

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the April 29, 2005/Vaisakha 9, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 155

Increasing M.S.P. sphere

†3866. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to include Gwar, Coriander, Cumin seeds, Methi (Medicage) and Isabgol under the support price scheme; and

(b) if so, by when it will be announced?

Availability of fish in oceans

3867. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the availability of fish diminished in the Arabian and Indian Oceans after the Tsunami incident;

(b) if so, whether the Government conducted any study to ascertain the changes to the living organisms caused due to the underwater seismic disturbances; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Solving agriculture problems

†3868. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have paid attention towards the suggestions made by Nobel laureate Dr. Amartya Sen for solving the present agricultural problems for the development of agriculture;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that he has suggested for solving the agricultural problems by indicating towards credit, land reform, health, education etc.;

(c) if so, reaction of Government on the suggestions made by him; and

(d) whether any target based plan on the basis of the suggestions has been prepared; if not, the reasons therefor?

Pulses Technology Mission

3869. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of pulses in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

country each year, during the last three years, in comparison to their consumption;

(b) whether pulses are imported;

(c) if so, the quantity of pulses imported each year during the last three years and the value thereof;

(d) the work, so far, done by the Pulses Technology Mission to raise the production of pulses in the country and also to check its import;

(e) whether Government are satisfied with the performance of the Pulses Technology Mission; and

(f) if so, the other measures proposed to be taken to raise the production of pulses in the country?

Prices of agriculture produces

3870. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of agriculture products have been facing a downward trend particularly of cash crops during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken to improve the situation?

National Horticulture Mission

3871. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced to launch a National Horticulture Mission for development of horticulture in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to develop horticulture in Assam as well as North-Eastern Region?

Entry of private farm produce markets

3872. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a plan for facilitating the entry of private farm produce markets to link the farmer directly to the consumer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

Losses in fisheries and aquaculture due to Tsunami

3873. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates, the losses in fisheries and aquaculture are put at US\$ 520 million due to Tsunami;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how this has affected our ecosystem?

Cases against the Consumer Protection Act

†3874. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases thereof which have been settled'

(c) the steps being taken by Government for the protection of consumers; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the number of Non-Governmental Organisations, working in the field of consumer protection, failed to utilize the Governmental grants?

Calamity assistance to Kerala

3875. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government sought the natural calamity and drought relief assistance to sustain the croplessness and scarcity of drinking water due to the severe drought and if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many districts in that State are declared as drought affected areas and the details of calamity assistance sought therefor; and

(c) whether Government are considering to grant the assistance sought for and if so, the details thereof and whether Government would also consider to waive the interest of agriculture loans to drought affected areas?

Pulses cultivation in TN

3876. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project is being implemented for increasing area of cultivation of pulses in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made during 2004-05, district-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated by the Central Government for the project for 2005-06 and the manner in which it is proposed to be spent?

Oilseeds production in TN

3877. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance is being provided by the Central Government for increasing oil seeds production in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereon;

(c) whether all the districts of the State are covered under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Importing oil seeds

3878. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how far the recent statement by him for importing oilseeds, including genetically modified seeds with high oil content, will result in reducing the cooking oil shortage and reduction in high prices as domestic demand rises;

(b) whether such isolated solution like increasing import would be of any substantial benefit or whether it requires a reorientation in the agriculture policy which will give major thrust to crop rotation, removing present restrictions on movement of agricultural produce within the State only, and encouraging farmers easy access to advanced technologies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reducing agricultural subsidy

3879. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is pressure on Government from International Organisations such as World Bank and IMF to reduce agricultural subsidy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even developed nations like US provide agricultural subsidies;

(c) if so, the reasons for insisting that our country should cut down the farm subsidy; and

(d) the view taken by Government in the matter?

Agricultural production

3880. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of agricultural products in this current year in each of the States;

(b) the total value of the products for this year;

(c) whether the production is sufficient for the needs of the country; and

(d) what steps are being taken to increase the areas of cultivable land across the country for better yield?

Drought assistance to Maharashtra

3881. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of Maharashtra who have been hit by the

drought have not been paid enough compensation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the farmers are facing acute starvation;

(d) whether the State Government had sought relief from the Central Government; and

(e) if so, the response of the Central Government?

Setting up of maize Production industry in Khagaria and Bhagalpur

†3882. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to availability of foodgrains in the market in Khagaria and Bhagalpur districts, the maize producing farmers earn less profit in comparison to its cost;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a maize production industry and maize chips or maize flex factory in those areas;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Task Force for rural cooperative credit structure

3883. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any Task Force to study the existing rural cooperative credit system of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Task Force has made its recommendations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if not, whether any time frame has been fixed for giving its recommendations?

Suicide by farmers

†3884. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1866 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th March, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the special economic help, for the people of this class, announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister in the month of June-July, 2004, is only for the farmers of Andhra Pradesh or for the farmers of all the States; and

(b) if it is only for the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, the reasons for this discrimination?

Assistance to Karnataka for Live Stock Development

3885. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the centre had approved a cattle breed improvement project of Karnataka Live Stock Development Agency (KLDA) for 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) if so, the amount released by Government in those years;

(c) whether there is any balance amount to be paid to the State Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when it would be released?

Empowered Committee on Deep Sea Fishing

3886. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Empowered Committee on Deep Sea Fishing has been set up by Government;

(b) if so, the objectives of this Committee;

(c) whether fishing associations have been included in this Committee;

(d) if so, the details of its constitution; and

(e) any other relevant information about it?

Loss to fishing and other industries due to Tsunami

3887. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tsunami has crippled the fishing industry;

(b) if so, the extent of losses and the steps being taken to revive the industry; and

(c) the details of other industries affected by Tsunami?

