemes offered by these operations; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve upon the quality of the services provided to the consumers?

Impact of telecom tariffs increase on I.S.Ps.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the increase in telecom tariffs as announced by TRAI, would affect the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) as well as the internet users;

(b) the existing average cost per hour for surfing the net through a dial-up connection; and

(c) the average cost per hour for surfing the net through a dial-up connection after the revised rates as announced by TRAI come to be effective from April, 2003?

Refund of security money

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

(a) the norms for refund of security

money in cases of surrendered telephones;

(b) whether refund is not made within a stipulated time;

(c) if so, whether a lot of applications are pending in Delhi;

(d) if so, how many cases are pending under the Idgah Telephone Exchange since 2002, till date;

(e) by when these pending applications would be cleared so as to enable the applicants to get their hard-earned money back; and

(f) what action Government propose to take against the personnel responsible for delay in payment of above said money in Idgah exchange?

Export of software/hardware from Southern India

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern part of the country has registered highest export of computer software and electronic hardware during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02;

(b) if so, the value of the exports made alongwith the details of the value of goods exported by Northern, Western and Eastern States during the said period;

(c) the number of industrial units of the above regions where from these exports were made; and

(d) the number of persons engaged in those units during the said period?

R & D in chip software

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India is emerging as the R & D hub for chip software;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government are helping the Indian companies which are undertaking R & D in chip software and on other software?

Nodal agency for infotech sector

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

(a) whether Government have decided to set up shortly a nodal agency for the infotech sector in the country;

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

(c) the various functions and duties proposed to be allotted to it; and

(d) by when the new set up is expected to be put in place?

Ceiling on telecom tariff

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

(a) whether because of the prevailing imbroglio in the telecom sector, Government would discourage predatory pricing by service providers;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government intend to impose a minimum lower ceiling in telecom tariffs, making it mandatory for the service providers not to undercut rates to lure business; and

(c) whether the row between VSNL and private cellular operators stood resolved and if so, the details of the compromise reached between the two?

E-commerce and E-governance programmes

935. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to speed up e-commerce and e-governance programmes in its departments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the licences issued by Controller of Certifying Authority for certifying digital signatures;

(d) the reasons for slow progress in use of the digital signature; and

(e) the measures to be adopted to increase the technology in future?

Telephone exchanges in NER

936. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend the existing telephone exchanges network in the North Eastern Region particularly in Assam during the year 2002-03;

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

(c) the places in NER where new buildings for the telephone exchanges have been constructed during the last three years and those proposed to be constructed during the year 2002-03?

Indigenous electronic industry

937. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to strengthen the indigenous electronic industry in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Vidya Vahini project

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

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

(a) whether the Department of Information Technology has taken the VIP route to ensure free fund-flow for its ambitious Rs. 6,000 crore Vidya Vahini project that aims to take computer education to 60,000 schools across the country in a matter of three years;

(b) if so, the districts where this pilot project is being introduced State-wise; and

(c) what is the latest position in this regard?

Telephone connections in Rajasthan

†939. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

connections in Rajasthan and whether waiting list still exists in some districts of the State and if so, the names of such districts alongwith the number of the pending applications and by when these are likely to be cleared;

(b) by when 'telephones on demand' would be made available in the rural areas in the State and the reasons for not being it possible so far; and

(c) the year upto which telephone directory has been issued in Jaipur as well as in other districts and by when the current years' directory would be made available?

Exodus of computer professionals

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

(a) whether it is a fact that over 80,000 skilled computer professionals have been leaving India every year for the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of skilled computer professionals that left India during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 for USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Europe;

(c) whether Government have assessed the resources loss due to the exodus of the skilled computer professionals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to utilize services of the trained IT professionals in the country or lend their services from Government to foreign Governments at cost?

Growth in telecom sector

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

(a) whether it is a fact that growth in

telecom sector in recent years has concentrated in urban areas only;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the growth has touched the rural India;

(c) the steps being taken to spread the telephone network in rural areas;

(d) the number of villages which do not have telephone connections so far, State-wise;

(e) the villages which have VPT facility; and

(f) by when all villages are expected to have telephone connections?

Mobile phone facility in NER

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce mobile phone facility in the North-Eastern Region and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) by when the BSNL would launch the services; and

(c) how Government propose to ensure security of the areas in the wake of the new facility?

Telephone exchanges in A.P.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the BSNL would not take up installation of any new exchanges in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the BSNL proposes to cover some more towns under its Cellular Programme?

Free internet connections

944. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in some countries like USA free internet connection is provided to the students and senior citizens;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to introduce similar facility in India; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider it for implementation?

Internet node in Tamil Nadu

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

(a) whether Government propose to set up internet node at sivaganga and Tampatur in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Bifurcation of rural telecom sector

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through a recent order has deprived more than 80 lakh subscribers of the status of 'Rural subscribers' by bifurcating the 'Rural' telecom sector;

(b) whether earlier telecom sector was classified into two major categories as 'Urban' and 'Rural' based on census reports;

(c) whether TRAI's review of the 'Rural' classification is based on 'Short distance charging area'; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Closure of sugar mills

†947. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sugar mills closed during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to restart these mills?

