

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the November 28, 2002/Agrahayana 7, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

Amount released under PMRY

886. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount allocated and released by Government during the last two years under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), State-wise;

(b) the mechanism to monitor operation of the programme;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from the States regarding this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Development of Agro and Rural Industries

887. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of agro and rural industries in the country;

(b) whether there exists a lot of potential to develop agro and rural industries in the country; and

(c) if so, the schemes for development of these industries in view of the existing potential?

Corruption in PMRY

888. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are number of fraud companies operating in the Capital which claim that they can get loans under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is open corruption under this scheme and that the officers connected to the same scheme are bribed by such companies for loan allotment;

(c) whether Government intend to unearth this racket and clean the Rozgar Yojana to help deserving unemployed candidates; and

(d) if so, by when Government intend to make their first move in this regard?

Sanction of arrears for Centrally-sponsored Schemes

889. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala State Agriculture and Coir Minister has written a letter to Government requesting sanction of the arrears of the rebate amounting to Rs. 11.26 crores as one time settlement which the State Government had spent on account of the 50 per cent Centrally-sponsored scheme of payment of 20 per cent rebate on sale of coir yarn and products for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

Amendments in Atomic Energy Act, 1962

890. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring amendments in Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to allow the State Governments and other institutions to participate in Government-owned Nuclear Power Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have fixed any target to produce nuclear power by 2020; and

(e) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to achieve the target?

Use of advance fuels

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department is thinking of using advance fuels like Nitride and Mettalic for the breader reactors;

(b) if so, the reasons for using advance fuels when the mixed oxide is a prevalent fuel world over; and

(c) the power generated through atomic power stations in the country during the last five years, year-wise?

Development of ceramic matrix

892. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are funding a project under which the work is being done by a nuclear scientist to develop a ceramic matrix that would contain and mobilize test of high level nuclear waste;

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

(c) by when it is likely to be completed?

Leakage of radioactive substances

†893. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that several incidents of leakage of the most sensitive radioactive substances of atomic plants have taken place in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the construction and maintenance of atomic plants is so poor that the incidents like Chernobil are feared any time;

(d) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme to improve maintenance and safety of the plants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Privatisation of mining of
mineral Sand**

894. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the decision of the Kerala Government to privatise mining of mineral sand containing Monosite adversely affects internal security of the country;

(b) whether privatisation badly affects public sector companies such as IRE, KMMML, TTP in Kerala;

(c) whether IRE-Chavara is associated with companies to form joint venture firm for making same product and what is the role of IRE in such association;

(d) whether any private or joint venture company in Kerala produce value added products; and

(e) whether the State Government has sought permission for mining under private sector at any time; if so, the details thereof?

**Training and familiarisation
programme for officials/doctors**

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

(a) whether Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has instructed the atomic power stations to hold training and familiarisation programmes for district officials and doctors of Primary Health Centres;

(b) if so, the number of such training and familiarisation programmes organised by various atomic power stations, so far, plant-wise;

(c) how far the Off-Site Emergency Exercises (OSEE) conducted recently by certain power stations could fulfil its objectives; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to impress upon the district administration the importance of good coordination among various agencies during any emergency or disaster?

Telecommunication facilities in NER

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

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Action Plan to provide telecommunication facilities in all the villages of NER;

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

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Illegal telephone exchanges

897. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an illegal telephone exchange using satellite technology has been found in Mumbai as per the press reports of the Lokmat dated the 24th October and that a foreign national of Israel origin has also been identified for this crime and Interpol has been requested to track down this Israeli national; and

(b) if so, what measures Government have adopted to avoid recurrence of such incidents all over the country?

Mobile postmen

898. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI PARMESHWAR
KUMAR AGARWALLA:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT
RAO:

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

(a) whether Government are considering to have mobile postmen to connect rural India;

(b) if so, whether any concrete programme has been worked out in this regard;

(c) whether the move is to revamp the postal department and increase tele-density in the country;

(d) if so, whether under the proposal, postmen in the rural and semi-urban areas would double up;

(e) whether they would carry WLL phones, enabling people to make as well as receive calls on nominal charges;

(f) if so, the details of the proposed steps taken in this regard; and

(g) whether postmen would be paid special allowance for handling mobile telephones?

Telephone exchange in Aligarh

†899. SHRI B. P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set up a new Telephone Exchange at Nangla Birkhu, Tehsil Iglas, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) in January, 2002;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the machine costing lacs of rupees is lying defunct and the telephone connections released by this exchange are out of order resulting into the loss of lacs of rupees to Government; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to run this telephone exchange smoothly?

Shortage of manpower in Department of Posts

900. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of staff in the Department of Posts throughout the country;

(b) if so, the the number of vacancies in each State, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether any selection or recruitment programme was made for this department on National or State level; and

(d) if so, when the last recruitment was made for the same in each State?

Opening of new Post Office in Ghaziabad

901. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that no Post Office exists in Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh to cater the needs of thousands of people living in that area;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to mitigate problems of the people;

(c) whether Government have received any representation in this regard and the action taken thereon; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) by when Government propose to open a Post Office in Pratap Vihar?

Recognition of unions in Department of Posts

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

(a) whether Government have a policy of recognising unions under the Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of unions and the basis of such recognition; and

(d) the facilities accorded to the unrecognised unions?