New insurance schemes for farmers

3888. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to provide greater insurance coverage to farmers in the event of failure of their crops, Government have decided to come out with new scheme in place of existing ones;

(b) whether this new scheme will be based on recommendations made recently by the joint group formed by the Centre to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

review NAIS and suggested measures to improve insurance coverage of farmers;

(c) if so, from which date the scheme is likely to come into force; and

(d) whether this policy has been helpful to the farmers?

Production of apples

3889. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to substantially increase the production of apples in the country;

(b) if so, whether the areas identified for the purpose included the new areas proposed to be brought under apple cultivation and if so, the source and the quantum of funds required for the purpose; and

(c) the extent to which apple production is expected to increase, year-wise during the next three years?

Investment in agriculture sector

3890. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions made for raising the level of investment in the agriculture sector; and

(b) the details of allocation made for new schemes in rural areas as revenue expenditure and that as durable investment component?

Plantation and horticultural land damaged in A&N Islands

3891. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of plantation and horticultural land damaged or affected in Andaman and Nicobar Islands due to earthquake-cum-Tsunami on 26th December, 2004;

(b) the number of coconut trees and arecanut trees damaged there;

(c) whether there is any scheme formulated by Government to compensate the losses of coconut and arecanut trees sustained by the Islanders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Pricing of phosphoric acid

3892. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not yet started the process of negotiating the price of phosphoric acid, which is crucial for the DAP Supply;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, and by when it is likely to be settled; and

(c) if not, what are the details thereof?

Task Force on drug price control

3893. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
SHRI SU.
THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:

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

(a) whether Government have set up a separate task force to explore various

options other than price control to keep up life saving drugs affordable;

(b) if so, whether this task force was set up following the finalisation of trade margins by the Sandhu Committee set up earlier;

(c) if so, whether task force suggested to amend the target set under the Price Control Order, 1998 to cap trade margins of drugs which are not under the price control; and

(d) if so, by what time any legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced?

National Policy on Petrochemicals

3894. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Policy on Petrochemicals is under consideration of Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that through the proposed policy, Government are going to set up Plastic Development Council for modernization and upgradation of technology, to boost exports, recycling etc;

(c) whether Government would think of setting up of Plastic Technology Upgradation Fund on the lines of Technology Upgradation Fund for Textiles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

New drug policy norms

3895. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether a new drug pricing criteria has been recommended by a Government Committee, which in its interim report had suggested a lid on retail margins and stronger monitoring of drugs outside price control;

(b) if so, by what time this Committee is likely to submit its final report; and

(c) by what time Government is likely to announce the new drug policy norms?

Revival of Talcher fertilizer plant

†3896. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for revival of Talcher fertilizer plant of Fertilizer Corporation of India; if so, the outline thereof; and

(b) if not, whether Government are considering on handing over the said plant to private sector; if so, the details of the action-plan thereof?

Drug pricing policy

3897. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of various instances where drug companies are pricing their medicines very high, having no relevance to their intrinsic value;

(b) whether the matter has been investigated and if so, the outcome of the findings; and

(c) what efforts have been made by Government to ensure that medicines are reasonably priced for the general public and are of good quality?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Compensations to gas tragedy victims

†3898. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amount for compensation provided by Union Carbide for resettlement with regard to Bhopal Gas tragedy still remains with Government of India;

(b) if so, the purpose for which this amount has been reserved; and

(c) whether the said amount will be made available for the projects being implemented by M.P. Government for the benefit of gas victims?

Bio-fertilizer production

3899. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of Bio-fertilizers in the country, by PSUs/Private Companies as on 31/12/2004, State-wise;

(b) whether there is self-sufficiency in bio-fertilizers; and

(c) if not, the steps Government have taken/propose to take to augment the production of bio-fertilizers in the country, in view of the increase in demand for these products?

Sugarcane dues

†3900. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

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

(a) the outstanding amount paid to farmers, so far, by private sugar mills along with the amount yet to be paid by such sugar mills to the farmers; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to make the early payment of rest of the outstanding amount?

Assistance to sugar industry

3901. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that last year Central Government had earlier offered special assistance to sugar industry to help it out of the critical situation, manifest in accumulation of huge arrears of payments due to sugarcane growers in different States;

(b) if so, to which State such assistance was offered and to what extent; and

(c) whether such assistance was denied to principal sugar growing States, like Maharashtra, if so, the reasons therefor, indicating the contribution of Maharashtra and other States to the sugar production in the country?

Survey on impact of CPA

3902. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government have carried out any survey on the impact of the Consumer Protection Act on the consumer awareness and advocacy in the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government are satisfied with the results thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government are aware that the benefits of the Act have been considerably diluted for various reasons and if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Sugar prices

†3903. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the retail selling price of sugar in the country has risen considerably during the last few months;

(b) if so, the hike in prices during December, 2004 in comparison to the prices during March, 2004;

(c) average retail selling price of sugar in December, 2004; and

(d) the total storage of sugar in the country by the end of December, 2004?

Allocations to Karnataka

3904. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation of rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene to Karnataka from January, 2004 to the end of December, 2004;

(b) whether there is any demand from

Karnataka for the enhancement of quota of these foodgrains and kerosene;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps, if any, taken to increase the allocation?

Procurement and distribution of grains

3905. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

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

(a) whether State Food Ministers have agreed to undertake procurement and distribution of grains through their designated agencies and co-operatives as the Central Government agreed to render a package of incentives;

(b) if so, whether the package of incentives was proposed in the Conference of State Food Secretaries;

(c) the other decisions taken;

(d) to what extent this proposal has been helpful for States on procurement and distribution; and

(e) to what extent incentives have been provided to these States by the Centre?