Crisis in sugar industry

†948. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the loss incurred by the sugar industry in the country during the last two years;

(b) what are the reasons for the current crisis in sugar industry;

(c) whether Government are contemplating any scheme to reduce the excise duty on sugar and duty on molasses to give relief to tide-over the crisis; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Procurement of Paddy in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of Paddy is not undertaken by FCI and its agencies in Andhra Pradesh whereas in other parts of the country it is done by FCI;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that methodology of procurement in Andhra Pradesh is also different from Punjab, Haryana etc.;

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

(e) whether Government propose to direct FCI to procure Paddy directly from the farmers of Andhra Pradesh as is done in rest of the country; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pesticides in bottled water

950. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "pesticides in bottled water" as reported in the 'Times of India' dated the 5th February, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the popular brands of bottled water sold in Delhi and other places in the country contain extremely harmful pesticides;

(c) whether the companies manufacturing such bottled water are violating the Consumer Protection Act; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take against such companies and ensure that BIS norms are strictly adhered to?

Excess foodgrains in godowns

951. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 333.14 lakh tonnes against the prescribed minimum buffer norms of 181 lakh tonnes of foodgrains are still lying excess in various godowns across the country; and

(b) if so, what were the alternative storage facilities arranged for the proper storage?

Labourers in FCI

952. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the casual labourers working in the Food Corporation of India as on date, State-wise;

(b) the wage structure of these workers; and

(c) the number of workers inducted under the Direct Payment System, State-wise?

Supply of rice for PDS in AP

953. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether fair price shops failed to

get adequate rice with the result public distribution got affected during December, 2002 and January, 2003 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the amount of rice released by the Centre for distribution through PDS;

(c) the reasons for not supplying adequate rice to the PDS in the State;

(d) whether Government have considered to increase the quota fixed for the State during January, 2003; and

(e) if so, to what extent and the number of the existing card holders in the State?

Setting up of consumer fora

954. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is obligation, mandatory or optional to set up consumer fora in each district of the country as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details of the consumer fora set up, so far, district-wise and State-wise;

(c) the States which have not followed the provisions of the Act; and

(d) the action taken by his Ministry against the States which have not set up consumer fora so far?

Export of wheat to Iraq

955. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq has evinced keen interest in resumption of wheat purchases from India;

(b) if so, whether India has upgraded

the grading and testing facilities at ports of despatch to confirm to Iraqi standards; and

(c) whether the wheat export lobby has complained of inadequate allotment of rakes for wheat movements in view of the on-going pre-occupation of Railways for movement of grains to drought hit areas within the country?

Reviewing of Sarvapriya Scheme

956. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of the Sarvapriya Scheme (SPS) for distribution of certain commodities at fair prices, launched by the National Consumers Cooperative Federation of India, has been reviewed, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the number of commodities being distributed through the SPS and the off take by the States, State-wise;

(c) the difficulties, if any, faced by the States in implementing the Scheme and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to resolve them; and

(d) the details of the plans drawn up to enlarge the scope of the SPS and the mechanism established, if any, to dovetail the SPS and the PDS?

Settlement of consumers disputes

957. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, which was enacted to settle the consumers disputes

expeditiously, has failed in its basic objective;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any efforts to identify the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Prices of essential commodities

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of the commodities of daily consumption food materials such as flour, pulses, edible oils, vegetables, milk etc. have been on the constant increase for the past few years;

(b) if so, the extent thereof during the first nine months of the current financial year *vis-a-vis* last year, commodity-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the average increase in the prices is more than those in the developed countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Malpractices in PDS

959. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of supervision affects PDS badly; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed for vigilance mechanism against continued malpractices by the dealers of fair price shops?

Foodgrains to poorest families

960. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is working on a scheme wherein an additional one crore of the poorest families would be provided food at nominal prices;

(b) if so, whether he had discussions with the Prime Minister beforehand to take his consent on this;

(c) whether his Ministry plans to expand the scheme which meant for the poorest of the poor in the country; and

(d) if so, by when Government are likely to implement this scheme?

Quality control on imported appliances

961. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has issued mandatory quality control orders for some electrical appliances specially imparted under the compulsory certification scheme;

(b) if so, what is the mechanism that detects the violations of the orders;

(c) how many testing were carried out and how many violations have been detected during the last three years, year-wise and the action taken against the companies who violated the orders; and

(d) if negligible violations have been detected then what action Government are taking to ensure greater effectiveness in enforcing the orders of the Bureau of Indian Standards?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Additional storage capacity

962. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India and the Central Warehousing Corporation have proposed to create additional storage capacity of 6.42 lakh MT and 15 lakh MT, respectively during the Tenth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds disbursed during the last year, State-wise?

Supply of poor quality foodgrains to Rajasthan

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Rajasthan had brought to the notice of the Central Government of the poor quality of foodgrains supplied to it during the drought last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, Government's reaction to the statements made to the media by the Rajasthan officials; and

(d) what steps were taken by Government to ensure that the foodgrains supplied to the drought affected State are of good quality?