Complaint against District Managers of Sanchar Nigam, Lucknow

†903. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received serious complaints against some of the District Managers of Sanchar Nigam, Lucknow area who were receiving house rent for a long period while suppressing the fact that they were staying in Government Telephone Exchange building;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said officers have been found guilty in the vigilance inquiry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action to be taken by Government against such corrupt officers; if not, the reasons therefor?

Call tariff of fixed telephones

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

(a) whether it is a fact that while in the case of mobile phones, the call tariff are inversely proportional to the number of calls, *i.e.* more the calls, lesser the tariff which is an internationally accepted commercial prudence;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as against the above norms, the call tariff of fixed telephone lines increases directly in proportion to the number of calls, *i.e.* more the calls, higher the tariff;

(c) whether Government are considering to reverse tariff in respect of the fixed telephones in the manner adopted for mobile phones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

E-mail/internet/computer facilities in rural post offices of Andhra Pradesh

905. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether e-mail, internet and computer facilities have been made available in rural post offices of Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) if answer to part (a) be in the negative, what efforts are being made by Government to provide these facilities in rural post offices of the State?

Computerised post offices in Andhra Pradesh

906. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the number of Head Post Offices and other Post Offices which have been computerised in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the head post offices and other post offices which would be computerised during the current financial year in the State; and

(c) by when all the post offices in the State are proposed to be computerised?

Upgradation in Jangla telephone exchange

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

(a) whether it is a fact that two machines of 256 line exchange have been installed in Jangla telephone exchange in district Shimla, Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether keeping in view the rising number of consumers, Government propose to install machine of 512 line exchange instead of one machine of 256 lines;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

MoU between India and Italy

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Italy have signed a Memorandum of Understanding; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Hackers of website

909. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether website is a private "property";

(b) if so, how Government propose to deal effectively with a trespasser indulging in hacking and those who download programmes unauthorisedly; and

(c) whether any prosecution has been made, so far?

Out of order VPTs in Chhattisgarh

†910. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in June, 2002 more than 2100 telephones in village panchayats in Chhattisgarh were out of order which constitutes one third of the number of telephones;

(b) the number of telephones out of order as on date in Chhattisgarh;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the defective telephones are functioning on old MARR technology;

(d) the number of defective telephones planned to be converted into new technology during the current financial year; and

(e) the number of village panchayats in Chhattisgarh where telephone facility is yet to be provided and by when the same is likely to be provided?

Exodus of technical workers to industrialised countries

†911. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that highly technical Indian workers are departing for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

industrialised countries to fulfil the need of skilled workers in the field of Information and Communications technology;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several posts are lying vacant in information technology sector in the country; and

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

IT Parks in Karnataka

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up two more Information Technology Parks in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has sent any proposal in this regard; and

(c) whether there is another proposal from the State Government seeking approval to set up Information Technology Parks in all districts in the State?

Setting up of IT Centres

913. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Information Technology Centres set up/proposed to be set up in the country, location-wise and State-wise;

(b) the grant-in-aid provided to each technology centre by the Central Government; and

(c) the details of the financial assistance given to each IT Project which have been approved by the Empowered Committee on critical Infrastructure Balance scheme run by the Department of Commerce, State-wise?

Waiting list for telephone connections in U.P.

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

(a) the details of the waiting list for telephone connections in the districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) since when the cases pertaining to providing telephone connections to the wait listed persons are pending and by when, it is likely to be cleared;

(c) whether any new modern telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up in the State during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

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

New schemes of Postal Department

915. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) what are the new schemes proposed to be introduced by the Postal Department where the tariff would be below the cost of service, as reported in the Indian Express dated the 28th August, 2002;

(b) what are the new incentives in saving bank schemes; and

(c) whether senior citizens are likely to be benefited by the new services especially under the fixed deposit monthly income schemes, if so, the details thereof?

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

916. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering merger of BSNL and MTNL;

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

(c) what benefits are expected to Government and consumers therefrom; and

(d) by when a final decision would be taken in the matter?

Teledensity in the country

917. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the survey conducted by the ICICI Securities, teledensity in the country would be doubled by 2007;

(b) if so, what is the present teledensity and the number of connections in the country; and

(c) what is the commensurate revenue that would be generated with the above increase?

Slowdown in Software exports

918. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a slow down in the growth of software exports resulting in excess supply of fresh infotech engineers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the yearly supply of fresh infotech engineers from Government recognised colleges and the expected absorption of these engineers in the domestic industry as well as abroad?

Collection of money under USF

919. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) the money collected during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 on the basis of the Universal Service Fund (USF); and

(b) the purpose for which that money is being utilised?

Money Order commission on disbursement of Old Age Pension

920. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the State Governments have to bear the burden of Money Order commission amounting to crores of rupees on disbursement of National Old Age Pension under the Rural Development Ministry's National Social Assistance Programme;

(b) if so, whether the Kerala Government has requested the Postal Services Board to exempt the National Old Age Pension from payment of Money Order commission as has been done in case of the defence service

personnel who are exempted from paying the Money Order commission; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Production of edible oils

921. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is producing the required quantity of edible oils;

(b) if so, the requirement, production and consumption of edible oils during the last three years, State-wise particularly in Gujarat;

(c) the quantity of edible oils imported during the said period; and

(d) the percentage of population in the country consuming indigenous edible oils, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat?