Diversion of foodgrain meant for BPL families

†3906. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Department of Programme Evaluation under Planning Commission has found that 50 per cent of the foodgrains supplied for people below poverty line has been sold elsewhere during 2003-04;

(b) if so, the fact in this regard and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether steps have been taken by Government to plug the said loophole during 2004-05 and if so, the details thereof?

Introducing minimum retail price

3907. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would introduce the insertion of Minimum Retail Price instead of Maximum Retail Price on each product for sale in the market in the interest of customers;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would direct the big companies like Hindustan Lever Limited, etc., to avoid advertisement charges and stop issuing non-usable items on sale of their standard products thus reducing the cost of their products and benefiting the purchaser; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Food subsidy

†3908. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) the amount sanctioned as food subsidy to various States during the last three years; and

(b) the amount sanctioned and released under this scheme to Orissa and Himachal Pradesh during the last three years?

Surplus foodgrain stocks

3909. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the surplus stock of foodgrains available in the country at present, foodgrain-wise;

(b) the purpose for which the surplus stocks of foodgrains are proposed to be utilized by Government;

(c) the justifications for claiming surplus stock of foodgrains when millions of poor people in the country remain without proper food; and

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

Complaints in consumer courts

3910. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI NAND KISHORE
YADAV:

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

(a) the total number of complaints received by the consumer courts/consumer redressal fora all over the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed off each year during that period, State-wise, and by when remaining cases are likely to be disposed off;

(c) the number of cases settled in favour of the consumers, during that period, year-wise and State-wise; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government would make Consumer Protection Act more stringent to protect consumer's interest?

Import of edible oils

3911. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of import of edible oils during the last five years both in terms of quantity and value;

(b) the impact of these imports on the domestic production; and

(c) the recommendations of CACP on the oilseed prices *vis-a-vis* import prices?

Mineral water norms

3912. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

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

(a) the quantum of mineral water production and sales in the country brand-wise and State-wise;

(b) what should be the level of pesticides in such mineral water, as decided by experts;

(c) whether the norms and rules in force for mineral water quality are in line with those of European standards as laid down by Bureau of Indian Standards;

(d) whether there is any instance of flouting the levels of pesticides by manufacturing units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Proposal to regularise vangrams in Uttaranchal

‡3913. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttaranchal has submitted a proposal to his Ministry for regularizing vangrams (forest villages) of the State and granting them status of revenue villages;

(b) if so, the date of sending the proposal alongwith the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said proposal will be approved?

Killings of wild animals in wild life sanctuaries

3914. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nexus between poachers and corrupt forest officials has been responsible for most of the killings of wild animals in wild life sanctuaries;

(b) the number of wild cats like lions, tigers, leopards etc. found killed or missing in mysterious circumstances during 2004-05 in different sanctuaries;

(c) whether any official/poacher found involved in killing of wild cats was brought to book; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Project on coastal and marine
Bio-diversity**

3915. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a co-ordinated project on Coastal and Marine Bio-diversity has been launched in the year 1999-2000;

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

(c) the current status of its implementation, particularly in regard to the conservation of mangroves, coral reefs and other marine lives in the coastal zone;

(d) whether Government issued a Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification in 1991 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(e) if so, the salient objectives envisaged therein; and

(f) whether any review of the status of its implementation has been carried out; and

(g) if so, State/UT-wise details thereof?

Excessive use of chemical fertilizers

†3916. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the ill-effects of excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on agricultural land and rural health;

(b) the area of cultivable land of the country which has become barren due to this reason; and

(c) to what extent the quantum of harmful chemicals in water sources of the rural areas is higher than the safe level; the details thereof State-wise?

**Desertification monitoring and
assessment**

3917. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken desertification monitoring and assessment in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such information is used to evolve suitable strategies to arrest desertification; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NGOs financial aid for plantations

†3918. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non-Governmental Organisations that have been provided with financial aid during the last five years for plantation under the Afforestation Scheme; state-wise details thereof;

(b) whether these organizations have submitted the utilization certificates after implementation of the scheme and whether an inspection of their work has been carried out by Government; and

(c) if so, the number of organizations whose work was found to be satisfactory and the number of organisations which have misutilized the funds and the action taken against them?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Tiger population

3919. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tiger population in India has been steadily declining, especially during the last about 25 years;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefor and the present status of tigers in the wildlife parks etc. across the country; and

(c) details of short/long term plans drawn up to save the national animal from the brink of extinction, including specific measures contemplated for its breeding?

Pollution in Yamuna river

†3920. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

SHRI LALIT SURI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the water of the river Yamuna beyond Delhi is not fit for human beings for any purpose;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of projects were drawn up for the purification of its water during the last decade;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and the amount spent to cleanse Yamuna river so far, particularly in Delhi; and

(e) the action taken by Government for cleansing its water in future?

Air Pollution due to additional Private Vehicles in Delhi

3921. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite change over of Delhi's public transport from diesel based to CNG based, the atmosphere on road remains chokingly polluted, with 500 to 700 additional private vehicles coming on the roads in the capital every day; and

(b) if so, the specific steps being taken to minimize the additional vehicles choking the air in the Capital?

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

3922. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been slapped with a commercial trade ban by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

(b) whether it is a fact that the rap is for not complying with requirements on a separate law to specifically protect wild animals and plant life listed by the UN administered CITES;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware of the fact that this decision would adversely affect the trade of medicinal plants and essential oils; and

(d) if so, the action proposed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Tiger reserves in terrorism affected areas

†3923. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to dereserve tiger reserves of terrorism affected area covered under tiger project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Mercury-free alternatives

3924. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether globally there is a shift towards mercury-free alternatives and strict regulations are in place on mercury emissions but in India such safeguards and regulations for handling mercury are non-existent;

(b) whether a mercury thermometer containing 5 gms. of mercury is enough to contaminate a 20-acre lake;

(c) whether the health sector in India, particularly hospitals and dental clinics release substantial quantities of mercury every year without any precautions and disposed of like general waste; and

(d) whether Government have any action plans to phase out mercury-based equipments from hospitals?