Scrapping of Essential Commodities Act

964. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether Government are considering FICCI Task Force recommendations on scrapping the Essential Commodities Act in order to make Indian agricultural products globally competitive; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Extension of Antyodaya Anna Yojana

965. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to relieve the economic burden from the destitute senior citizens and tribals Government have decided to provide them foodgrains at a subsidised prices;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry's decision to extend the Antyodaya Anna Yojana from one crore to two crores among estimated number of below poverty line families in the country came as they could not be covered earlier due to the ceiling of 15.33 per cent; and

(c) if so, what is the requirement of foodgrains to cover one crore additional families estimated under this programme?

Food security

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

(a) whether the foodgrain security is a

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

bigger danger than the population growth; and

(b) if so, the details as well as the reasons therefor?

Essential commodities for H.P.

967. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat, rice, kerosene and sugar allotted to Himachal Pradesh, district-wise, during 2000-01, 2001-02 and for ten months from April, 2002 to January, 2003 for distribution through Public Distribution System;

(b) whether Government have effected any change in the policy of distribution of wheat, rice, kerosene and sugar through the PDS during the above period in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Pesticides in bottled water

968. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled 'Pesticides in bottled water' appearing in the 'Times of India', dated the 5th February, 2003;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard together with the number of the licensees and quantity of bottles produced and consumed in India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the testing norms prescribed by BIS are not of international standards;

(d) whether Government propose to suspend the bottling activity until a

suitable testing norm is adopted by BIS considering the adverse impact on health of the consumers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Foreign oil refineries in India

969. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that biggest global refining oil industries have set up business industry in India making indigenous oil mills sick;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to save Indian companies and oil industry?

Policy on import/export of foodgrains

970. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

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

(a) whether Government have constituted a new task force under the auspices of the Food Corporation of India to "formulate a policy for export and import of foodgrains";

(b) if so, what are its terms of reference and by when it is likely to submit its report; and

(c) whether Government have wound up the earlier High Level Committee set up under the Chairmanship of an official in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the similar terms of reference?

Pesticides in bottled water

971. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has ordered an inquiry after noticing the reports in the press about pesticide contaminated bottled water;

(b) if so, whether Government have received the report, and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

Foodgrains storage in West Bengal

972. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains are being kept by F.C.I. in hired godown at Coochbehar in West Bengal;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct a ten thousands M.T. capacity godown at Coochbehar; and

(c) if so, the time-frame thereof?

Arrears of sugarcane growers

973. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugarcane growers in different States, particularly Uttar Pradesh have been agitating for payment of arrears of sugarcane dues by the sugar mills;

(b) if so, the arrears of payment of sugarcane due as on January, 2003, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government and respective State Governments for clearance of these dues and the details of the dues settled, so far?

Testing of Mineral Water

†974. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA:
PROF. RAMDEO BHANDARY:
SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "Mineral Water Ke Naya Manak Tai Karane mei juta Bureau" published in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated the 9th February, 2003;

(b) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards is contemplating to set new standards for testing of mineral water;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial action proposed by Government in this regard?

Starvation deaths

975. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finally decided to address the problem of starvation deaths while its graineries are spilling over with surplus stocks;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether as per the new scheme Government would purchase foodgrains from the surplus stock out of the funds provided by the Indian Corporate Houses and provide 'INDIAMIX', newly developed combination of grains with high protein value for distribution to the poor; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this scheme and its impact on the poor people?

Food subsidy for BPL families

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of food subsidy being spent on the BPL families is far less as compared to the amount spent as buffer subsidy;

(b) if so, the details of the BPL food subsidy and buffer subsidy spent by Government during the last three years;

(c) the steps being contemplated to minimize the buffer subsidy for maintaining the surplus stock;

(d) whether there is any proposal to provide maximum food subsidy to the BPL families; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Higher value for buffer stock of sugar

977. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar industry is demanding higher value for its buffer stock than the actual open market price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action contemplated by Government in this regard?

Marketing of sub-standard products

978. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Top brands pass on sub-standard soaps says study", which appeared in the "Deccan Chronicle" dated the 27th January, 2003;

(b) if so, what are Government's comments on the study; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the manufacturers for marketing of sub-standard products?

Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources

979. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the mandate as well as the mode of formation of Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources and its utilization;

(b) the amount accrued in the pool since its inception alongwith the break up of contribution by each Ministry, year-wise;

(c) the percentage of budgetary allocation and utilization made in NER during last three years, Ministry-wise; and

(d) the Ministries which have not complied with the obligation to contribute towards the pool as well as those making only partial contribution?

PSUs disinvested during current year

980. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the PSUs proposed to be disinvested during the current financial year;

(b) whether these PSUs are incurring losses or reaping profits;

(c) the details of the financial position of those PSUs which are proposed to be disinvested;

(d) whether Government have made any study before making an attempt to disinvest PSUs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Sale of shipyards

981. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sell off shipyards and are looking out for their tie-ups;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the shipyards which are considered potential for disinvestment?

Projected target of disinvestment realisation

982. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lowered the projected target of disinvestment realisation from Rs. 12,000 crores set earlier for the current year;

(b) the quantum of realisation on

disinvestment during the current year;

(c) whether Government have invested more than Rs. 40,000 crores during the last decade on revival packages for 35 sick PSUs; and

(d) whether Government are spending 17 per cent of the Central Tax Revenue towards servicing debts incurred by PSUs?