Export of poor quality of rice

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

(a) whether it is a fact that between January and September 2002, traders have exported four lakh tonnes of poor quality rice even though contracts specified higher quality and pocketed the difference;

(b) whether FCI allows exporters to pick up extra rice to improve consignment quality and whether exporters misused contracts specifying 5 per cent broken to buy more subsidised rice from Government and sell it off in the domestic market at a hefty premium; and

(c) whether Government would consider banning and sale of subsidised rice in the local market and also refuse to sell extra rice for quality upgradation by exporters?

Surplus foodgrains with FCI

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

(a) the details of the surplus stock of foodgrains lying in FCI warehouses in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have taken any measures to make fresh procurement of foodgrains and its proper storage;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the quantum of foodgrains exported during the last two years?

Enforcement of quality regulations on unsafe foreign goods

924. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Education and Research Centre has urged the Central Government to enforce stringent quality regulations on sub-standard, unsafe foreign consumer products;

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

(c) whether several foreign companies are still dumping their sub-standard products in the Indian markets; and

(d) if so, the concrete plans formulated to check entry of such foreign inferior quality products?

Impacts of plastic packing of foodgrains

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have conducted any research study on the effects of plastic as a packaging material for foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether the study also included packaging of foodgrains and any poisoning effect in plastic sacks for long durations under different climatic and weather conditions;

(c) what was the in depth analysis of any such study conducted by Government; and

(d) whether Government openly state that there would be no poisoning of foodgrains due to plastic without conducting such a study?

Additional storage facilities during Tenth Plan

926. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the storage capacity created by Government in every State during the Ninth Plan;

(b) whether the storage facilities available in some of the States and particularly in Orissa are not adequate; and

(c) if so, the proposal mooted by Government to create additional storage facilities during the Tenth Plan?

Poor quality of foodgrains for PDS

927. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any complaint received recently regarding allocation of poor quality of foodgrains, under various schemes of PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken in this regard?

BPL families

928. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BPL families and the percentage thereof all over the country;

(b) the number of times the rates of ration materials have been increased since 1st January, 2001;

(c) the present stock of foodgrains in the Central godowns; and

(d) the reasons for increasing the price-rate of ration?

Godowns in Himachal Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Himachal Pradesh for opening of separate godowns in Lahaul Spiti, Kalpa and other far flung snow bound areas in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken/
propose to take in the matter?

**Shifting of responsibility of storage of
foodgrains**

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

(a) whether Government intend to shift
the responsibility of storage of foodgrains
to the State Governments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to
share the financial burden involved in
storage of foodgrains by the State
Governments for distribution through PDS;
and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Awareness of consumer rights

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

(a) whether Government are aware that
the vast majority of the people are woefully
ignorant of the existence of the Consumer
Protection Act, 1986 which protects their
rights and interest;

(b) whether Government have taken any
steps to educate the public in the matter so
as to make them aware of their rights and
privileges;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken in this
regard for safeguarding interests of the
consumers?

Movement of foodgrains

932. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUK-
KARASU: Will the Minister of
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to
state:

(a) whether Government propose to
remove restrictions on movement of
foodgrains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to
wind-up functioning of the Food
Corporation of India; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Principal Distribution Centres
in Himachal Pradesh**

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

(a) whether Government have received
any proposal for opening of new Principal
Distribution Centres in far flung and snow
bound areas of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by
Government in this regard?

Sugar decontrol time-table

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

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

(a) whether his Ministry has no plans to
delay sugar decontrol time-table, scheduled
for post operationalisation of future trading
in sugar in 2002-2003;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry's decision to switch to a quarterly release of freesale quota, once again, after adopting monthly release during July-September;

(c) whether his Ministry also expects sugar production to fall by 15-20 lakh tonnes due to drought; and

(d) if so, what are the steps being considered in this regard?

Implementation of Abhijit Sen Panel's Recommendations

935. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1662 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 2002 and state :

(a) whether Government have since examined the suggestions of Sen Panel in its report on efficient food management on a long-term grain policy; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

Purchase of rice by FCI

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

(a) the target fixed by the Food Corporation of India for purchasing rice this year and the actual procurement level; and

(b) the details of the action taken to construct new godowns at all procurement points to save rotting of paddy and purchase all available stocks?

Expenditure on buffer stocking of foodgrains

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government spends more on buffer stocking of foodgrains annually than its entire plan and non-plan outlay on agriculture, rural development, irrigation and flood control; and

(b) the action proposed to improve upon the inefficient food management system?

Exclusion of needy population from PDS

938. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is huge number of wrong exclusion of needy population from PDS due to the targeted Public Distribution System in many States;

(b) if so, whether Government have noticed this problem;

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to guide the State Governments to resolve this problem;

(d) whether Government have any plans to expand the coverage of the PDS by increasing the allocation of food items to selected States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Sale of foodgrains meant for poor

939. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of

the reports captioned, "Grains meant for poor sold for profit", appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 19th June, 2002; if so, the details of the scam;

(b) the details of the *modus-operandi* of the accused in selling away the food meant for distribution among the poor under the Antyodaya Anna Yojna; and

(c) the details of the food sold away in black in the open market and whether any help, involvement of connivance of Government officials was also detected in this racket; if so, the details thereof with action taken in the matter?

Black-marketing of foodgrains meant for PDS

940. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey/study/assessment of the quantity of foodgrains and other items finding way to the black-market from the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government to plug such losses from the Public Distribution System?

