

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the July 29, 2005/Sravana 7, 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

Promoting organic farming

489. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI EKANATH K.
THAKUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is lagging
behind in expanding organic farming despite
being placed in an advantageous position;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite
allocating considerable funds for National
Programme for Organic Production in the
current plan, the organic sector lags far
behind its actual potential;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to
take to promote organic farming in the
country and also to achieve the target set
out in the plan?

Research on pest resistance of Bt. cotton

490. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to a study by

Central Institute for Cotton Research
(CICR), a few years down the line, Bt.
cotton might die a natural death at the hands
of American bollworm, the pest it is
supposed to resist;

(b) whether it is a fact that the CICR
has developed a model that predicts exactly
how many years it would take the
notorious pest to become completely
resistant to Bt. Cotton; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose
to take to arrest its impending decline?

Sale of spurious Bt. cotton seeds

491. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spurious
seeds of Bt. cotton have flooded the markets
of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka,
Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and
other cotton growing areas of the country;
and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose
to take to check the sale of spurious Bt.
cotton seeds?

Shortfall in agricultural growth

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortfall in agricultural growth in the country during Eighth and Ninth Plans and the three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan has also expressed concern on the stagnated rate of agricultural growth; and

(d) if so, the action proposed by Government to boost up the growth rate in the agriculture sector?

Scheme for development of sugarcane

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

(a) whether Government are implementing any scheme for the development of sugarcane and to increase its productivity;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the amount allocated to Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years for the implementation of the scheme and the results achieved as a result thereof, so far; and

(d) the future targets fixed for the State and the steps proposed to be taken by the Central Government to achieve the target?

Production of foodgrains

†493. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of foodgrains in the current year is apprehended to decrease in comparison to the production of the same during the last year;

(b) if so, the efforts being made to meet the shortage of foodgrains;

(c) how Government propose to compensate the losses suffered by farmers; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to prevent recurrence of shortage of foodgrains in future?

Advisory for cost-effective farm practices

495. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had issued an advisory to farmers to save available soil moisture and use cost-effective farm practices for the Kharif sowing season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering to grant assistance to farmers for cost-effective farm equipments in the light of shortfall of rain; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Shortage of scientists and technicians

‡496. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research work in the field of agriculture and horticulture is getting affected due to shortage of scientists and technicians in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the shortage along with the details of progress of efforts made to remove the shortage, till now?

Integrated dairy development project for Faizabad and Ambedkar Nagar

‡497. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any proposal for operating integrated dairy development project in the Faizabad and Ambedkar Nagar districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have approved the said project; and

(d) if not, by when the said project is likely to be approved?

Development of improved breeds of milch cattle

‡498. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the institutes which developed improved breeds of milch animals;

(b) the names and the milching capacity of the said animals;

(c) whether the assessment has been made regarding the cost of yield of milk by these cattle and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the estimated annual availability of such cattle keeping in view the need to make more and more animals available to Indian farmers?

Setting up of fodder bank

‡499. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a fodder bank in every State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of States from which such proposals have been received?

Research benefits on aquaculture and fish farming

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a path-breaking work done by an Indian aquaculturist on expansion of aquaculture and fish farming in South and South-East Asia and Africa which has earned him World Food Prize;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have explored/ will explore the possibilities of making available the technology for the benefit of our farmers in the coastal areas; and

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

**Constructions of cold storages by
NHB**

†501. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to provide 25 per cent of grants has been formulated by the National Horticulture Board for the construction of cold storages of 100 metric tonnes capacity;

(b) whether it is a fact that the National Horticulture Board provides grants only to the tune of Rs. 4000/- per metric tonne capacity;

(c) whether the Board would provide grants at the rate of Rs. 15000/- per metric tonne keeping in view the prevailing rates of building material;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Suicides in Maharashtra

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 140 farmers committed suicides in Maharashtra between 2002 and 2004;

(b) if so, whether Government had at that time failed in protecting the lives of the innocent farmers;

(c) if so, whether Government have

taken action against officials/concerned persons responsible for this gross irresponsible act; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**National Horticulture Mission in
Orissa**

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch National Horticulture Mission in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Mission proposes to adopt an end-to-end approach covering production, post-harvest management to marketing to ensure appropriate return to the growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Setting up of cold storages in Tamil
Nadu**

504. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute fall in prices of tomatoes and lemons in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is proposed to assist the State Government suitably in order to set up cold storage units on a war footing to save the produce and also the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Concern on proposed Seed Bill

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology expressed its grave concern on the proposed Seed Bill;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposed Seed Bill will stop farmers from seed saving, seed exchange and seed reproduction; and

(c) if so, the reasons behind such a move?