Payment for disinvested ITDC hotels

983. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether full payments have been received from the ITDC hotels that were sold off;

(b) whether Government are rigid in handing over these hotels only after the realisation of the final payments or Government would hand over the hotels after part payment;

(c) in case of part payment, how Government would ensure that the balance payment would be received in time;

(d) whether Government intend to impose fine or penalty for the delayed payments; and

(e) if so, to what extent?

Disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL

984. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to disinvest HPCL and BPCL;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the amount expected to be recovered from this transaction;

(c) the details of the PSUs divested so far, the amount realised from each of the PSUs and the purpose for which the funds were utilised; and

(d) the PSUs targeted for disinvestment during the next year?

Disinvestment of HOCL

985. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of DIS-INVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated some steps for disinvestment of the Hindustan Organics Chemicals Limited (HOCL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Target of disinvestment

986. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for disinvestment during 2002-2003;

(b) how far the target has been achieved; and

(c) the reasons for shortfall in achieving the target?

Re-evaluation of disinvestment procedure

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

(a) whether Government think that the disinvestment procedure deviated itself from the declared objectives;

(b) whether any case of under valuation of profit making PSU has been brought in

to the notice of Government at the time of disinvestment process;

(c) whether it is a fact that disinvestment replaces PSU monopoly by private monopoly;

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

(e) Government's opinion to use the disinvestment procedures in education, health, employment and small scale sectors; and

(f) whether Government consider to re-evaluate the procedures of disinvestment?

Disinvestment of NALCO, SCI and other companies

988. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NALCO and Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. have been dropped from the list of companies to be divested;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the companies which are proposed to be taken up for disinvestments during 2003-04 and the reserved price fixed for them; and

(d) the target dates fixed for completion of the disinvestment process?

Disinvestment target and achievement

989. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the disinvestment target set by the Ministry since 1998, year-wise;

(b) the realisation of proceeds through disinvestment since 1998, year-wise;

(c) whether the set targets were achieved;

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

Indo-US Bilateral Impunity Treaty

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

- (a) the details of the Indo-US Bilateral Impunity Treaty signed in December, 2002;
- (b) in what way it would be beneficial to India; and
- (c) the reaction of the Amnesty International and other such Human Rights bodies thereto?

Participation by MEA bureaucrats in National Day reception

991. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the contents of the news-item captioned, "Don'ts from MEA on diplomatic dos" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 15th January, 2003;
- (b) whether it is a fact that too many bureaucrats have attended National Day receptions at foreign missions; and
- (c) if so, what are Government's latest directives in the matter?

Discussion on the trinity of civilian space and nuclear technology with USA

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

- (a) whether India and US discussed the trinity of civilian space and nuclear technology on the 6th January, 2003;

- (b) if so, whether facilitation of dual purpose hi-tech trade was also discussed;
- (c) if so, whether North Korea and cross-border terrorism was also discussed; and
- (d) if so, the outcome of the discussion with salient features thereof?

Meeting of RPOs to streamline the passport system

993. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether to streamline the passport system a meeting of the regional passport officers was held in New Delhi in the month of January, 2003;
- (b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the existing loopholes/bottlenecks in issuance of passports would be checked thoroughly; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Joint press conference of Iranian President with Pakistan President

994. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Iranian President, while replying to questions at a joint press conference with Pakistani Prime Minister at Islamabad laid down the blueprint of his visit to India during January, 2003;
- (b) if so, whether the issues relating to Iran-India gas pipeline was the dominated factor discussed;
- (c) if so, what were the other agenda;
- (d) the outcome of the discussions held;
- (e) whether the Iranian President urged India to initiate talks with Pakistan and

also back Pakistan's nuclear programme; and

(f) whether India has clearly mentioned that no talks would be held unless and until Pakistan stops infiltration into India ?

Policy regarding NRIs

†995. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any "Pravasi" policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Haj pilgrimage

996. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indians that went for Haj this year;
- (b) out of them how many made the pilgrimage through the Haj Committee; and
- (c) how many people went to Mecca through private tour operators?

Committee for foolproof passport system

997. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the terrorists are misusing passports after procuring them under false names;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that a committee to suggest ways to streamline and making the passport a foolproof system was recently appointed;

(c) if so, what are its recommendations; and

(d) by when these are likely to be implemented?

Over staying by Indians in Israel

998. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of illegal over staying by Indians have been reported from Israel last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken against the organisers who sent the farmers to study the irrigation system in Israel?

List of Indian insurgents living in Bangladesh

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

- (a) whether Government have given to the Government of Bangladesh a list of 88 Indian insurgents living in the Bangladeshi soil;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of the Bangla Government thereto?

Purchase of Jinnah House

1000. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to buy M.A. Jinnah's House in UK as reported in the 'Asian Age' dated the 20th December, 2002; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the purpose behind spending a lot of amount on this when Pak has declined to come forward?