Smuggling of timber in North-Eastern States

†3925. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the smuggling of timber in a

huge quantity from the North-Eastern States has been going on;

(b) if so, the details of the seized timber during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the revenue earned from the timber year-wise?

Melting of Himalayan Glaciers

3926. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the global warming is seriously threatening the Himalayan Glaciers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Space Scientists have gathered a concrete evidence which shows that four glaciers in Baspa basin are on the verge of disappearance;

(c) whether according to some scientists 15 more glaciers in the same basin are also facing extinction; and

(d) if so, the measures that Government are taking to save these glaciers?

TV Mumbai (Middle-Vaitarana) water supply project

3927. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

(a) whether Government have since approved the Maharashtra Government proposal for environmental clearance of TV Mumbai (Middle-Vaitarana) water supply project;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the World Bank has indicated willingness to provide assistance for this project, if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the original estimated cost of the project as per original report of the Tata Consulting Engineers of 1992 and the cost escalation suffered thereby, so far?

Licence to sandalwood oil distillation units

3928. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Empowered Committee constituted by the Supreme Court has called for the cancellation of all licences to sandalwood oil distillation units;

(b) whether sandalwood oil factories are being run under licence granted under various Act like Boilers Act, Factories Act and Panchayat Act, etc.; and

(c) whether the Court had observed that the unhindered functioning of these units was possible only with the political patronage and total in action of the State Government functionaries?

LMMC for conservation of biodiversity

3929. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and 16 other Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries (LMMC) have decided to cooperate with each other to develop strategies for conservation of biodiversity;

(b) if so, the countries with which such cooperation agreement/understanding has been reached and the terms of the cooperation agreement, and the specific areas of biodiversity aimed; and

(c) the mutual benefits arising therefrom?

Meeting of National Wildlife Board

3930. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the National Wildlife Board was held on 17th March, 2005 in Delhi;

(b) if so, what was the agenda of this meeting;

(c) whether the sad state of some sanctuaries like papukinda was reviewed;

(d) whether it is a fact that burning problems affecting wildlife were not listed for the meeting; and

(e) the steps proposed to create a transparent role for the functioning of the National Wildlife Board?

Drive for afforestation

†3931. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to launch any drive for afforestation and to check the shrinking percentage of forest cover;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what efforts are being made to entrust the work of plantation of trees to the Panchayati Raj institutions?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Mumbai Trans Harbour sea link project

3932. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra have submitted complete information regarding environmental aspects of the Mumbai Trans Harbour sea link project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, Government propose to approve the project?

Total forest cover area in Orissa

3933. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest covered area in the State of Orissa and out of this the area of Dense forest, open forest and scrub forest;

(b) the funds allocated for the standardization of nursery and establishment technique of medicinal plants;

(c) how many hectares of suitable degraded barren land in the KBK district and non KBK districts would be treated under economic plantation since 2002 in Orissa; and

(d) the targeted area of coverage under each component of afforestation under Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP) for KBK districts of Orissa during Tenth Plan and achievement thereof till date?

Shortage of water in Keoladeo National Bird Sanctuary

3934. SHRI C. RAMACHAN-DRAIAH:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tourism and Wild Life Society of India (TWSI) has written to Government that there is acute shortage of water at the Keoladeo National Bird Sanctuary in Bharatpur, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the alternative plans Government are considering to address the problem; and

(d) the other sanctuaries in the country where similar problems may occur in the near future and the steps taken by Government?

Mangrove plantation along the coastline

3935. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK:
SHRIMATI VANGA
GEETHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the impact of the recent Tsunami in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa was greater due to the disappearance of mangrove forests on the coastline as reported in the press;

(b) whether Government propose to have a fresh look at the problem and go in for an aggressive mangrove plantation scheme along the coastline of the country; and

(c) if so, the details of planning thereof?

Review of coastal regulation

3936. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to go in for a review of coastal regulations for determining settlement and development along the country's long coastline;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the deficiencies that have been detected in the existing rules and action plan to remove these deficiencies?

Himalayan Authority

3937. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the people living in the States of Himalayan region save the environment and ecology of the country;

(b) if so, whether the developmental requirements of these States are different from other States and special schemes are required to be made for development of this region; and

(c) whether Government propose to constitute Himalayan Authority which would be responsible for development of this region and allocate special funds for this purpose?

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

3938. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:

SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

SHRIMATI PREMA

CARIAPPA:

DR. AKHILESH DAS:

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

(a) whether the UN has imposed a Wild Life Trade ban on India for non-compliance with the requirements of a law to specifically protect wild animals and plants life listed by the UN administered Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES);

(b) if so, the specific allegations of violation of CITES made by the UN; and

(c) the Government's response and reaction thereto?

Environment Courts

3939. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Environment Courts in all the States to deal with environmental issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments have been consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when these courts are likely to be set up?

Food Processing Park project for Madhya Pradesh

†3940. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned a project of Food Processing Parks for Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of those places in the State where such parks would be set up under this project; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the latest position of these sanctioned projects?

Reforms in FPIs

3941. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate reforms in the food-processing sector in various States, particularly in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the incentives being provided/proposed to be provided to the food processing industries in Punjab?

Medical graduates rural service

3942. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make medical graduates rural service as compulsory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to revise the graduate and post graduate courses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government in this regard?