Refusal to lift poor quality Punjab rice

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

(a) whether Government are aware that Andhra Pradesh Government has refused to lift the consignment of five lakh tonnes of Punjab rice sanctioned for its food for work programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Central Government had received any request from the Punjab Government to revise its procurement norms when the FCI refused to lift 'Poor quality' paddy stock from the State two years ago; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

Food insecurity and malnutrition in urban India

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

(a) whether Government have made a detailed examination of the recently released "Food Insecurity Atlas of Urban India" brought out jointly by the U.N. World Food Programme and the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation highlighting *inter-alia* the very high level of food insecurity and malnutrition prevalent in urban India; and

(b) if so, the details of the major observations/recommendations contained in the Atlas and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon especially the time bound steps initiated, if any, to combat the high rates of malnutrition, particularly amongst the children, in different parts of the country?

Construction of food storage depots in Gujarat

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

(a) whether Government propose to construct food storage depots in Gujarat particularly, in Saurashtra-Kutch region and North Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pilferage and manipulations in PDS network in Gujarat

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

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding the pilferage and manipulations in the Public Distribution System network in Gujarat during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to redress the complaints?

Revamping of the existing PDS

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to revamp the existing Public Distribution System to ensure fair distribution of food supplies to the targeted consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially the pattern of monitoring mechanism outlined for effective functioning of the PDS;

(c) whether it is a fact that some new programmes for consumers have been drawn up for implementation through the "Welfare Councils" to make the consumers aware of their rights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with their present status?

PM's participation in next SAARC summit

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

(a) whether Hon'ble Prime Minister would be going to Pakistan to participate in SAARC summit early next year;

(b) if so, what pre-emptive diplomatic steps are being taken to desist Pakistan for raking up the Kashmir issue;

(c) whether the question of gas pipeline through Pakistan for supply of Iranian gas to India is proposed to be raised in the meeting; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pakistan's help to North Korea

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is helping North Korea in its nuclear weaponry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken at diplomatic levels to dissuade Pakistan in the matter of supply of nuclear weapons to North Korea?

America's clean chit to Pak in Akshardham Temple attack

†948. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America has described the incident of Akshardham as heinous;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that America which is known for its quick shifts in stand, has given a clean chit to Pakistan and has refuted the charges of involvement of Pakistan in the terrorist attack on Akshardham Temple;

(c) whether it is due to the double policy of America; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Richard Armitage's statement
regarding Indo-Pak tension**

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

(a) whether the US Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, during his recent visit to India and Pakistan, observed that there was a decline in Indo-Pak tension, when at least 10 civilians were killed and over 19 children were injured in terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir, the same day and terrorist killings had increased; and

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

**Impact of American pressure on
Pakistani terrorist activities**

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

(a) whether, in a recent public statement, the Prime Minister is reported to have said that the American pressure on Pakistan to control and stop terrorist activities against India was not working any more;

(b) if so, the context in which it was made;

(c) whether the same view-point was officially conveyed to President Bush during the Prime Minister's visit to the States in mid-September;

(d) if so, U.S. Government's reaction thereto and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what alternative policy Government propose to pursue to eliminate the cross-border terrorism?

**Extradition of criminals hiding in
Pakistan**

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

(a) whether Government have handed over two separate lists of criminals charged with terrorist activities, who are hiding in Pakistan with the request that they may be extradited to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their numbers and names etc.;

(c) whether Pakistan has started complying with our request;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what further action has been/is proposed to be taken in this regard?

Totalisation agreement with USA

952. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the USA are going to enter into "Totalisation Agreement" in order to benefit software and other professionals of India working in US on a short-term contract;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed agreement; and

(c) by when the agreement is going to be signed by India and the USA?

**Denial of permission to cover Pak
parliamentary election**

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

(a) whether Indian media persons were

denied permission to cover parliamentary election by the Pakistan Government;

(b) the number of Indian scribes who had sought permission; and

(c) the reasons for which they were denied permission?

Assistance to Afghanistan

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

(a) the number of air buses, aircrafts India has gifted to Afghanistan, recently;

(b) the number of passenger buses that India has given to that country; and

(c) the details of the other assistance provided by India to Afghanistan?

North Korean help to Pakistan

955. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has been clandestinely helped by North Korea in its nuclear programme;

(b) whether India brought this matter to the notice of the USA; and

(c) what steps have been taken to declare Pakistan as terrorist State?

Augmentation of Guwahati passport office

956. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken and achievement

made towards augmentation of only passport office of seven North Eastern States at Guwahati including construction of own building and hiring of new premises till those come up;

(b) whether Government would consider pursuing a consulate office of Thailand at Guwahati to facilitate passengers of NER to avail the International flight from Guwahati comfortably; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Permanent membership of Security Council

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

(a) the permanent members of the UN Security Council who have supported the candidature of India for its permanent membership and the countries who have not expressed their opinion in this regard;

(b) whether India has approached these countries for their support; and

(c) if so, their reaction in this regard?

Pakistani involvement in Gandhinagar temple attack

958. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether involvement of a Pakistan supported outfit in the recent attack in the Swamynarayan Temple in Gandhinagar has been apprised to all foreign countries to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

ensure that terrorists do not ultimately triumph; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken to propagate the Pakistani involvement therein; and

(c) the foreign countries' reactions especially to eradicate all terrorist training camps run in PoK and Pakistan?