Samadhi of Prithviraj Chauhan

1001. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the difficulties being faced in bringing the 'Samadhi' of the last Hindu King Prithviraj Chauhan to India which is lying neglected in Afghanistan;

(b) whether Government have made any efforts to bring the 'Samadhi' to India after reports of its desecration during the Taliban regime; and

(c) if not, whether Government are holding or propose to hold any talks in this regard with the present Afghan Government?

Problems faced by Indian workers in Riyadh

1002. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the adverse circumstances in which scores of Indian workers of an engineering firm in Riyadh have been living due to non-receipt of their salaries, their visas having been expired and their passports in possession of their employers, as reported in the Hindu dated the 17th January, 2003;

(b) if so, what steps Government have been taken through Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia to get enforced the local Labour Court judgement delivered in favour of workers; and

(c) what are the standing guidelines for the Embassies abroad in such cases?

Release of fishermen and civilian prisoners by Pakistan

1003. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past Pakistan has indicated its intention six times to release 400 Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners, including the cases of 22 sikh youths, in their custody but nothing has materialised so far;

(b) if so, whether this is attributable to our ineffective diplomatic efforts or there are other hidden rationale behind this state of affairs;

(c) since when such fishermen are in custody of Pakistan; and

(d) the details of the efforts made at diplomatic level to get them released so far?

Indo-China relations

1004. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish better Indo-China relations;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in that regard; and

(c) the response of the Government of China thereto?

Relationship with China

1005. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken by Government during the last three months

to improve, political, cultural, economic and trade relations with China, in the context of growing closer Chinese relations with Bangladesh, Myanmar and other neighbouring States contiguous to India ?

Shifting of ISI training camps from PoK

1006. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has allowed Allied Forces to carry on hunt from across the Afghan border into Pakistan territory in pursuit of Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a sequel to this ISI has shifted several militant training camps from PoK to other areas; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to prevent Taliban/Al-Qaeda fighters sneaking into India and to have the militant training camps closed or destroyed?

Funding of terrorists by ISI

1007. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ISI has doubled the money for terrorist organizations as an inducement to continue strikes in India and that militants have been told to maintain units along the LoC;

(b) if so, whether Government have advised the western countries that their enhanced financial aid to Pakistan, as a price for support to activities of Al-Qaida, is being misused for intensifying terrorism; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Passports of Pakistani terrorists

† 1008. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pak Aatankiyon ko Dhaka se passport" appearing in the Dainik Jagaran' dated the 24th December, 2002;

(b) the estimated number of terrorists who entered into the country on the basis of Bangladeshi passport; and

(c) when steps Government have taken so far to check it ?

Deputy Prime Minister's Qatar visit

† 1009. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Prime Minister had visited Qatar recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed between the two countries;

(c) whether during the discussion the Deputy Prime Minister had urged the Qatar Government to provide the right of religious freedom and worship according to their respective religions to the people who came from other countries for jobs in Qatar; and

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

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Exchange of maps between India and China

1010. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maps have been changed between India and China regarding the border;

(b) if so, the outcome, so far; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to take an holistic approach to end the dispute?

Child labour in Andhra Pradesh

1011. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per 1991 census Andhra Pradesh had the highest number of working children mostly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is the position in this regard in the latest census; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to identify and rehabilitate child labour in Andhra Pradesh?

ESI hospitals in Karnataka

1012. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ESI hospitals in Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any complaint about unsatisfactory service rendered by ESI hospitals in the State;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve patient care at ESI hospitals in Karnataka; and

(d) the number of new ESI hospitals proposed to be established in Karnataka during the year 2002-03?

Employment exchanges in UP

† 1013. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing employment exchanges in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of educated/skilled unemployed/unskilled unemployed youth registered with various employment exchanges in the State for different jobs; and

(c) the number of youth who were provided with employment through these employment exchanges during the last three years?

Employment exchanges

† 1014. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

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

(b) the number of educated unemployed youth who have got registered their names in these employment exchanges, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the schemes formulated/to be formulated by Government to provide employment to unemployed youth?

ESI model hospitals

† 1015. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees State

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Insurance Corporation has mooted a scheme for setting up a model hospital in all the States;

(b) if so, the locations where the model hospitals are likely to be set up in the first phase; and

(c) what new steps have been taken by Government for modernisation of the hospitals run by the corporation and to provide better facilities therein?

Number of artisans

† 1016. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated and uneducated skilled and unskilled artisans in the country, State-wise; alongwith the State having maximum number of unemployed persons;

(b) whether there is any scheme for providing employment to educated and uneducated unemployed persons; and

(c) if so, the number of persons likely to be benefited or have been benefited out of these schemes?

Employment for each family

† 1017. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey for determining the number of such couples of whom both husband and wife are employed in Government sector;

(b) the number of such persons who are in Government service besides having their own business or agriculture profession; and

(c) whether Government are not considering formulation of any such

policy which provides employment to one member of each family in order to give employment to one and all ?

Rehabilitation of gulf returnees

1018. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any scheme for constitution of a welfare fund for the purpose of rehabilitation and resettlement of the gulf returnees;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether this scheme is already operational; and

(d) if not, by when the scheme would be operational?

Agricultural labourers in H.P.

