

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the July 28, 2005/Sravana 6, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Coal; Communications and Information Technology; External Affairs; Labour and Employment; Ocean Development; Overseas Indian Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Science and Technology; Shipping, Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions —155

ISEC and PDDIP Schemes

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

(a) the details of Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISECS) and Product Development Design Intervention and Packaging Scheme (PDDIPS) implemented by Government;

(b) the details of funds allocated to States under these Schemes during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a fund with an initial amount of Rs. 100 crore for the regeneration of traditional industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Agro-based industries in NE Region

335. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is need of taking steps to promote agro-based industries in the rural areas of the country, more particularly in the North-East Region ridden with poverty;

(b) if so, the projects and schemes launched in the North-East region to provide employment to unemployed youth; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Support to ARIs

336. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agro and rural industries in and around metro cities are nearly extinct due to lack of Government's support and of upcoming multinational companies;

(b) the details regarding production of agro and rural industries in the metro cities during the last three years;

(c) whether any special scheme is available with Government to boost the agro industry in the cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Uranium Mining

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Atomic Energy proposed uranium mining and processing plant at Nalgonda in A.P.;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether the Department has submitted its proposal before the Environment Ministry for environmental clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereon?

Affordable sources of energy

338. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and U.S. are moving closer on the crucial issue of Civilian Nuclear energy by giving India access to Nuclear Energy Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up five working groups to expedite the matter;

(d) whether first meeting of this Nuclear Energy Group will be held in the run up to Prime Minister's U.S. visit in July, 2005; and

(e) how far U.S. and India ensure clean, reliable, affordable sources of energy to keep the economies of both countries expanding?

Atomic energy projects under construction

339. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the generating installed capacity of atomic energy in our country;

(b) how much atomic energy is being generated at present against that capacity; and

(c) whether there are any other such projects under construction or planning?

Agreement with Russia

340. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is getting any assistance from Russia to its nuclear energy programme;

(b) the details of reactor that Russia is going to supply to India;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Russia on this during recent Presidents visit to Russia; and

(d) if so, the details thereon?

Allotment of captive coal mines to power projects

341. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allot captive Coal Mines to power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of captive coal mines so far allotted to power projects;

(c) whether Government are also considering to introduce coal sector reforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Improving the quality of coal

342. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bulk of coal produced through open cost mining is of very low quality;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard to improve the quality of coal by Coal India Ltd.?

Upward growth in coal production

343. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. has reported upward growth in Coal production in 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far this compares with the previous corresponding period; and

(d) the action plan of the Coalfields to further boost its production?

Lignite-cum-Power project in Rajasthan

344. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nevyelli Lignite Corporation (NLC) has failed to implement the Barsingsar (Rajasthan) lignite-cum-power project even after lapse of about 14 years;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the factors responsible for failure of NLC in implementing the project; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to implement the project?

Approval of new coal mining projects

345. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the Ministry of Coal to expedite the approval of new mining projects in view of the acute shortage of coal faced by the power, cement and steel industries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that currently there is a gap of about 27 million tonnes between the demand and supply of coal; and

(c) if so, the steps Ministry proposes to take to start new mining projects at the earliest?

Accidents in coal mines

346. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increasing number of accidents in coal mines in the recent years due to lack of infrastructure for safety;

(b) the details of accidents and casualties occurred during the last three years; and

(c) the measures taken by Government for coal workers safety?

Coal shortage

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many power plants are facing shortage of feedstock of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have approved the import of 12 million tonnes of thermal coal this year; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to overcome the shortage of feedstock and also to launch the domestic production of coal?

I.T. Revolution

348. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to allot Rs. 500 crore for IT kiosks in villages in the country;

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

(c) the details of the action plan of Government to take the IT revolution to the villages of Orissa State under the project?

Credibility of IT industry

†349. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that recently details of the confidential accounts and passports of British Nationals had been leaked by an officer of an Indian Business Process Outsourcing company;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Prime Minister has emphasised the need to make the IT law more stringent to maintain the credibility of IT Industry; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to take the suggestions in this regard from the IT companies and to enact the laws?

Issue of debit cards by Postal Department

350. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C.
RAMACHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Postal Department is planning to issue debit cards for the benefit of their account holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when these cards are likely to be issued; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether any special benefits are likely to be provided to exclusive groups like senior citizens, women, BPL card holders, etc; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

NASSCOM recommendations on India's cyber laws

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

(a) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to bring the Indian cyber laws at par with the global standards and make them fool-proof;

(b) whether it is a fact that NASSCOM engaged a group of law firms in India, UK and USA to look into the whole gamut of cyber laws in India;

(c) if so, whether the group has submitted its report or recommendations;

(d) whether Government have studied those recommendations; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the study?

Expansion of telecom network

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

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

(a) whether India has crossed 100 million telephone mark to become the fifth largest telecom network in the world after China, US, Japan and Germany;

(b) whether India targeted 250 million phone connections by 2007;

(c) whether potential to expand telecom network in India is immense as its tele-density is currently pegged at only about 9% against over 100% in US, Japan and Germany; and

(d) if so, the total target set up by Government on phone connections and whether all the villages would be covered by phones upto 2007?