America's attitude on Kashmir issue

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in Rashtriya Sahara on the 31st July, 2002 under the caption, "America ne Bharat ki aapatti thukrayee, Kashmir anterrashtriya mudda, kai desh suljhane mein ruchi lenge";

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

(c) whether Government are of the view that America will support India overlooking their interests in Pakistan; and

(d) if not, whether Government would review its foreign policy?

American ambassador's views on investment

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Bharat mein videshi nivesh ke liye mahol anukool nahin", published in the Punjab Kesari, Delhi edition, dated the 30th October, 2002;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that these views have been expressed by America's ambassador to India;

(c) if so, whether Government have got this confirmed from the American Embassy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Rail links between India and Nepal

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

(a) whether India and Nepal have agreed to establish rail links;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the rail links are likely to be established between the two countries?

Non-cooperation by Indian Mission in deportation of Abu Salem

962. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Mission in Lisbon did not extend co-operation to the visiting CBI team for deportation of underworld don held up in Portugal prison;

(b) whether efforts were also made during Prime Minister's visit to Europe, early last month, for extradition of the underworld fugitive wanted in India for criminal charges; and

(c) what other attempts have been made at the diplomatic front in this regard?

Exchanging crucial information with USA

963. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Foreign Ministers' Dhaka visit

964. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the SAARC Minister's meet in Kathmadnu he visited Dhaka (Bangladesh)

(b) if so, the issues discussed for cementing ties with Bangladesh and the agreements reached as a result thereof, especially those for improving trade ties, and rail and road transport between the two countries;

(c) whether both the countries have also decided to reactivate all the committees and task forces including Joint Working Group to give a boost to bilateral relations;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Talks with Pakistan

965. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Indian stand on the next year's SAARC Summit;

(b) the India's position about holding talks with Pakistan on cross-border terrorism;

(c) whether Government have planning to hold talks in the future before the SAARC Summit with Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

Economic relations with Russia

966. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps, if any, taken in the recent past to deepen economic relationship with Russia, particularly in the oil, gas and defence sectors; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating any concrete initiatives to encourage increased interaction between business and political leaders of the two countries?

Progress in economic cooperation within SAARC framework

967. SHRI V.V. RAGHAWAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress in economic cooperation with the SAARC framework has not been satisfactory for sometimes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's attitude to the forthcoming summit in Islamabad?

Conversion of LOC into international border

†968. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is trying to convert LOC into international border;

(b) whether the Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has sent any proposal for recognising the Line of Control as the permanent border between India and Pakistan on the northern sector; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Fear of attacks on Sikhs

969. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Sikh killed in US, revives fear of more hate attacks" published in the Hindustan Times dated 7th August, 2002;

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

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the U.S. Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure the safety of the Indian community (Sikhs) in US?

Criticism of the Second Labour Commission

970. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Delhi has criticised recommendations of the Second Labour Commission and the draft legislation;

(b) if so, whether Second Labour Commission's report is anti-poor, anti-labour and against the spirit of the Construction;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to seek views of the various State Governments before implementation of the report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Indian Labour Conference

971. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Labour Conference was held at New Delhi in the month of September, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the delegates participated in the conference and the points discussed therein;

(c) the outcome of the discussions held in the conference;

(d) whether Government have taken any further action on the points discussed in the conference; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Labour enforcement machinery in KBK districts of Orissa

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

(a) whether Government have a proposal for strengthening of the labour enforcement machinery in KBK districts in Orissa; and

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

Norms for setting up of ESI hospitals/ dispensaries

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

(a) the norms prescribed by Government to set up ESI hospitals/dispensaries in the country;

(b) the number of ESI hospitals/dispensaries set up by Government in each State and location thereof;

(c) whether the proposals to expand health care facilities through ESI in some States are under Government's consideration; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon particularly to set up additional ESI hospitals and dispensaries in Orissa?

Setting up of model hospitals under ESI

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up model hospitals in each State under the Employees State Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof the likely revenue implication and the time schedule for establishing the proposed hospitals;

(c) whether Government would consider establishing more than one model hospital under the scheme in the States with higher population density and size; and

(d) if not, the reaction therefor?

E.P.F. contribution

975. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many companies particularly small and medium include their EPF contribution in the salary of employees thus forcing the employees to make contribution on behalf of the company;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which have come to light and the action taken against the companies;

(c) whether Government would issue press release for awareness of the employees and general public; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Extension of age limit under the Child Labour Act

976. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain States like Andhra Pradesh desire to extend the age limit under the Child Labour Act to enable the child to get at least education upto SSC under compulsory education system; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for elimination of child labour and to educate them?

Contradiction in Labour Commission Report

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Report of the Labour Commission is quite contradictory;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while the analysis of Labour Commission are quite right but the recommendations made by the Commission are not based on the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Cess on employers of unorganised sector

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to impose cess on the employers of the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether it is also a fact that Government wish to make provisions of dearness allowance for the workers of the Private Sector as well; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, by when a bill containing the issues favouring the labourers would be brought forward?

Cut off Limit of workers to close down industrial units

979. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN "DURRU": Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Second National Commission on Labour has rejected Government's proposal for raising the cut off limit of 300 workers to 1000 workers for an industrial unit to close down without prior permission of Government and recommended restoration of the original limit of 300 workers;

(b) if so, whether the Second National Commission on Labour the also recommended raising the compensation to retrenched, besides making other recommendations for the affected workers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) government's reaction thereto?