Fish production in Bihar

†506. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance fish production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the ratio of Bihar in fish production in the country; and

(d) the measures taken and being taken by Government to enhance fish production in Bihar?

Crop loss due to mango disease in U.P.

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

(a) whether mango crop in Uttar Pradesh has been severely hit by disease this year; and

(b) if so, the extent of loss suffered by mango growers in Uttar Pradesh and whether the Central Government propose to give any financial assistance to them, if so, at what rate?

National Horticulture Mission

508. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Centrally sponsored scheme on National Horticulture Mission with an outlay of Rs. 2300 crores in the Tenth Five Year Plan has been formulated to improve production, processing and marketing of fruits and vegetables throughout the year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including any plan drawn up to strengthen the infrastructural facilities for cold chains, marketing yards, value additions, etc. and its present status; and

(c) the details of specific measures outlined to establish quality control and assurance laboratories for horticultural produce to meet the strict sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards insisted upon by the importing countries?

Foodgrain output and target

509. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrain output of the country had a downfall during the period 2004-05 and the foodgrain target has been downscaled for the period 2005-06;

(b) if so, the reasons in details including the total foodgrains output and foodgrain target for the last three years, year-wise, foodgrain-wise and category-wise; and

(c) the total amount sanctioned and dispersed by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for the developmental projects during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Promoting cow urine based pesticides

†510. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to promote cow urine based pesticides instead of chemical pesticides in agriculture field;

(b) if so, whether Government are formulating any proper coordinating scheme in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Single Super Phosphate

511. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of Single Super Phosphate in the country during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the details of subsidy given by Government to fertilizer units producing SSP during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the number of SSP manufacturing units in the country, State-wise?

New investment plan in IFFCO

512. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Limited (IFFCO) has recently embarked upon a one billion dollar investment plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the production of fertilizers would be increased as a result of

this plan, the extent to which the country's requirement in this field would be met and the extent to which agricultural production would increase?

Mega Chemical Industry Estates

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

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

(a) whether Government have started the process to set up mega chemical industry estates in coastal States with adequate port facilities to turn the country into South Asia's petrochem-hub;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to have a mother complex which would provide proper linkage to other allied units;

(c) whether six States including Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have already submitted proposals; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government have considered these proposals and by when it is likely to be cleared?

Simplification of drug pricing norms

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have simplified the drug pricing through a notification in the month of January, 2005;

(b) the details of drugs that are going to be available at a lesser price as a result of the present move;

(c) whether the price of life-saving drugs

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

will also come down due to simplification of drug prices; and

(d) if so, the details of drugs that are going to become cheap?

Margin on drugs

515. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

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

(a) whether, according to a study conducted by Government, the Pharma Companies are giving 1000 per cent margin on some of the drugs such as Nimesulide, Omeprazole, Cetirizine, etc.;

(b) if so, what the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is doing in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Sandhu Committee has been constituted to look into all these aspects; and

(d) if so, what are the recommendations made by the Committee?

Cases pending with Drug Price Liability Review Committee

516. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases pending with the Drug Price Liability Review Committee; and

(b) the names of the companies and the amount quantified?

Impact of new Patents Act on domestic pharmaceutical sector

517. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether the new Patents Act passed recently has made any impact on the domestic pharmaceutical sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures adopted to prevent the anticipated hike in prices of life-saving drugs and make them available at affordable prices?

Decline in applications for ration cards

518. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a massive decline in the number of applications received for renewal of ration cards in the capital;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that PDS has lost its relevance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether ration cards have become redundant as identity/residential proof?

Irregularities in TPDS in Punjab and Bihar

†519. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report submitted by 'Project Evaluation Organisation' set-up by Planning Commission in which it has been stated that Punjab and Bihar are the States where maximum irregularities take place in the supply of foodgrains to be provided to poor families under Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the elaborate details of the report in this regard;

(c) the percentage of targeted people in Bihar and Punjab being benefited from the scheme of Government; and

(d) whether Government have considered any alternative arrangement keeping in view the present scenario?