System management software

353. 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 the fastest growing market for system management software in Asia;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any action plan to make India the largest market for system management software in the world; and

(c) the names of countries that have the largest markets for system management software?

Modernization of postal services

354. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas/places where Government propose to upgrade and modernize postal services; and

(b) the benefits/advantages likely to accrue therefrom?

Deficient postal services

355. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas/places in the country which are deficient in postal services; and

(b) the steps being taken in the matter?

Replacement of faulty PCO instruments in Bilaspur

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

(a) whether it is a fact that equipment installed in PCOs in rural areas of Bilaspur and Chhattisgarh remain out of order generally, consequently customers remain deprived of these services;

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government to change the equipments and rectify the faulty lines; and

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

E-connectivity to African countries

357. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has announced to provide e-connectivity to 53 African countries;

(b) whether Government have a International Youth Satellite Scheme to provide connectivity to students and universities around the globe;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what would be the time-frame and the projected expense on these schemes?

New technology for rural areas

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

(a) whether it is a fact that US and UK are in the process of implementing a new technology which allows television, phone and data transfer in a single network;

(b) whether it is a fact that TRAI is willing to push this technology as the most preferred one for rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Introduction of cheaper local landline call charges

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to introduce cheaper local landline call charges and mobile roaming charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that some kind of cartelisation among private cellular companies exists and instead of investing on towers, they are using the infrastructure of other companies; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Opening of new post offices

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

(a) the number of proposals for opening of new post offices in the rural areas pending with Government, State-wise;

(b) the details of targets set to open new post offices in the country during the financial year 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(c) if so, the details of achievements made in this respect?

Malpractice in BPO agencies

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

(a) whether a few instances of selling information by some employees of Business Prospects Outsourcing agencies in India to other agencies; and

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

STD facility on local dialing

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

(a) the number of States from where STD facility is being provided on local dialing in the country; and

(b) by when this facility would be provided to other States?

Global confidence in BPO industry

363. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent call centre scam near Delhi involving leakage of bank account numbers, bank card details and secret passwords of more than 1000 British bank customers holds grave ramifications for the Indian BPO industry;

(b) whether the British media has branded the employees of Indian BPOs as crooked with warnings on its website flashing your life on sale; and

(c) whether Government have taken note of this and if so, what measures are being taken to restore the global confidence in Indian BPO industry?

Networking problem of MTNL

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

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL has failed to solve the network related problems of its mobile phone customers in Delhi; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Garud, Dolphin and Trump mobile customers of MTNL have to face network related problems every day whereas mobile customers of other companies are free from any such problem;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take action against engineers/officers responsible for recurring faults in the network; and

(d) by when the network of MTNL is likely to be improved?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Leakage of information by BPO

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian call centres are selling financial information of many persons having accounts in the banks of Britain,

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government with regard to such call centres;

(c) whether Government have also confirmed that such information is being sent to other countries of the world; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to check such activities?

(a) whether smart city project, an infrastructure facility for information technology companies to be set up in Kakkanad, Kerala by Dubal International City (DIC) is still in the anvil;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) the details including total investment and the conditions in providing land to the project;

(d) the status of the already established info-park facility in the same district in the light of smart city project; and

(e) if so, the details of Memorandum of Understanding of the smart city project?

Release of telephone connection in Uttar Pradesh

†366. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connection in Uttar Pradesh as on date, district-wise; and

(b) by when the persons registered in the waiting list are likely to get telephone connection?

Smart city project in Kerala

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

TRAI's instruction on tariff structure

368. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone tariffs for domestic (basic) telephone is comparatively higher than the mobile phone these days;

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

(c) whether the TRAI has issued any guidelines to the telephone operators on the tariff structure for basic and mobile phones;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have any plan to remove STD charges fully and to introduce nation-wide local calls; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Features of 3G service lines

369. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) when BSNL propose to launch its 3G services;
- (b) how many new lines would be given under 3G services; and
- (c) the special features of the 3G service lines?

World Bank's assistance for IT Education Programme

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

- (a) whether Government have sought World Bank's assistance for Information Technology Education Programme in the country; and
- (b) if so, World Bank's response thereto so far?

Setting up of Cyber Regulation Appellate Tribunals

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

- (a) whether Government have set up Cyber Regulation Appellate Tribunals;
- (b) if so, the number of tribunals set up by Government so far and the locations thereof; and
- (c) the number of cases forwarded to these tribunals so far and the number of cases disposed out of them?

Investment in telecom sector

372. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has increased the FDI limit in telecom sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the details of overseas entities which have evinced interest in investing in Indian telecom industry; and
- (d) the guidelines and terms and conditions for such investment?

Increase of tele-density

373. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the position of tele-density of each State and Union Territory of the country;
- (b) the schemes of the BSNL to increase the position of the tele-density in the States where the present position is almost at the bottom; and
- (c) the All India and State-wise programme of providing cell phones to significantly add to the rise of tele-density?