Tripartite talks on recommendation of National Labour Commission

980. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBIL:
SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVIUK-KARASU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would hold tripartite talks on recommendations made by the National Labour Commission, recently; and

(b) if so, what are the norms Government would prescribe for inviting the labour unions for talks?

Pending cases of EPF and Pension accounts

981. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases are pending for settlement of EPF and pension accounts all over the country;

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

(c) the reasons for pendency of such large number of cases;

(d) whether Government have formulated a plan to reorganise EPF organisation all over the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken for inclusion of unorganised labour in EPFO?

Development of Model ESI hospitals

982. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees state Insurance Corporation has taken over State-run ESI Hospitals in Hyderabad and Jaipur for conversion into model hospitals;

(b) if so, whether some other such hospitals are also proposed to be taken over; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Job Shedding in manufacturing, mining and agricultural sector

983. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that between 1996 to 2000 more than 3.6 lakhs jobs have been shedded in manufacturing, mining and agricultural sectors; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**a social security requirements
fundamental Right**

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

(a) whether the Second National Commission on labour has recommended that social security requirements of the workers be made a fundamental right under the constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons addressed by the Commission in favour of the proposal; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Non-payment of bonus to tea garden labourers

985 SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for non-intervention when most of the tea garden labourers of Assam were debarred from getting 20 percent bonus this year; and

(b) the reasons for not taking proper steps to improve the conditions of tea garden workers in Assam?

Changes in Minimum Wages Act

986 SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering changes in the Minimum Wages Act, to safeguard interest of the workers in the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the observations made in the report of the Second national Commission on Labour would be taken into consideration; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that workers of unorganised sector would get the stipulated minimum wages?

Rate of interest on P.F.

987 SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to enhance the rate of interest on Provident Fund accumulation for the year 2002-2003 to 10.5 percent per year as against the 9.5 percent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Employment opportunities

†988 SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new employment opportunities created in Government Services, organised industries, small scale industries and unorganised sector separately during the last three years; and

(b) the number of permanent casual and contract labourers out of these respectively?

Modernization of EPF

†989 SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Trustees of the Employees Provident Fund has sanctioned a comprehensive plan for information-technology-based modernisation of the Employees Provident Fund so that employees may settle their claims in any office of the Employees Provident Fund in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said plan is likely to be completed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Children in hazardous occupations

990 SHRI NANDI YALLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the occupations and industrial processes listed as hazardous for employment of children;

(b) the number of children below the age of 14 engaged therein, in various States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the number and names of employers prosecuted in Andhra Pradesh under Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act; and

(d) the number of Child Labour rehabilitated in Andhra Pradesh under various rehabilitation schemes of the Centre including the scheme of National child labour projects?

Construction of superspeciality hospitals under ESI scheme

991 SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 261 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 2002 and state:

(a) The State at which the construction of ESI super Speciality hospital at Arraman (Kollam) in Kerala is at present;

(b) the reasons for the delay in commencement of construction of the ESI Super speciality hospital;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce any changes in the super speciality position of the hospital; and

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

Safety/protection of P.F. money

992 SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "Many P. Fs limit towards debt trap", which appeared in the Times of India dated 8th October, 2002;

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

(c) the corrective and preventive steps proposed to be taken in this regard for safety and protection of the Provident Fund money of the employees?

New employment opportunities

†993 SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 million new employment opportunities are targeted to be created during the 10th Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified those areas where these opportunities are to be created; and

(c) if so, the details of those areas and the number of employment opportunities that would be created in each area?

Expansion of employment in unorganised sector

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an expansion of employment in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

unorganized sector in the country after economic globalization and subsequent trade liberalization;

(b) if so, the details of those unorganized sector where this phenomenon exists and the number of people affected by it, figures for the last three years, State-wise and sector-wise; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure the occupational health and safety and other social security measures of the people in these sectors?

Protection of workers rights

995 SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite endorsing Government's stand on liberalization of labour laws, the Second National Commission on Labour has put conditions on easier retrenchment, closure of establishments, the hire and fire policy and engaging of contract labour; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect rights of all workers?

Status of domestic workers

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

(a) whether Government have decided to frame a law to safeguard the rights of the domestic workers and to accord them the status of workmen;

(b) if so, by when a Legislation in the matter is likely to be brought before Parliament; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Trade Unions opposition to the report of Second Labour Commission

997 PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AITUC has conveyed to Government its opposition to the report of the Second Labour Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the report;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the report is not only lopsided but also totally ignorant of interests of the working class; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Payment of minimum wages

998 PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently written to all the States to ensure that no worker is paid lesser than Rs. 50 per day;

(b) if so, whether Government are monitoring its implementation; and

(c) the wage required to be paid to the workers under the Minimum Wages Act?

Setting up of efficiency Development Fund for unorganised sector

†999. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up an Efficiency Development Fund (EDF) to increase efficiency of the employees of the unorganized sector; and

(b) if so, the provisions made to set up the development fund by Government alongwith the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pending Labour disputes

† 1000. SHRI MOTILA VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labour disputes pending or under consideration in labour courts in the country, particularly in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the main reasons for a large number of pending labour dispute is due to inadequate number of Industrial tribunals and Labour Courts;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would give instructions to the labour courts to settle cases within a stipulated time?