Medical facilities in Bihar

3943. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of super speciality/ speciality/general hospitals in Bihar;

(b) the satisfaction level of services

being provided in those hospitals;

(c) the complaints/suggestion received in respect of deficiencies/improvement in the services and action taken thereon; and

(d) the total funds required for upgrading the health-care facilities in Bihar?

SC on organ-donation

†3944. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether Supreme Court has given some suggestions regarding organ-donation

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to make a law in this regard?

Homoeo pathic Council

†3945. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Act under which the Council of Homoeopathy has been constituted;

(b) whether this council is an autonomous body;

(c) if so, the rules and procedure regarding appointment/selection/suspension of officers of this Council;

(d) whether Government propose to include the rules for suspension/dismissal of the officers by reducing its autonomy by amending the Act;

(e) the reasons for providing assistance to Council through the Act; and

(f) the details of the rights of Council reduced through the amendment made in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

July, 2002 alongwith details of rights being reduced through proposed amendment?

(d) the other measures being taken by Government to control the population growth?

Poor performance of AIIMS

3946. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether Parliamentary Committee has pointed out that AIIMS has fared poorly in its performance and has pointed out that the paucity of funds, lax administration, frequent jaunts by doctors to practice abroad has been cited as the reasons for disappointing performance of AIIMS;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined this report;

(c) the action Government propose to take; and

(d) whether all the recommendations made by the Committee are being fully implemented?

Population policy implementation

3947. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the biggest challenge to the success of population and health issues is the implementation by the States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government were not able to prevail upon the concerned State Governments to do away with the policy of two child norm;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

Installation of radio therapy units etc.

3948. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the hospitals to which Government have given financial assistance for installation of radio thereapy units, cancer detection machinery, development of oncology wing, during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) whether any charitable cancer institution from Andhra Pradesh has requested Government for sanctioning some of the funds for developing its cancer research institute;

(c) if so, the action that has been contemplated by Government on such request;

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the availability of required infrastructure and trained manpower at 16 regional cancer centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Medical equipments in Safdarjung Hospital

3949. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi is in dire need of transmission equipment including some of the vital equipment like MRI machines;

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

(c) by when these life-saving equipments are likely to be supplied?

Modernisation of hospitals

†3950. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that financial assistance has been received from World Bank for modernization of hospitals of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States whose hospitals would be modernized by using the said financial assistance; and

(d) by when this modernization work would be completed?

Gastric cancer due to nitrate

3951. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 25 crore people in the country face the risk of contracting gastric cancer and damage in their central nervous and cardio vascular system due to dangerously high levels of nitrate in ground water; and

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

Falling sex ratio

3952. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in their 7th Conference, the All India Democratic Women's Association has expressed concern over the falling sex ratio in the country;

(b) if so, whether the deficit of women in the population is now 36 million in the country;

(c) whether in the UPA's common minimum programme, Government have given certain assurance for betterment of the lot of women; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with action plan of Government to implement these assurances?

Supply of medicines to PHCs

†3953. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medicines are not being supplied in Primary Health Centres of the country during the past many years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are going to formulate any effective policy to ensure posting of doctors, nurses and supply of medicines in Primary Health Centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Vande Mataram Yojana

†3954. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had introduced a scheme namely Vande Mataram Yojana for the free check up of pregnant women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of private Gynecologists who have got themselves associated with this scheme; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the quantum of amount allocated for this scheme for the current year?

Safety of baby care products by Johnson & Johnson

3955. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether Government have received a large number of complaints against Johnson & Johnson (J & J) for using harmful chemicals in baby products; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against J & J for using harmful chemicals in their baby products including powder?

Rude behaviour of para-medical staff in Safdarjung Hospital

3956. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a routine transfer of para-medical staff posted at various dispensaries;

(b) the reasons that transfer policy is not being applied in case of para-medical staff posted at CGHS wings of Safdarjung Hospital; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the staff of said dispensary is likely to be posted in order to save the beneficiaries from their rude behaviour?

Psychiatric Medicine and Rehabilitation Department in Karnataka

3957. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are willing to help the Karnataka Government to set up the Department of Psychiatric Medicine and Rehabilitation in its Government Medical Colleges; and

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has sent any proposal, so far?

Malaria spread in India

3958. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN:

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the media report on WHO's concern that more than half-a-billion people suffer from the deadliest form of Plasmodium falciparum Malaria in India and other countries of Asia and Africa; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Clinical trials in India by MNCs

3959. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND

FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some MNCs are looking at India to conduct clinical trials because of lower cost;

(b) if so, the names of MNCs which approached DCGI for permission; and

(c) what steps are being taken by DCGI office to prevent these MNCs from making Indian Public the Guinea Pigs?

New registration system for hospitals

3960. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to implement a new registration system for the hospitals;

(b) whether Government are also considering to set up committees at the district, State and National levels to monitor the functioning of hospitals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Shifting of CGHS dispensary

3961. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries registered with CGHS dispensary No. 74 at B-1, Janakpuri, New Delhi when it was set up and as on date giving the pace of increase;

(b) whether the matter of shifting this dispensary to a bigger rented/own building has been under Government's consideration; if so, since when and the progress of action during the past 3-5 years;

(c) whether Government have formulated any definite line of action; if so, the details; and

(d) the time-frame for its accomplishment?

Chemists' strike

3962. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether chemists designated for supply of medicines to CGHS beneficiaries through various dispensaries have gone on strike quite often;

(b) the details in this regard for Delhi during the last three years indicating the extent and period of strike and reasons therefor in each case;

(c) whether Government are aware that such strikes hit hard the old and infirm retired beneficiaries who have little money/energy to spare for buying medicines in cash and thereafter struggle for claiming reimbursement; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to tackle this problem?