Waiting list of telephone connections in Bilaspur

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that performance

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of private companies is better than Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in terms of providing satisfactory service and new connections of mobile telephone;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to take necessary steps with regard to services and new connection being provided by BSNL in many areas of the country especially in Bilaspur of Chhattisgarh State; and

(c) if so, the details of waiting list till June, 2005 in Bilaspur and the steps being taken for providing new connections and improvement in performance?

Merger of MTNL and BSNL

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

(a) the reasons for non-merger or delay in merger of public sector undertakings — BSNL and MTNL;

(b) whether Government propose to take a final decision for merger of these two public sector undertakings;

(c) if so, by when the said merger would take place; and

(d) if not, the extensive details thereof?

Talks on subsidy on agricultural exports

†376. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether discussions were held to withdraw the subsidy being provided on all kinds of exports including on agricultural

exports in the Summit of G-8 nations held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its likely impact on India?

Indo-Bangladesh relations

377. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of progress made in diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh during the last one year;

(b) whether there has been any improvement in matters of trade and commerce between India and Bangladesh during the above period; and

(c) what steps have been suggested to reduce border-tension between these two countries?

India's role in G-8 Summit

378. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister attended the G-8 Summit in Scotland, recently;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda and the outcome of the Summit meeting; and

(c) the role played by India in the Summit and the benefits to be accrued to India as a result of India's participation in the Summit?

Talks with G-8 countries

379. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister held

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

talks with the leaders of the G-8 countries on the sidelines of the recent G-8 Summit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the talks, country-wise?

Congress President's Russia visit

380. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he accompanied the Congress Party President Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to Russia during her recent visit to that country;

(b) if so, whether it was a personal visit, an official visit or a State visit; and

(c) the capacity in which he accompanied Shrimati Sonia Gandhi during this visit?

Improvement in functioning of passport offices

381. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to improve functioning of the passport offices by making it prompt and assessable services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Denial of UK visa to single youths

382. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to an independent watchdog monitoring the

work of UK visas, the Government of UK is following an uncalled for policy of debarring young, single boys and girls from entering UK on the pretext that they would get married and settle there (UK);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the refusal rate for applications has gone up from 6.5 per cent four years ago to 15 per cent in 2003; and

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

Cancellation of Team-9 Summit

383. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Summit meeting of Team-9 in West Africa was scheduled to be held in Senegal in May this year;

(b) whether this meeting was cancelled suddenly; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this cancellation?

New visa procedure for students visiting Australia

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Australian High Commission in Delhi has evolved a new visa procedure for students wishing to study in Australia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Indian students in Australia and how is this expected to vary in the near future?

Formation of Group-4 for UNSC seat

385. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, Brazil, Japan and Germany have formed a new group namely "Group of 4" to ensure permanent seats for themselves in the expanded Security Council; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in this direction in view of the reservation of some of the influential nations?

Efforts to get UNSC seat

†386. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the dialogues held with various countries during June, 2005 and the extent of support to be extended by them to our country for occupying the permanent seat in the UN Security Council and its expansion thereof;

(b) whether Government are considering to put up a proposal on the basis of the dialogues held with the different countries especially with the five permanent member countries in the meeting of General Assembly to be held shortly; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Secretary level talks on Siachen

†387. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Secretary level talk was held between India and Pakistan on 22nd May, 2005 for continuation of ceasefire being maintained for the last one and half year and

maintaining of *status quo* in the near future in Siachen Glacier;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the success achieved through talk?

Inflow of terrorists across border

†388. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reduction in inflow of terrorists across border after initiation of peace process;

(b) whether Government have held any talks with the Government of Pakistan to check this completely; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto?

Road link between Kargil and Skardu

389. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open road link between Kargil and Skardu in the Pakistan controlled areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the opening of roads between Kashmir and various places in Pakistan have not been found economically viable?

Indian investment in Pakistan

390. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

has recently allowed private investment from India in various fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the private investors allowed to invest and the activities in which these investments are proposed to be allowed; and

(c) whether Government of India have given a green signal to such investments?

Talks on Sir Creek issue

391. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether official level talks with Pakistan have started on May 28, 2005;

(b) if so, whether India claims that the middle point of Sir Creek should be demarcated as the international boundary;

(c) if so, whether Sir Creek which is extremely rich in marine life, has been contentious issue between the two countries;

(d) if so, what are the latest positions about this issue;

(e) whether any final agreement has been reached; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Third party mediation on Baglihar project

392. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan Government has been disputing India's programme for implementation of the Baglihar project;

(b) if so, the rationale, if any, put forward from Pakistan side in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have agreed to third party mediation by World Bank representative for settlement of the alleged dispute between India and Pakistan pertaining to this project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and rationale behind that?

Illegal Nepalese occupancy in Bihar

†393. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Nepal has occupied 10 thousand acres of land in Susta region in Bihar and has also killed a number of Biharis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Nepal has been increasing its occupancy in this region;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Nepal has diverted the erosion of the river Gandak towards India by illegal deforestation and mining; and

(d) if so, the action Government are taking to take back the Indian territory from Nepal and for seeking compensation for the Biharis killed?

Construction of roads by China near border

394. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Government of China has been constructing roads near Districts Uttar Kashi and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pithoragarh area adjoining the international boundary of India and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar construction of roads has been reported on the border areas near Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction in this regard?