Employment of retired Government Officials in Regulatory Authorities

1001. SHRI : Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Regulatory Authorities, created by Government, are manned by retired Government officials;

(b) the details of Regulatory Authorities and the retired Government officials employed with them;

(c) whether it is also a fact that employment of retired Government officials on these Regulatory Authorities, which are expected to be independent, makes them merely an arm of Government; and

(d) the details of the mechanism provided or internal stipulation made, while appointing retired Government officials to these Authorities, to ensure objectively in deliberations of the Authority to lend credibility to their recommendations?

Right to Information Bill

† 1002. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had brought a Bill in the recent past in the Parliament with regard to provide right to information to the common man of the country;

(b) if so, when this Bill was presented in the House; and

(c) the reasons for delay in materialising it into a law by passing it in the House and by when it is likely to take the shape of law?

Officers indiceted by CBI

† 1003. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of the officers, in the administrative service, found guilty in the raids conducted by the C.B.I. has been increasing during the last three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the officers suspended, being found guilty after the raids, have already been reinstated in Government service even before their acquittal from the courts; and

(c) if so, the number of such officers for the last three years?

Violation of rules by inquiry officer

1004. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1726 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 2002 and state the details of the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

action, if any, prescribed for dealing with the erring inquiry officers who violate the relevant existing instructions in this regard and do not stay the proceedings?

Non technical bureaucrats in technical departments

1005. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the various technical Ministries/Departments are headed by non-technical bureaucrats;

(b) if so, the details of all technical Ministries/Departments and their heads with the service/ cadre to which they belong;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there have been frequent changes of non-technical heads affecting the performance of departments;

(d) the postings and transfers of the heads of technical departments during the last three years and reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would consider to appoint only technical officers to head technical departments?

Objectives & achievement of NCP

1006. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the aims and objectives for which the National Common on Population was set up;

(b) what have been its achievements till date; and

(c) by when the National Population Policy is likely to be finalised and announced?

Creation of employment opportunities

1007. SHRI: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PM in his Independent Day speech assured of creating more employment opportunities;

(b) if so, whether Government how contemplated any specific strategy/scheme to generate more jobs; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

Growth rate during Tenth Five Year Plan

1008. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the newsitem captioned "why 8 percent growth target is not realistic" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 14th October, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that only the earlier three plans did realize the growth targets;

(c) whether it is also a fact that had all the plans achieved their targets, the national income would have been higher by ten lakh crores;

(d) if so, the reasons for not preparing a realistic plan target; and

(e) how Government propose to achieve 8 per cent growth rate target in the Tenth plan?

Central aid to States

†1009. SHRI MOTILA VORA: Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to provide central aid to the States

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for implementation of Development and Reform Facility Programmes;

(b) if so, the outlines of the said programme; and

(c) the amount given/proposed to be given by Government for this purpose, State-wise?

Growth rate for Tenth Five Year Plan

† 1010. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are apprehensions over the present role of the State Governments in achieving the annual growth rate of 8 per cent during Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether those States have been identified in which accomplishment of the above mentioned growth rate target is getting to be very difficult; if so, the names of such states?

Assessment of funds required for Tenth Five Year Plan

† 1011. SHRI RAVI RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the need of additional funds required for achieving the growth targets set up for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the contribution of the Central and the State Governments to these funds?

Funds allocated to Uttar Pradesh

† 1012. SHRI : Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated by the Government to the Government of Uttar Pradesh under various schemes alongwith the names of such schemes;

(b) whether the State Government has actually utilised the said funds;

(c) if so, the scheme-wise details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Economic package for Bihar

1013. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY : Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal or propose the Economic Package for development and growth of Bihar after its bifurcation;

(b) if so, whether it is likely to be announced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Transfer of Central Schemes to state for implementation

1014. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special sub-committee of the National Development Council has decided to transfer nine central

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

schemes to the State for implementation during the 10th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes;

(c) whether the Centre would monitor the schemes; and

(d) if so, the monitoring mechanism in this regard?

Highway tribunals to control National Highways

1015. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to set up highway administrations and tribunals to exercise better control over the National Highways and bring suitable legislation to Parliament;

(b) whether doubts have been expressed on the ability of such a structure to implement the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details of the case and the feasibility of its implementation?

Budget for road safety

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

(a) whether his Ministry has forwarded any proposal to the Ministry of Finance demanding increase in Budget for road safety etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is response of the Ministry of Finance in this regard?

Shimla-Chirgaon road

1017. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the Shimla-Chirgaon road as National Highways keeping in view of its importance because this whole region is hilly and rural and the above region is very important from the tourism point of view and also this region generates power and produces fruits and vegetables and thus fulfil all the norms set by Government;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to fulfil the pending demand of the people of that region during the year 2003-04; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Maintenance and improvement of National Highways in Assam

1018. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plan and progress made on repair, improvement, widening and strengthening of NHs in Assam during the current financial year and the sectoral outlays proposed for the 10th plan indicating against each road including four laning;

(b) the status of NH funds released during the last three years;

(c) the progress made in construction of approach road to Bogibeel bridge construction on either side of Brahmaputra in Assam with indication of alignments finalized both way; and

(d) the details of the steps taken and target set to fill the pits and potholes on NH 52 and NH 37 to make them fit for human?

National Highways status to State roads

1019. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) if so, the details thereof;

(b) the criteria adopted for reviewing the requests during the Tenth Plan period; and

(c) by when, sanction are likely to be accorded to the Highways of inter-state importance?