Vigilance case against Director of National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata

3963. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is in receipt of any letter from any Member of Parliament regarding the need for instituting a vigilance case against the Director of National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata;

(b) if so, the date on which the aforesaid letter was received;

(c) whether any action has been taken thereon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and by when action thereon is likely to be initiated?

Cancer population

3964. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cancer cases registered in the country during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a tremendous increase in the number of cancer cases in the country in the recent years;

(c) if so, what action is being taken by ICMR in this regard; and

(d) the latest programmes/initiatives undertaken by the National Cancer Control Programme?

Growing number of patients

†3965. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of patients coming from the different parts of the country are growing steadily everyday in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and in other hospitals situated in Delhi resulting in unnecessary delay in proper treatment of the patients; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the alternative measures and permanent solution thereto?

Delay in supply of medical equipments

3966. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that vital equipments including M.R.I. machines, Brachtherapy machine, etc, have not been installed as yet in Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi despite the fact that tenders were floated for those items about two years back; and

(b) if so, the specific reasons therefor and by when these equipments are proposed to be installed in the Hospital?

Financial assistance to cardiac patients

†3967. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present Government provides a help of maximum Rs. 30000/- to the heart patients living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, keeping in view the fact that now a days expenditure on heart surgery goes more than rupees one lakh, whether Government propose to increase the above amount; and

(c) if so, the full details thereof?

Safed Musli, a herbal medicine

3968. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

'Safed Musli' a medicinal herbal plant is a cure for various ailments;

(b) whether it could be grown in backward regions such as Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and could improve the economy of the farmers;

(c) whether this plant has been classified as an endangered species by the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, and its cultivation has been declining gradually, resulting in its imports on a large scale;

(d) with its manifold inherent benefits whether Government would encourage its plantation by way of subsidy and interest-free loans to the farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Rise in colorectal cancer cases

3969. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of colorectal cancer are on the rise in the capital; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the rise and the efforts made by Government to educate the people in this regard?

Winding up of CGHS

3970. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI N.K. PREMA-
CHANDRAN:
SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:
DR. ALLADI P.
RAJKUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission

in its mid-term appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan has recommended for winding up of CGHS for Government servants;

(b) whether the Planning Commission in the same appraisal has also recommended for introduction of a new insurance scheme for Government servants; and

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

Sickle Cell anemia

†3971. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that hereditary abnormality is increasing in some castes and communities due to the disease known as "Sickle Cell" prevailing in whole Western Orissa Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and some pockets of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the remedial action taken by Government to ensure that hereditary abnormalities do not increase;

(c) whether some NGOs and social institutions are also working in this area and getting financial assistance from abroad; and

(d) if so, to what extent financial assistance is being received by them alongwith details of arrangements for its monitoring?

Crimes in city hospitals

3972. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that city hospitals are fast becoming dens for criminals where heinous crimes like rapes,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

molestation, kidnapping of infants and even murder have been taking place;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents which took place during each of the last three years; and

(c) the details of the remedial steps proposed to be taken to arrest the rising trend of such crimes in hospitals?

Cardio vascular health and menopause

3973. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women in India are rapidly losing their cardio vascular edge over men particularly after menopause;

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

(c) the steps being taken to prevent heart troubles among women?

AIDS monitoring by NACO

3974. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per report of CAG, in the four years of project period *i.e.*, 1999-2003 NACO has been able to utilise only Rs. 444 crore (46 per cent only) out of the available credit of Rs. 959 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) considering the spread of reported and unreported AIDS/HIV cases in our country, what steps are being taken to monitor the performance of NACO and ensure effective utilisation of funds?

Budget grant for AIDS Control

3975. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Budget allocated, released and spent for prevention of HIV/AIDS under the present National AIDS Control Programme during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of AIDS patients as on 31st March, 2005, State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to monitor the National Schemes and programmes being implemented in the country?

Eradication of dangerous diseases

3976. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the necessary effective measures being taken by Government for eradication of dreaded/dangerous diseases-AIDS, TB, Cancer, Hepatitis 'A', 'B', 'C', Heart attack etc. in the country;

(b) the details of funds sanctioned, released and spent by Government on the eradication of the said diseases during the last three years, State-wise/hospital-wise/year-wise; and

(c) the details of funds proposed to be granted for the same during 2005-06?

Treatment of kidney patients

3977. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of kidney patients in the country and the expenditure being incurred on the treatment of kidney patients annually by Government;

(b) whether demand and supply of kidney has fuelled a prosperous kidney trade in the country by unauthorized persons violating Transplantation of Human Organs Act; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

Mobile hospitals for disaster management

3978. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started mobile hospital plan to cope with natural calamities in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that these do not seem to be able to fulfil its aim especially after the Tsunami calamity; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Iodine deficient disorders

3979. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deficiency in the intake of iodine causes goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons at present suffering in India from IDD; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to ensure adequate intake of iodised salt by persons to get rid of IDD?

Heart disease in Delhi

3980. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Delhities are suffering from heart ailment; and

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any study for such heart ailment and if so, remedial measures taken thereof?

Health Melas in NE Region

3981. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to organize Health Melas in NER to create awareness and provide health services to the people of the Region;

(b) if so, the details of the Health Melas organized in the NER during the last two years; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Medicines shortage in CGHS dispensary

3982. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the C.G.H.S., subscribers, getting medicines from the Ayurvedic Dispensary, kingsway Camp, face lot of difficulties as the medicines are often not available and also the staff does not attend the dispensary in time; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter so that CGHS beneficiaries get medicines in time and they have not to wait for longer hours particularly during morning hours?