Indians in Pakistani jails

395. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 182 Indians have been languishing in Pakistani jails for more than last three decades;

(b) whether this fact has been admitted by Pakistani Government several times; and

(c) whether Government have again renewed its request to the Government of Pakistan to release those persons and if so, with what result?

Pakistani President's views towards APHC

396. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Pakistan has once again stated that the All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) is the only

true representative of the people of Jammu and Kashmir;

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

(c) what is the position of democratically elected Government in Jammu and Kashmir in the eyes of Pakistan and other countries;

(d) whether Pakistan also feels that the APHC should be directly involved in the discussions between India and Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir issue; and

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

Terrorist training camps in Pakistan

397. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that terrorist training camps in Pakistan have again become active;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have photographic evidence of the same;

(c) whether Government have taken up the issue relating to terrorist training camps in Pakistan with the Government of Pakistan;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government of Pakistan; and

(e) the likely impact of this on the process of improving relation between India and Pakistan?

Mutual co-operation between Russia, India and China

398. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia, India and China have shared a common interest in promoting growth and stability in the Asian region;

(b) whether he visited Russia in the month of June and India, Russia and China explored possibilities of mutual beneficial co-operation in energy, trade, economic and other fields;

(c) whether all three countries have represented some of the oldest civilisation in the world as well as large and economically dynamic countries; and

(d) if so, to what extent all the three countries have made joint efforts to achieve these objectives and whether all three countries have signed agreements in this regard?

Attacks on Sikhs in U.K.

399. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the incidences of assaults in the U.K. following the explosions on 7th July, 2005 in tube rails and public bases at London, against the members of the Sikh community, in particular;

(b) if so, the details of the incidences obtained from the Government of U.K. till date; and

(c) the actions initiated, if any, for ensuring protection of persons and their religious places by the U.K. administration?

Dilution in India's stand for Security Council seat

400. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a dilution of our stand for permanent membership in U.N. Security Council; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Authentication of Indo-Pak border on Siachen Glacier

401. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and made a demand to Pakistan to authenticate the border on the Siachen Glacier to ensure that there are no complications after demilitarisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response received by Government from Pakistan in this regard?

Indo-Pak discussion

402. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held in May and June last between the Governments of India and Pakistan to ease tension between the two countries on Siachen in Jammu and Kashmir and Sir Creek on the Gujarat-Pak Border; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

Dipiction of Hindu Gods on shoes

403. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some of the countries, especially France and other European countries are printing images of Hindu Gods on shoes, lingerie, etc. and disrespecting Hinduism in various forms; and

(b) if so, what initiative has been taken through diplomatic and political channels to stop such abuse of Hinduism in other parts of the world?

Countries without diplomatic relations

404. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which India does not have diplomatic relations;

(b) the countries with which India has extradition treaty and those with which negotiations for the same are in progress; and

(c) the advantages and disadvantages of not having diplomatic relations and extradition treaties?

Conversion of LoC into a soft border

405. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pak-President during his recent visit proposed converting the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir into a soft border, without committing to accept it as a long term, permanent border solution

to the Kashmir problem; and

(b) if so, the offer made and its implications towards a solution of the Kashmir issue?

Indo-US relations

406. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to the US, President George Bush had made a strong personal commitment to build on US-India relations and to take them to a much higher level, over the next four years of his term;

(b) if so, the precise offer made and its implications; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in the light thereof?

Visit of foreign delegation to Indian nuclear sites

407. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the first time a foreign delegation had been allowed full access to Indian nuclear sites;

(b) whether the foreign delegation had also visited the military nuclear installation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Effect of Ayodhya incident on Indo-Pak talks

†408. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that before

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

embarking on foreign visit on 6th July, 2005 the Prime Minister in his interview given to print media warned that it is proved that Pakistani terrorists were involved in attack in Ayodhya than the peace talk being held between two countries may be adversely affected; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

New schemes for labour class

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 64 per cent of labour class retire prematurely due to health related reasons;

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

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme at national level to overcome the weakness of the labour class; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Growth rate of job seekers

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that total number of unemployed youths rose from 13.8 million to 44.5 million from 1991 to 2001 in the country;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the annual growth rate for creation of new

employment opportunities also remained low during the said period; and

(d) if so, what was that rate and annual growth rate of job seekers in the country?

Target for employment opportunities

†411. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for generation of employment opportunities during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) what target was set by Government regarding generation of employment opportunities as a result of these steps; and

(c) the number of persons who have got employment so far?

Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals in the country

412. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is adequate number of labour courts and tribunals functioning in the country;

(b) the number of cases pending in these courts; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of labour courts and tribunals and if so, the details thereof?

Review of pension reforms

413. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Employees

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Provident Fund rate hike to 9.5 per cent benefits only 4 per cent of India's working population;

(b) if so, whether Pension Reforms which hold the key for the major work force of the country, is already overdue; and

(c) what steps have been taken to review and reform the Pension Scheme so far?