1019. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural labourers in Himachal Pradesh as per the latest census, district-wise;

(b) what benefits have been provided to these labourers under the social security scheme 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001'; and

(c) how many labourers have been covered under this scheme in the State, district-wise?

Social Security for unorganised workers

1020. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn any prospective plan for social security

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

by way of introducing pension system for workers in the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the industries in the unorganised sector have been identified for this purpose; and

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

Charter of demands by AINPEF

1021. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India News Paper Employees Federation has submitted a Charter of demands for wage revision in view of worse economic conditions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to negotiate in the matter ?

Job opportunities in Ninth Plan

† 1022. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set any target for creation of new opportunities of employment during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the area-wise target of the additional opportunities of employment set to be created;

(c) whether the targets of creating employment opportunities in these areas were achieved; and

(d) if not, the areas where new employment opportunities were created

indicating the area-wise number of the job opportunities created and the number of unemployed persons by the end of 2002 in the country?

Skilled and unskilled labourers

† 1023. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by Government in respect of the number of skilled and unskilled labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated number of skilled and unskilled labourers in the country by the end of year 2002;

(c) whether Government have set any programme to increase the number of skilled labourers in the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what would be the number of skilled labourers by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan period?

Review Committee on functioning of ESI Corporation

1024. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Review Committee appointed by Government for functioning of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has since submitted its report;

(b) whether aforesaid Committee has concluded that there is tremendous dissatisfaction with the scheme among the employees;

(c) if so, what remedial measures are being taken by Government;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government propose to moot out higher wage ceiling for admissibility of ESI scheme; and

(e) if so, what are Government's plans?

Labour reforms

1025. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for embarking upon a massive plan of labour reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various political parties and the State Governments as also representatives of the trade union organisations have been consulted in the matter; and

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

Employment provision under India Vision 2020

† 1026. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the India Vision 2020 document, there is a plan to provide employment to each youth in the country;

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

(c) the number of additional employment opportunities which would to be generated in the country by the year 2020; and

(d) the details of the different sector in the country in which people would be employed alongwith the number thereof?

Requirement of employment

† 1027. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fifty crore persons require employment in the country out of which about forty crore persons have employment at present;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 75 lakhs new aspirants come in the queue for getting employment every year; and

(d) if not, Government's assessment in this regard and the number of youths likely to be left unemployed by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan period after implementation of Government's employment generating schemes?

Loss of jobs by women

1028. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of women have lost their jobs in the unorganized sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the details for the last three years in agriculture, handicraft, fisheries sectors etc., State-wise and sector-wise?

Social and medical security benefits

1029. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ESIC Review Committee has recommended enhancement of wage ceiling for coverage of social and medical security benefits;

(b) if so, to what extent;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have decided not to establish new ESI hospitals/dispensaries and to out source medical facilities for workers from private hospitals/clinics; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Unemployment ratio

† 1030. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proportion of unemployment has been going up whereas the proportion of job opportunities has been declining in the country;

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

(c) what effective steps have been taken by Government for providing employment to the educated, uneducated, skilled and unskilled youth in the country?

Employment status

1031. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people getting employment during the last five years, year-wise, sector-wise and State-wise;

(b) how many employees are going out of employment other than for natural reasons like death and superannuation for the last five years, State-wise, sector-wise, and Year-wise; and

(c) the number of additional employment added every year during the last five years, year-wise?

Wage ceiling coverage

1032. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to enhance the wage ceiling coverage for medical and social security benefits provided to the Central Government employees;

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

(c) how many of the recommendations, made by the ESI panel in this regard, has been considered by Government?

Legislation for unorganised workers

1033. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact legislation for unorganised sector workers keeping in view of the recommendations made by Second National Labour Commission in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the draft legislation has been circulated to the Trade Unions; and

(d) if so, their reaction thereto?

Functioning of PF sub-office at Kollam

1034. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sub-office of Provident Fund at Kollam in Kerala has started functioning;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the staff strength allotted to the office and the district which stands set apart for this office;

(c) whether Government consider to reveal the year and date on which a decision was originally taken to start the above office at Kollam;

(d) whether Government consider to expand the present strength and coverage of this office; and

(e) whether Government consider to introduce computerization?

Privatisation of EPF

1035. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to privatise Employees Provident Fund;

(b) whether there is any demand from the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) to privatise the EPF; and

(c) if so, what are the alternative schemes suggested by the IRDA?

Government's decision on Labour Commission Report

†1036. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decisions on the Report of the Labour Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when Government propose to take a decision thereon?

Pending proposals from Labour Department of Chhattisgarh

†1037. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the proposal received till date from the Labour Department of Chhattisgarh Government pending for approval with the Central Government;

(b) the reasons for not according approval so far; and

(c) by when all the pending proposals, particularly accommodation related matter of beedi labourers of Rajnandgaon, would be approved?

Employees provident fund

1038. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering to amend the Employees Provident Fund Act to enable the employees to pay their housing instalments from the accruals of their provident fund account;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments to be brought before the Parliament; and

(c) whether Government would bring the proposed amendments before the Parliament during its current session?