Spurious drugs checking

†3983. SHRIMATI KAMLA
MANHAR :
SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

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

- (a) the number of cases of spurious drugs that came to light during the last three years;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to stop manufacturing of spurious drugs and the extent to which they have been effective;
- (c) the number of spurious drug manufacturers caught during the last three years and number of manufacturers punished in such cases; and
- (d) the details thereof, State-wise?

AIDS Prone States

3984. DR. K. MALAISAMY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) which are the high prevalence States for incidence of HIV/AIDS;
- (b) whether it is a fact that more than 80 per cent of the cases occur in 5 or 6 States;
- (c) what is the special focus and thrust followed by a necessary package given on those States to curb and control HIV/AIDS;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the real situation of these cases in other States are under-reported; and
- (e) what is the correct mechanism and reliable device that are ensured to assess the prevalence of HIV/AIDS?

Change in design of Second Class Sleeper Coaches

3985. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that no change in design of second class sleeper coaches has been made by railways for twenty years;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that passengers find it very difficult to climb to the upper berths in second class coaches;
- (c) whether the design institutes or railway institutes are unable to come up with a better design of railway coaches;
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the railways to change the design to make the coaches passenger-friendly; and
- (e) the reasons for ignoring the great dis-comfort being caused to passengers?

Railway Safety Commission

3986. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Railways is free to introduce new train services without the official permission from the Railway Safety Commission for starting new trains;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Standing Committee on Railways has insisted that it must be obligatory on the part of the Railway Ministry to receive a regular permission from the Commission of Railways Safety before introducing new train services; and
- (d) if so, Government's response thereto and whether Railway Ministry propose to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

grant statutory status to the Railway Safety Commission to avoid the increasing number of railway accidents?

Survey of railway lines

†3987. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway lines for which survey was undertaken in accordance with the Railway Budget for the year 2004-05;

(b) the progress made thereon;

(c) by when the construction work would be started at the surveyed sites; and

(d) the State-wise figures of the railway network in the country?

Items for sale in AC coaches

3988. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items/eatables permitted for sale in the AC coaches;

(b) whether noodles are permitted to be served in AC coaches; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Contribution for expenditure being incurred on Railway Police

†3989. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that 50 per cent contribution for expenditure being incurred on Railway Police under Government of India is made by Railway Ministry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that State of Madhya Pradesh has yet to receive Rs. 158875851/- from Ministry of Railways under the head; and

(c) by when this amount will be sanctioned?

Construction of under bridges/over bridges on important Railway crossings

†3990. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that closing of Railway crossings at various places throughout the country results in wastage of time, petrol and diesel of lacs of people;

(b) whether Government propose to make special provision in the Budget for construction of under and over bridges on important Railway crossings to check the wastage of time, money and labour and to facilitate lacs of passengers;

(c) if so, the details of the plan and the amount likely to be spent on this; and

(d) by when, the bridges would be completed?

Fire in Toofan Express

3991. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out in five coaches of Toofan Express going to Hawrah from New Delhi near Buxar in Bihar on the morning of 4th April, 2005;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether an inquiry into the causes of fire, the loss to life and property caused thereby has been held; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Bogibeel Project

3992. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exhaustion of allocated funds caused to sluggishness in the progress of work on the bogibeel project and allocated Rs. 60 crores by the Railway Ministry have been spent to pamper the whims of senior officials on wasteful expenditure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether two more railway bridges at Nemati near Jorhat and Dholla in Tinsukia over river Brahmaputra have been sanctioned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of freight corridors by private sectors

3993. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to open up three sections to private sectors for construction of freight corridors to cater to rising demand from transportation of goods by rail from inter-land to ports; and

(b) if so, which are those three sections and how many companies have evinced interest in setting up private rail-lines?

Railway Department's contract for accident relief crane

3994. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are seriously going to investigate Railway Department's contract for Accident relief crane (140 tonnes) with two companies *i.e.* United Kingdom's Cowans shelton and Germany's Gottwald and dealing worth Rs. 132 crore during the year 1996-97; and

(b) if so, by when it is going to investigate and whether Government have found anything wrong and unlawful in the contract agreement?

Sakari-Nirmali and Jhanjharpur-Laukaha rail-line

†3995. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:
SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Sakari-Nirmali and Jhanjharpur-Laukaha railway lines gauge conversion under Samastipur division after its foundation laying ceremony by the then Minister of Railways and other two Ministers prior to Lok Sabha elections;

(b) whether the Ministry of Defence is also playing any role in providing financial assistance for its construction work; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by Government for the implementation of the scheme?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Ongoing railway projects in
Tamil Nadu**

3996. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of ongoing Railway projects in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the amount spent, so far, on each project;
- (c) the amount earmarked for each of the project during 2005-2006; and
- (d) the progress of each ongoing project as on date?

**Introduction of Rajdhani Express from
New Delhi to Visakhapatnam**

3997. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to introduce another Rajdhani Express or any other Express Train from New Delhi to Visakhapatnam Chennai to Kolkata via Visakhapatnam; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

**Allocation of funds for speedy
development of the backward
areas of Orissa**

3998. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that to secure speedy development of the backward areas of Orissa, the State Government has requested for higher allocation of funds in the railway sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a request has also been made for expeditious completion of ongoing projects and for sanction of new ones to keep pace with the development in the region;

(d) if so, the action plan of the Centre to help the State in this regard; and

(e) the total length of rail line per 1000 Kms. in Orissa, *vis-a-vis* all other States in the country?

Sampark Kranti Express

3999. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the names and the dates of Sampark Kranti Express started by Railway in last three years till date, name-wise and datewise?