Appointment of Presiding Officer in Labour Court

414. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no Presiding Officer in the Labour Court of Central Industrial Tribunal, New Delhi for the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of cases pending with the court and since when these cases are pending; and

(d) the measures taken by Government for appointing the Presiding Officer of this Labour Court so as to give relief to the workers whose cases are pending there for a long time?

Child labour working in Mines

415. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ILO, which observed the World Day against Child Labour on the 12th June, 2005, has estimated that there are one million children aged between 5 and 17 currently toiling in mines and quarries all over the world;

(b) if so, the estimated number of

children still working in mines and quarries in India; and

(c) the measures taken by Government for improving working conditions in mines and quarries for the safety and lives of children working there?

Wages and duty hours of the daily wage workers

416. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum wages and normal duty hours prescribed by Government for Chowkidars, Malis etc. engaged by registered Associations/Companies temporarily on daily wages;

(b) whether all such registered Associations/Companies have been directed to follow the orders of Government in this behalf; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to issue orders to such Associations/Companies in this behalf?

Implementation of labour laws by Industrialists

†417. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most industries in Delhi are not paying minimum wages to their workers and labour courts have completely failed in their duty regarding implementation of various Labour Laws; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that various labour laws are implemented *in toto* by industrialists?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Delay in disbursing wages to rural poor

418. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) was launched in 150 backward districts in the country to provide supplementary employment to the rural poor, but the wages for this are delayed due to some reason or other;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the families are paid in fits and starts and the grain component of their wages (75 per cent) also arrives late;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to prevent the delay in payment?

Disposal of pending cases

†419. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases related to labour dispute district-wise which are pending and under consideration in labour and High Court in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of pending cases has increased constantly during last one decade;

(c) whether the number of vacant posts of presiding judges as compared to the pending cases are more in the State; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken for filling up vacant posts and disposal of pending cases at the earliest?

Welfare measures for Indian Migrant Labourers

420. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are still finding delay in making insurance cover for workers going abroad for employment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the proposed Indian overseas workers welfare fund has come into force;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the welfare measures taken by Government for Indian Migrant Labourers?

Provision of Employment

421. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of jobless in India grew by more than three times in 10 years from 13.8 million in 1991 to 44.5 million in 2001 as per the recently released census figures;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the unemployment rate among graduates is 17.2 per cent and is significantly higher than the overall unemployment rate of 10.1 per cent; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to provide employment to the unemployed?

Employment opportunities

422. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that 5 crore employment opportunities have been proposed to be created during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the sectoral break-up of these employment opportunities; and

(c) the details of employment opportunities created under the plan so far?

Incentives to labour intensive units in the country

423. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing incentives to labour intensive units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rehabilitation of bonded labour

424. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bonded labour got freed in each State during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the manner in which they have been rehabilitated;

(c) in case the freed bonded labour have not yet been rehabilitated, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have chalked out a programme for proper rehabilitation of freed bonded labour; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Research to forecast Tsunami

425. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM) scientists carried out extensive studies after Tsunami havoc of December, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scientific study or research has been carried out to forecast Tsunami and the areas prone its aftermath; and

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

Tsunami Warning System

426. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is setting up its own National Tsunami Warning System, as distinct from the 'Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System' unveiled by the UNESCO recently at Paris; and

(b) if so, the distinctive features of the Indian Warning System, its present status and time-frame fixed to operationalise it?

Third station in Antarctica

427. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's third station in Antarctica with the state-of-the-art and world class facilities would be ready by 2008;

(b) if so, the location of the third station and how it proposes to function; and

(c) the details of work done by the previous two stations in Antarctica?

Smart cards for overseas citizens

428. SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:
SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide smart cards for overseas citizens;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) would now be treated at par with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and would be entitled for same FDI investments in sectors like aviation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with the percentage of equity in domestic airlines by NRIs and PIOs?

Facilities available to PIOs and NRIs

429. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) enjoy same parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in respect of all facilities available to the later in economic, financial, aviation and educational fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether investment of PIOs are treated at par with NRIs in domestic aviation sector; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Investment policy with regard to NRIs and PIOs

430. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government with regard to investments by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in domestic aviation sector;

(b) whether the policy decision has the approval of Group of Ministers/Cabinet;

(c) what would be the benefits to NRIs and PIOs as far as their FDI in domestic air transport service is concerned after the promulgation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005;

(d) whether investment of PIOs will henceforth be treated at par with NRIs in domestic air transport service; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955

431. SHRI MURLI DEORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955 to grant dual citizenship to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and have issued ordinance in this regard;

(b) whether by this amendment PIOs would be eligible to become citizen of India;

(c) whether PIOs are now to be treated at par with NRIs as far as their investments in various sectors like aviation, including domestic airlines are concerned;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) what other facilities are being extended to PIOs and women married to them;

(f) whether Government are actively considering setting up universities for the higher education of Indian diaspora; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Recruitment agencies for foreign employment

†432. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licensed recruitment agencies at present in India which are engaged in recruiting unemployed youths in foreign countries, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have received complaints against these agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Age relaxation to OBC candidates

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

(a) whether it is a fact that OBC candidates are given only three years age relaxation in Civil Services and other services under the Union Government against five years for other reserved categories;

(b) if so, whether Government would remove this discrimination by increasing it to five years; and

(c) whether Government would give travelling allowance to OBC candidates for attending the interview etc., conducted by Government as is given to other reserved categories?