Incidents of robbery in Mumbai-Pune Expressway

1020. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a spate of incidents involving highways robbery/ambush on Mumbai-Pune Expressway;

(b) whether the expressway users pay Rs. 100/- per trip to use this stretch and if so whether adequate security surveillance measures are provided for by the NHAI on this important highway; and

(c) whether such measures have been included in the packages for Golden Quadrilateral and East-West and North-South Corridor projects?

National highways in NER

1021. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways in the North-Eastern Region as on the 31st October, 2002, District-wise; and

(b) the details of the Central Financial assistance for maintenance, widening and development of National Highways in the NER during the last three years?

Repair of damaged bridges in Asam

1022. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the bridges on the various National Highways in Assam damaged during the last three years;

(b) the details of bridges out of the about repaired during this period; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on maintenance and repair of these bridges?

Projects under Central Road Fund in Assam

1023. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the on going projects funded by the Central Road Fund in Assam as on the 31st March, 2002;

(b) the details of the estimated cost, funds released and utilized during the last three years till-date, project wise; and

(c) the details of the target dates fixed for completion of each project?

Releases from Central Road Fund

1024. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) the details of the funds released to the states from the Central Road Fund during the last two years, year-wise, for road projects;

(b) the States that have not sent utilisation certificates to enable further release of funds; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

Fourlaning of NH-77

† 1025. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for fourlaning of National Highway No. 77;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the agency which would undertake the work and by when?

Expansion of NHAI

† 1026. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to expand the National Highways Authority of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to make the Authority more accountable and efficient?

Roads in Uttar Pradesh

1027. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes and programmes which have been formulated during the Tenth Five Year Plan for development and expansion of roads in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether it is a fact that various Roads/ National Highways of U.P. are in deteriorating conditions; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

National Highways Development Project

1028. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that National Highway No.31 under the National Highway Development Project (NHDP), the East-West Corridors (Phase-II) whose targeted year of completion is 2007 (advanced from 2009) is witnessing worstever condition due to frequent flood havoc;
- (b) whether there is any immediate policy to rescue the State as well as the North-Eastern Region from this suffering which caused harm *to the economic development aspect als*; and
- (c) the special policy under NHDP to counter permanently the frequent devastating effects of flood in future?

Maintenance of National Highways in Gujarat

1029. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of loans and advances received from the World Bank/Asian Development Bank and other international financial institutions for constructing and maintenance/repair of National Highways/ Bridges in Gujarat during the last three years;
- (b) whether the loan amount was spent for those projects;
- (c) if not, whether such loans and advances have been spent for some other purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

Upgradation of roads into National Highways in Gujarat

1030. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has represented for upgradation of 2800 Kms. of roads into National Highways; and

(b) by when the proposals are going to be accepted by Government?

Funds to Uttar Pradesh Under PMRY

† 1031. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds released to Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana during the year 2001-2002; district-wise; and

(b) the details of the funds proposed to be released during the year 2002-2003?

Investment ceiling for bulk drugs

1032. DR. T. SUBBGARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to raise the SSI investment ceiling for 13 bulk drugs and drug intermediates from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crores;

(b) if so, the details of the other products in the list that are being considered;

(c) whether Government had recently dereserved five drug intermediates from SSI sector;

(d) if so, the 13 products for which the investment ceiling is going to be raised; and

(e) the what extent this would improve the country's export market in these products?

SSI in Rajasthan

1033. DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) the details and number of small-scale industries in Rajasthan;

(b) how many of them have been declared sick;

(c) the number of workers employed in these units; and

(d) the number of workers that have been rendered unemployed due to sickness/lockout in these units?

Demands of associations of SSIs

1034. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU:

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

(a) the details of the demands made by several associations/organisations pertaining to the Small Scale Industries during the last three years;

(b) the details of the demands accepted in principle by his Ministry; and

(c) the details of the actions taken or proposed to be taken to fulfil their demands?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development and Extension of SSIs

†1035. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a target has been fixed for development and extension of the small scale industries during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what would be the anticipated number of small scale industries functioning in the country at the end of the plan;

(c) the number of people likely to be provided with jobs in such industries; and

(d) the number of people employed in small scale industries at the beginning of the plan?

Employment in Small Scale Industries

†1036. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to generate employment opportunities and promote small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Employment generation Potential in SSIs

1037. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is enormous untapped potential for employment generation in the small scale

sector and efforts need to be made to strengthen its commercial viability, enhance its technologies base, improve quality and productivity, step up its marketing and make fresh investments in the sector; and

(b) if so, what is the action plan to achieve these objectives?

Launch of METSAT

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO has successfully launched METSAT in the second week of September, 2002; and

(b) the manner in which the meteorological services presently provided by INSAT would be improved with this launch?

Projects running behind the schedule

†1039. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of on going projects involving cost of over Rs. 100 crore is 275;

(b) if not, the exact number thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that their cost is increasing day by day;

(d) if so, the amount required for their completion at present and how much it exceeds the original cost anticipated earlier; and

(e) the amount spent there on upto March, 2002?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Fiscal incentives for central projects

1040. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased
to state:

(a) whether in a bid to speed up
implementation of the central projects with

an investment of Rs. 20 crores or more, his
Ministry is planning to introduce fiscal
incentives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has identified
any projects for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details of the projects and
the Ministries under whose purview they
fall?

NEW DELHI;
The 15th November, 2002
Kartika 24, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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