**Schemes for Uttar Pradesh in Railway
Budget 2005-06**

†4000. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of schemes announced for Uttar Pradesh in the Railway Budget 2005-06;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of these schemes in a large State like Uttar Pradesh is quite less than other States;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider to provide some other schemes in the said Budget in view of the large size of the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

New areas for raising additional revenue

4001. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI VANGA
GEETHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are exploring new/innovating areas for raising additional revenue as adequate internal resources to meet the expansion needs of the Railways in future;

(b) if so, whether Government had formed any Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government had consulted States before preparing any draft plan in this regard;

(e) if so, the suggestions received from the States; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

New/on-going and pending rail projects

†4002. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of new/on-going and pending rail projects and survey made for laying new railway lines and construction of fly-over in Chhattisgarh and the targets laid down for their completion;

(b) the project-wise details of funds allocated and the funds spent, so far;

(c) whether out of them, some projects are lagging behind; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to complete these projects in time?

Metal scrap

4003. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railway generate as well as disposes large volume of metal scrap every year;

(b) if so, the details of volume of scrap generated and volume/value of disposal made since 1995-96 upto 2003-04;

(c) procedure followed during the said period in screening, evaluating and disposing Railways' scrap;

(d) the cases where disposal made through competitive open tender, number of parties participated in tender;

(e) whether changes/modifications have been made in the erstwhile procedure as per the policy announcement made in the Rail Budget 2004-05; and

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

Expansion promotion and upgradation of railway tourism

4004. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans for expansion, promotion and upgradation of railway tourism in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of such plan with the total allocation of resources in the Railway Budget; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Elevation of UC Banerjee Committee

4005. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Justice UC Banerjee Committee probing the Godhra Train incident is proposed to be elevated to a full fledged Commission under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

Unmanned railway crossings

4006. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unmanned railway crossings, State-wise;

(b) the number of accidents occurred on these unmanned railway crossings and the number of persons/children who lost their lives in such accidents during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the policy of Government to man these unmanned railway crossings; and

(d) how many unmanned railway crossings would be manned this year, State-wise?

Gauge conversion projects

4007. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the gauge conversion projects pending for completion as on date, State-wise, Zone-wise;

(b) whether any target date has been fixed for the completion of those projects; and

(c) the number of those projects which are likely to be completed by the end of the Tenth plan?

Broad gauge conversion projects in Tamil Nadu

4008. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time-frame fixed for completion of metre gauge conversion into broad gauge conversion projects in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the physical and financial progress regarding gauge conversion projects in the State of Tamil Nadu and the reasons for delay?

Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project

4009. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to dump the prestigious Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Modernisation of infrastructure

4010. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI SUDARSHAN
AKARAPU:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to take up modernisation of infrastructure to put Railways on high-tech track;

(b) if so, details of the project with outlay involved; and

(c) the safety-related action plan to control rail accidents and enhance safety and security of the passengers?

Re-development of goods-sheds by private sector

4011. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways propose to invite bids for re-development of goods-sheds by private sector into full-fledged warehouses;

(b) whether the successful bidders would be charged with a token licence fee of Rs. 1.00 per year for use of the railway land;

(c) whether the bidders would be required to share a part of their revenue, on per tonne consignment handled basis, apart from the licence fee; and

(d) whether the railways would make available such warehousing facilities for public sector undertaking like Coal India, Cement Corporation of India, Food Corporation of India and Fertilizer co-operatives?

Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow railway line

†4012. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sanction was accorded to the conversion of Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow railway line into double line in 1997-98 on the out of turn basis;

(b) if so, the amount provided for this project during the last five years;

(c) whether work on Gonda-Bahraich (60 Kms.) phase-I has started;

(d) if so, the steps taken to complete this entire project; and

(e) by when this would be completed?

Bookstalls at railway stations

4013. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 185 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 2000 and state the action taken by Government regarding removal of discriminations among bookstalls contractors at railway stations?

FDI in steel plants in Orissa

4014. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Direct Investment offers have lately been invited for the 12 million tonnes integrated steel plants in Orissa;

(b) whether Pohang Steel Company of South Korea has offered an FDI of \$12.4 billion, if so, on what terms; and

(c) whether their terms were not acceptable to the Orissa Government, if so, on what grounds?

Customs duty on steel

4015. SHRI MURLI DEORA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel industry has asked Government to increase

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the customs duty on seconds and defectives to 40 per cent from 20 per cent;

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

(c) view taken by Government in the matter?

Employment *vis-a-vis* exploration of Iron ore

†4016. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proper exploration of Iron ore in Orissa can provide employment to about 2 crore persons; and

(b) if so, the view of Government in this regard and the details thereof?

Rationalising Steel prices

†4017. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government feel the necessity of rationalising the continuously increasing prices of steel in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this direction; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps and if rationalisation of prices is not necessary whether it would be in the interest of the nation to allow the prices of steel to go up unchecked in the country?

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd April, 2005
Vaisakha 3, 1927 (Saka)

SAIL's acquisition of an Australian Coal Mine

4018. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL intends to acquire 25 per cent steel in an Australian Coal Mine;

(b) if so, the reasons and the details of acquisition; and

(c) the policy of Government in such matters?

Dialogue with Stakeholders for framing the steel policy

4019. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has decided to initiate a dialogue with all the stakeholders of the iron and steel industry to work out a comprehensive steel policy taking into consideration a new perceptions/ perspective and a new policy approach in the fast growing global steel scenario; and

(b) if so, the main points that have been suggested by Government in this regard?

Installation of turbo compressors in oxygen plant at Bokaro

4020. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to install the turbo compressors in the oxygen plant at Bokaro;

(b) if so, the estimated cost for this project; and

(c) the amount allocated by Government for this project?

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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