Anomalies in fixation of pay

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some anomalies were reported in fixation of the pay of Assistants and Section Officers of Central Secretariat Service w.e.f. 1st January, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to remove the anomalies?

Central Vigilance Commission Act

435. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission Act was passed by Parliament in 2003;

(b) if so, the prominent features thereof;

(c) whether the provisions of the Act have been brought into effect and if so, since when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the same will come into force?

CBI raids

†436. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has made large scale raids in different towns of the country from the year 2002 to June, 2005 and nabbed corrupt persons;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of raids made by CBI during the said period and the number of persons related to these raids; and

(c) the number of persons found guilty as well as the number of persons found innocent in the initial enquiry?

Harassment of whistle blowers

437. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that whistle blowers/scame busters are being harassed by their respective Departments and Investigating Agencies; and

(b) if so, how many such cases have come to the notice of Government and what steps have been taken for their safety?

Retirement age

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to have retirement age of employees in public sector units as 58;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the retirement age of Government employees would also be lowered to 58; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Investigation of cases by CBI

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there were 1354 cases under investigation by CBI at the end of 2004;

(b) the number of new cases brought under investigation during the year 2005, till now and the number convicted, acquitted, discharged and otherwise disposed of during this period;

(c) whether there are cases pending investigation over 5 to 10 years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not completing the investigations even after such a long period; and

(e) the steps being taken to expedite the completion of investigations and disposal of cases?

Prosecution of senior bureaucrats

440. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received for the grant of sanction for prosecutions of the officers of the rank of Joint Secretaries and above, since April, 2004 and out of which, in how many cases the sanction was accorded;

(b) the details of cases where the sanction was refused along with the reasons in each case; and

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Central Vigilance Commission Act to do away with the provision which grants immunity for prosecution of the officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Technical Division of Planning
Commission**

441. SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technical Divisions of the Planning Commission like agriculture, education, rural development etc. are headed by the general officers of different services including some retired persons and people from non-Government sector who are neither experts nor professionally well-qualified;

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

(c) whether such an arrangement is not leading to a deterioration in the professional competence of the Commission as a super think tank in National Planning; and

(d) if so, in what way Government propose to arrest this trend and attract men of eminence and excellence in the Commission?

Per capita income of States

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 2003-04 the per capita income of the States in the country has risen as against the income in the year 2002-03;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that during this period the increase in the income of

rural and urban areas of the States has taken place with different rates; and

(d) if so, the respective rates of hike in the income of rural and urban areas?

Fiscal health of States

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister being concerned over the dismal fiscal health of the States had convened a meeting of the Planning Commission in the month of June to discuss ways of assisting States in tiding over financial crisis;

(b) if so, whether the full Planning Commission met in the month of June to discuss the issue of State Finance Ministers and has decided to consider bilateral ways to assist States; and

(c) if so, the major discussions and to what extent the Planning Commission has come to the conclusion of helping States finances?

**Private Sector in infrastructure
sector**

444. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR
SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission had decided to prepare a discussion paper on improving regulatory mechanism and setting up new regulators where they do not exist but are needed;

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister has urged the Planning Commission to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

prepare such a paper, as the Prime Minister is of the view that a proper regulatory regime would enable greater participation of the private sector, especially in infrastructure sector; and

(c) if so, whether Planning Commission has already started discussing and preparing the paper for a regulatory regime?

Extent of poverty reduction

445. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poverty reduction was not achieved to the desired extent during the years of planned development;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the benefits of growth have trickled down differently among different sections and classes of people; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Creating employment for 76 million people

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government called for finding gainful employment for 76 million people in the next five years;

(b) whether Government have identified any potential areas for creating employment;

(c) if so, the details of areas which Government have identified;

(d) whether Government have got any action plan from which it is going to achieve the target; and

(e) if so, the details thereon?

Shortage of SIM cards in Bihar

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

(a) whether Government are aware of shortage of SIM cards in every telecommunication districts in Bihar;

(b) if so, the measures being taken to meet this shortage; and

(c) by when the mobile SIM cards would be easily available?

Implementation of Food for Work Programme

†448. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for constitution of a monitoring group in Planning Commission for monitoring and proper implementation of 'food for work' programme being run in the country is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Clearance to development schemes

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government is not giving clearance to the development schemes made by State Governments for years and only correspondence is done again and again;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such situation makes adverse effect on development resulting funds remaining unused and scheme not completed in time bound manner; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to tackle this situation, so that, country could progress rapidly and the funds do not remain unused?

Meeting of NDC

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a two-day meeting of the National Development Council was held recently to review the state of the economy and decide on taking corrective steps to place the economy on a high growth trajectory;

(b) if so, the details of major decisions taken by the N.D.C. to step up growth in the remaining two years of the Tenth Plan; and

(c) the guidelines evolved for formulation of the Eleventh Plan?