Labour reforms

1039. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to inaugurate a series of labour reforms in order to secure global competitiveness;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether recommendations of the Second Labour Commission have been taken into consideration in this context;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether various trade unions and labour organisations have been involved in programme of labour reforms and if not, the reasons therefor?

Annual growth rate

† 1040. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that annual growth rate of 4.4 per cent has been assessed for the year 2002-03 by the Central Statistical Organisation;
- (b) whether Government's agree with this assessment; and
- (c) if not, Government's assessment in this regard?

Hiring of private professional agencies

1041. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have authorised Ministries to hire professional agencies to work out the impact assessment of big budget centrally sponsored schemes in the State/UTs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

- (c) what are the reasons that responsibilities for alleged diversion of funds are not fixed; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure fool proof system for proper utilisation of funds?

BPL population

1042. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons included in the Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line category, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that in most of the States the number of BPL families identified by the Planning Commission were less in number as compared to the number of families estimated by the State administration; and

(c) if so, the estimates of both the authorities alongwith the reasons for such difference, State-wise?

Delay in ongoing infrastructure projects

† 1043. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ongoing projects of National Highways, Railways, Rural Development, Urban Development and Power are likely to be hampered due to the financial crisis in Government sectors during the financial year 2003-2004;

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

(c) the extent to which the ongoing projects are likely to be delayed as a result thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Schemes for Andaman and
Nicobar Islands**

1044. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be
pleased to state:

(a) what are the developmental
schemes that have been launched or likely
to be launched in the Andaman and
Nicobar Islands after his visit to these
Islands in January, 2003; and

(b) by when, the inter-Island helicopter
service is likely to be operational there?

Economic reforms

1045. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to
state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the economic
reforms have by passed poorer States while
the rich States have become richer; and

(b) if not, the comparative economic
indicators of five rich States *vis-a-vis* five
poor States since the year 1992?

Gadgil-Mukherjee formula

† 1046. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased
to state:

(a) the details of the Gadgil-Mukherjee
formula;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the recent
meeting of the National Development
Council some States have stated the
formula being promoter of non-
development;

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

(d) whether it is also a fact that the
NSSO has indicated the under calculation
of the population living Below the Poverty
Line in various States;

(e) if so, the steps being taken by
Government to provide the correct
information about the persons living
Below the Poverty Line; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Downsizing of Assam Government

1047. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-
CHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning
Commission has suggested a drastic
downsize in the Assam Government;

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

(c) whether the suggestion was made
after prior consultation with the State
Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the
State Government's reaction thereto?

**Development of rivers and waterways
in NER**

1048. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-
CHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission
has recommended development of rivers
and waterways in the North-Eastern
Region to spur economic growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the
cost involved in the development
programme and the funding scheme
thereof; and

(c) by when a preliminary survey of
the project etc. is likely to be initiated?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Annual planned outlay for Uttar Pradesh

†1049. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sanctioned amount of the annual planned outlay for the year 2000-2001 for Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the targets set for agro industrial production and employment opportunities in the annual plan of the State, item-wise;

(c) the estimated amount provided to the State in the annual plan for the year 2001-02; and

(d) the details of the plan outlay in the annual plan of the State, region-wise?

Financial assistance to Rajasthan

†1050. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the additional financial assistance sought by the State Government of Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the amount allocated by the Central Government, scheme-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for not providing full financial assistance as sought by the State?

Special package for Bihar

†1051. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1013 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th November, 2002 and state the schemes for development of Bihar in the Tenth Five

Year Plan after partition of Bihar and Jharkhand?

BIMARU States

1052. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while Madhya Pradesh continues to figure amongst the four States termed as BIMARU, it tops the list of developed States according to a recent report prepared by the Planning Commission at the behest of the UNDP—"Successful Governance Initiatives and best Practices-Experiences from Indian States";

(b) whether it is also a fact that Rajasthan, another State comprising BIMARU, is not far behind in the said list of the developed States; and

(c) what criteria have been followed in gradation of the States in terms of development by the Planning Commission; and whether Government have considered the question of recasting the BIMARU States?

Growth rate for Tenth Plan

1053. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate targeted and achieved during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the growth rate targeted for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) how Government propose to achieve this growth rate; and

(d) whether the targeted growth rate is realistic in view of the resource constraints?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Widening of NHs in Uttar Pradesh

† 1054. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for widening of the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Driving Training Institutes

1055. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have plans to open more Training Institutes like IDTR all over the country to give training of international standard in driving;
- (b) if so, the budget to be allocated for the same;
- (c) by when more institutes would be established throughout the country; and
- (d) whether Government intend to make it mandatory for the people applying for fresh driving licence to be registered and trained in training institutes like IDTR?

Funds for National Highways

1056. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the funds allocated for maintenance, repairs, widening and other miscellaneous construction of National Highways to the States for the year 2002-03;
- (b) the work in progress in all the States and the details of completion of the work;

(c) the funds used up by each State for the proposed work; and

(d) whether Government have any plan of increasing the funds in the forthcoming Budget?