BPL population in Uttar Pradesh

†451. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons brought above poverty line by providing Central Assistance in each district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of persons still living Below Poverty Line as on today, district-wise;

(c) the amount allocated for this purpose, district-wise; and

(d) whether districts, having tribal population are accorded priority?

Central assistance to Madhya Pradesh

†452. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government is adopting dual criteria while granting Central assistance to Madhya Pradesh in comparison to other States;

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

(c) the details of the Central assistance given to Madhya Pradesh by the various Ministries during the one and a half year's regime of United Progressive Alliance Government?

Development of Science and Technology

453. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiatives for development and promotion of Science and Technology in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds granted for this purpose during the last three years?

Draft National Bio-tech strategy

454. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft National Bio-tech strategy propose to achieve the full potential of this sun rise sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the policy would attract both domestic and foreign investment in Bio-tech sector and if so, the annual turnover to be achieved by it; and

(d) the suggestions received regarding this policy and the time by which the policy is likely to be announced?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Private sector in port upgradation

455. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN
PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have worked out some action plan to facilitate participation of private sector in the upgradation and modernization of major ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the ports that are proposed to be upgraded; and

(c) the details of such ports located in Orissa State?

Development of major ports

456. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI EKANATH K.
THAKUR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an investment of over Rs.50,000 crore has been approved for upgrading, expanding and revamping the 12 major sea ports;

(b) the year-wise break-up of mobilization plan for this huge financial outlay;

(c) by when the work is likely to be completed in all these 12 major sea ports; and

(d) whether the infrastructure available after completion of these projects would be comparable to the best in similar ports around the globe?

Road proposals from Rajasthan

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

(a) whether it is a fact that proposals for getting seventeen important highways of Rajasthan declared as National Highways are pending with the Central Government; and

(b) if so, by when, the seventeen important highways proposed by the State Government of Rajasthan would be notified as National Highways?

Development of coastal circuit

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

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for approval of the Central Government for integrated development of coastal circuit in Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Dakshin Kannada Districts;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the likely date by when the proposal would be cleared?

Third phase of NHDP

459. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had drawn up plans for the launch of the third phase of the National Highways Development Programmes (NHDP-III)

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

envisaging a total investment of Rs. 50,000 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the third phase has been slated for completion by March, 2010?

Transshipment terminal at Vizhinjam

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

(a) the present stage of the proposed international container transshipment terminal at Vizhinjam in Kerala; and

(b) the time by which the project is likely to be commenced and completed?

Funds for road projects in Maharashtra

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

(a) the details of the projects of road widening, maintenance, beautification, etc. that were approved by the Central Government and the number of the projects completed in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the funds allocated to the State Government for the same:

(c) the funds transferred to the State so far and the funds utilized till date; and

(d) the number of projects that are still pending?

Maritime infrastructure projects for Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for taking up of a Mega Project for establishment of a National Sea Route and associated maritime infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether his Ministry propose to appoint a Joint Coordination Committee for implementation of the project?

Highways corridor in Madhya Pradesh

†463. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 621 k.m. length of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh is proposed to be covered under the North-South, East-West Corridor Plan;

(b) whether this is the lowest in terms of length of roads covered in comparison to length of roads of other States; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether this length would be increased further to cover more roads?

National Highways in Madhya Pradesh

†464. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has proposed to convert some National Highways into four lane highways under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this proposal would be cleared?

Roads under Central Road Fund

465. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of roads included under CRF, State-wise;

(b) the projects being financed out of the CRF in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether their progress is not satisfactory;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the same?

First-aid services on highways

466. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to provide first-aid services for accident victims on the highways;

(b) if so, which are those highways and from which States they are passing through;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether in future Government would consider itself for such first aid services scheme while constructing highways?

Implementation of Sethu Samudram Project

‡467. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to implement Sethu Samudram Project; if so, the number of years it would take for completion and the cost thereof;

(b) whether Government have conducted environmental studies regarding the effects on bio-diversity in the Gulf of Mannar due to implementation of this project; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any contingency plan to save rare bio-diversity in the Gulf of Mannar; if so, the details thereof?

Foolproof system for issuance of passports

468. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not having a foolproof centralized system in handling issuance and maintenance of passports whereas India is a global leader in the Information-Technology;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing/developing such a system keeping in view the increased number of frauds in the Passport affairs;

(c) whether Government are going to introduce any new system for passports; and

(d) if so, details thereof including time frame if fixed?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

By-pass on NH-3

‡469. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gwalior city by-pass on National Highway No. 3 is proposed to be built;

(b) if so, by when the construction work is likely to be undertaken; and

(c) the target fixed for completion of work?

Clean-up drive by NHAI

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

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

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India has launched a clean-up drive to strengthen internal processes and equip itself better to handle subsequent phases of prestigious National Highways Development Project;

(b) if so, whether seven contracts have been terminated due to poor performance and fraudulent practices by both Indian and foreign companies;

(c) if so, whether standardized documents performance guarantees, penalty clauses and third party audit's are some measures taken to ensure quality work; and

(d) if so, to what extent these measures have helped in moving fast in cleaning up these projects?

Connectivity of North-Eastern region

471. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State capitals in the North-Eastern Regions are proposed to be connected with by motorable roads with National Capital and also connected with each other; and

(b) if so, the status of the construction of National Highways in the North-Eastern region which when completed would give connectivity with State Capital of seven States with Delhi and other State Capitals *Inter-se?*

Sethu Samudram Project

472. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sethu Samudram Project was launched recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken note of resistance and opposition from fishermen and environmental experts in implementing the project; and

(d) if so, in what manner the problems have been addressed?

Road maintenance in Madhya Pradesh

‡473. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways passing through Nine districts

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in Madhya Pradesh are in bad shape due to recent flood in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action Government are taking to improve the condition of roads in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether there is any plan to provide central aid in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Cess on diesel

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

(a) whether Government have created a National Road Fund of approximately Rs. 6000 crore per annum by levying a cess of Re. 1 per litre on diesel;

(b) if so, the amount so far accumulated in this fund; and

(c) the manner in which the amount out of this fund so far allocated to various States for development of roads, with particular reference to Maharashtra?

MoU with the Suez Canal Authority

475. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Suez Canal Authority to utilise their expertise for the implementation of Sethu-Samudram ship Channel Project;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a high level team had a discussion with the Suez Canal Authority at Cairo recently; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the said discussion?

Construction of flyovers

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

(a) the details of the flyovers constructed in various States during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of flyovers proposed to be constructed during the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the details of funds granted for the same indicating the target set and achievements made in this regard, State-wise?

Delay in Golden Quadrilateral Project

477. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Golden Quadrilateral Project initiated by the NDA Government for linking four metros and some other major cities;

(b) whether there have been heavy time overrun and cost of this project due to some major bottlenecks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to remove the same and ensure early completion of the Project?

Effects of import of goods on SSIs

478. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small-Scale Industries in the country are put to hardship due to indiscriminate import of goods especially from some Asian countries; and

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken to mitigate their hardship?

Package for SSIs

†479. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any special package for speedy development of Small-Scale Industries of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide loans to small entrepreneurs on relaxed conditions, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any special scheme for establishing small-scale industries after providing training to youth, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of unemployed youths who received training under these schemes during the last few years and the number out of them who have established their Small-Scale Industries?

Setting up of SSIs

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

(a) the amount spent on setting up small scale industries in the first three years of Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of persons provided employment during this period; and

(c) the details of the targets fixed regarding setting up Small Scale Industries in the rural areas of country in the current year?

Facility through Satellite network

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

(a) how far Indian Space Research Organisation's satellites have contributed in improving tele-communication, tele-education, tele-medicine, etc. facilities in rural and remote areas of the country;

(b) whether any utilization study been made for the benefits being derived at the grass root level;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the entire country would get optimum facilities through a network of satellites?

Unemployed Engineers/Diploma Holders

482. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of engineers and diploma holders growing day by day and they are now searching jobs in various fields;

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

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to offer various departmental small contract/project works to unemployed educated engineers/Diploma holders so that these Youth can start their own business and earn enough money; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Execution of MPLAD Scheme

483. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the execution of MPLAD Scheme are always delayed;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is because of unnecessary lengthy official procedure, which creates too much of complicacies in the process of implementation;
- (d) if so, whether Government would consider to further simplify the procedure; and
- (e) whether Government would consider the release of funds in one single instalment instead of double instalment?

Arrangements for Commonwealth Games

484. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have reviewed the arrangements in connection with Commonwealth Games 2010; if so, with what results;
- (b) whether it is a fact that distractions near the Games Village including railway track and Akshardham Temple, traffic bottlenecks and venues being located far away from city's airports are some of the problems; and
- (c) the steps contemplated to address the situation?

Revision of National Sports Policy

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

- (a) whether the performance of the Indian contingent during the last Olympic Games was not impressive;
- (b) if so, whether in the backdrop of such poor performance and in the context of India hosting the forthcoming

Commonwealth Games, Government are considering to revise the National Sports Policy; and

- (c) if so, the details in this regard?

Facilities for sports in Himachal Pradesh

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

- (a) the details of proposals received from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for sports during the current financial year and the amount released for providing new infrastructural facilities;
- (b) whether Government have any proposal to amend the current system of providing financial assistance to the said State for improving or maintenance of facilities regarding sports; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the current status thereof?

Facilities required for Commonwealth Games

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

- (a) whether a fresh review has been undertaken to assess the progress made in creating/upgrading the various projects/facilities required for holding the prestigious 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the results thereof and efforts being made to complete the proposed works on time, project-wise;
- (c) whether assigned team of experts for venue appraisal, has made certain suggestions concerning the Games Village site and other venues for the Games; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and the action taken/proposed to be taken to alter

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the venue(s) and/or improve the environs of the sites?

Allocation of funds to various States

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

(a) whether Government extend grants for construction of sports complexes, indoor stadium, swimming pools, etc., to States;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with grants released for such projects to various States during the last three years, Year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the request of Government of Karnataka for construction of the sports complexes, indoor stadium, swimming pools, etc. in various parts of the State is pending consideration of the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the present status of the proposal?

NEW DELHI;
The 22nd July, 2005

Asadha 31, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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