Funds for repair of NHs

1057. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "No direct NH funds for States" as reported in the 'Statesman' dated the 3rd February, 2003;
- (b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision to provide funds for repair of National Highways through Drawing and Disbursing Officer and not directly to the State Government;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any reports of diversion of the funds by the State Governments have been received; and
- (e) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

Improving riding quality in Bihar

1058. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received any proposal amounting to Rs. 494.29 lakhs for improving the riding quality in km. 107 to 125 km. Bodh-Gaya-Dobhi section from the State Government of Bihar;
- (b) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon; and
- (c) by when it is to be implemented?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Recommendations of National Road
Safety Council**

† 1059. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Parivahan suraksha se judi sifarishin do varsh baad bhi filoun mein dafan" which appeared in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated the 24th January, 2003;

(b) if so, the number of recommendations of National Road Safety Council which have been implemented so far by Government; and

(c) the action to be taken by Government on the remaining recommendations?

**Report of the World Bank on
transport sector**

1060. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

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

(a) whether in a recent report on the country's transport sector, the World Bank has observed that the current practice of State-level regional transport authorities being the nodal agencies for regulating bus services and setting fares in most of the cities needs to be re-examined;

(b) if so, whether according to the report, it is necessary in view of the need for greater integration between transport planning, traffic management and public transport operations at the local level;

(c) if so, what are the other suggestions made thereon; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to implement the suggestions made?

Condition of NH-34

1061. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that road condition in NH-34 from Kolkata Airport to Siliguri of Darjiling district has been deteriorated since long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the said road would be undertaken for major repairs; and

(d) by when expansion of the road would take place and to what extent?

Funding of high ways

1062. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to hike in petrol prices to fund highways, as reported in the Asian Age dated the 23rd December, 2002;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal;

(c) the amount that would be garnered out of this and the highways that would be funded;

(d) whether it is also proposed to enhance toll tax for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the amount that would be earned as a result thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Modernising of goods transport sector

1063. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether alongwith the development of highways Government would pay adequate attention to modernise the goods transport sector by imposing stringent measures on plying overloaded vehicles on the National Highways;

(b) whether the new concept of multi-axle trucks on highways would prove complementary to Government's efforts to upgrade the riding quality on highways, by minimising wear and tear; and

(c) if so, what incentives and assistance Government would provide to transport operators for conversion of their fleet into long-haul multi-axle system?

High security number plates

1064. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new security number plate is being introduced for all motorable vehicles;

(b) if so, the number of vehicles, the price of each such plate and the projected money to be spent for the switch-over to the new plates;

(c) who are producing these items; and

(d) how many companies are supplying the same?

Action on proposals from Chhattisgarh

†1065. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received

by his Ministry from the State Government of Chhattisgarh till date;

(b) the details thereof indicating the date of receipt;

(c) the number of proposals sanctioned so far; and

(d) by when the remaining proposals would be sanctioned alongwith the reasons for the delay?

Mutual credit guarantee for SSI

1066. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized a plan for introduction of a mutual credit guarantee for the small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it would replace the existing scheme or it is an additional one?

Loans for SSIs

1067. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry are aware that banks are reluctant to render loan facilities to small scale industries on one reasons or another; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to suitably instruct the banks to give loans to SSIs on time?

Contribution of SSIs

1068. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of the Small Scale Industries to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the data for the last three years; and

(c) what further steps Government propose to initiate to ensure growth of this sector with a view to increase its share in GDP and create employment opportunities?

Closure of SSIs

1069. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many Small Scale Industries have been closed down in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the persons who lost jobs as a result thereof;

(d) whether Government have any plan to assist the Small Scale Industries to improve their profitability; and

(e) what are the measures Government have proposed in the Tenth Five Year Plan Document?

SSIs in Tamil Nadu

1070. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether SSI sector in Tamil Nadu has requested for increase in or atleast retention of the present excise exemption limit of Rs. one crore for SSIs;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry proposes to approach the Ministry of Finance in this regard;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Items reserved for SSI

1071. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the items already reserved for small scale sector are being dereserved one by one;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action has been taken to protect the interests of small scale industries?

Lending rates for SSI

1072. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the demand from the SSI, the RBI has agreed to reduce the lending rates to this sector;

(b) if so, the details of the demand made with regard to interest by various associations of the Small Scale Sector and the action contemplated by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government are planning to introduce a legislation on delayed payments and other things relating to Small Scale Industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Agreement between MNCs and ISRO

† 1073. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Multinational Companies have offered to arrive at an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organization for jointly manufacturing and marketing of the small sized satellites;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what strategy has been worked out by Government in this regard with a view to make up to some extent the heavy expenditure to be incurred on the Space Programme?

Tie between ISRO and Private players

1074. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "ISRO wants to pass on its know-how to private players" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 15th January, 2003;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether the ISRO has assessed its impact on Defence and Missile projects under development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Satellite for literacy

1075. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO has started developing an exclusive satellite for use in the domains of literacy, education, training and other related issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consultations were made with the Human Resource Development Ministry in regard thereto; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Completion of projects

1076. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn a plan for timely completion of the projects in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects, Ministry-wise, involving an investment of Rupees twenty crores or more which are pending at present; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to control cost overrun of these projects?

NEW DELHI;
The 21st February, 2003
Phalguna 2, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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