Shortage of foodgrain stock

†520. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total stock of foodgrains from agricultural yield in the country during 2002-03 alongwith the quantity of foodgrains that should have been in the stock for maintaining balance in the Indian market;

(b) the quantity of foodgrain stock during 2005;

(c) the foodgrain stock required to keep

hold on Indian market and to what extent it is short;

(d) the reasons for shortfall in foodgrain stock and whether Government would also import to meet this shortage; and

(e) if so, the quantum thereof?

Utilization of CWC godowns by FCI

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

(a) whether various trade unions are demanding that godowns of the Central Warehousing Corporation be used by the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India is unable to introduce Best Management Practices to meet this legitimate demand;

(d) whether Food Corporation of India is interested in only transacting with private godowns rather than the Central Warehousing Corporation; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the entire issue of edging out the Central Warehousing Corporation from the business of Food Corporation of India in the country?

Transportation subsidy for rice to Arunachal Pradesh

522. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has paid Rs. 170 crores as excess reimbursement to the Arunachal Pradesh Government in just

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

one year, against transportation subsidy for rice;

(b) whether it is a fact that the length of motorable roads has increased, but the FCI subsidy has increased instead of decreasing;

(c) if so, whether Government have made any investigations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action proposed in the matter?

Consumer protection

523. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking for better consumer protection;

(b) whether steps have been taken to enhance the effectiveness of working of Central Consumer Protection Council;

(c) the status of the various working groups constituted under his Ministry; and

(d) whether a National Consumer Policy is proposed to be framed; if so, by when?

Production of sugar

†524. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
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 production of sugar has been decreasing constantly in the country for the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the stock of sugar in the country in October, 2004;

(d) the assessment regarding production of sugar in the country during sugar production year of 2004-05;

(e) the assessment made about the consumption of sugar in the country; and

(f) whether it is a fact that surplus stock of sugar was available in the country during the sugar year of 2004-05?

Proper storage of foodgrains

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

(a) the available quantity of foodgrains in the country as on 30th June, 2005;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains spoiled/rotten during the last three years alongwith the cost assessed against rotten foodgrains;

(c) whether it is a fact that while foodgrains get rotten in godowns, the poor people of the country do not have access to the same and die of hunger as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Food subsidy

†526. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of money being provided to the States in the form of Central Food subsidy for the past three years has been on the rise every year;

(b) if so, the amount of money provided to the States under this head during the last

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

three years alongwith the names of the States;

(c) whether it is a fact that Orissa is not being provided such aid under the head as per its requirement and demand; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the aid would be provided as per the demand and requirement?

Coverage under TPDS

527. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that half of below poverty line families are still out of the purview of the Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

Closure of HVOCL

528. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi has ordered the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited to close its Unit by making all payments to its employees and that more than 67 per cent industrial land situated in Kirti Nagar Industrial Area, Delhi should have been given to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in 1996;

(b) if so, the action taken by the company so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the employees of one of its Unit have illegally occupied 1½ acres of land at Sabji Mandi, Ghantaghar, Delhi; and

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

Evaluation of TPDS

529. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study was conducted on the evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System and Antyodaya Anna Yojana and a draft report was circulated to the State Governments for their comments;

(b) if so, the main finding of the study;

(c) the comments of the State Governments thereon;

(d) whether a final report has been prepared;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Stopping foodgrain distribution through PDS

530. SHRI A VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to stop foodgrain distribution through the present centres of public distribution (ration shops);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor including the alternative system suggested for public distribution and status of the present ration shops;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase prices of foodgrains being distributed to persons below poverty line;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether steps will be taken to maintain the present centres of public distribution; and

(f) the total number of present centres of public distribution as on today, State-wise and category-wise?

Price of sugar

†531. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that selling price of sugar for consumers has increased during the years 2004 and 2005;

(b) if so, the minimum and maximum selling price of sugar for consumers in retail markets in the country during January 2004, December 2004 and July 2005; and

(c) the reasons for this increase in prices?

Decline in wheat and rice production

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India expects the wheat output to be lower this year by almost 5 million tonnes;

(b) whether Government holds enough buffer stock of wheat and rice for distribution under welfare schemes; and

(c) whether the grain trading community apprehends that the country might return to a situation of 1999 when the Southern

States imported wheat as they found it cheaper than moving the stocks from northern wheat producing areas?

New Food and Public Distribution Policy

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

(a) whether Government have formulated a New Food and Public Distribution Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Interests of Wild life

534. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken to protect and reconcile the interests of Wild life with the rights of the tribals in the context of the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill; and

(b) the follow-up action taken in the light thereof?

Proposal for development of forests in UP

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

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted any project proposal to the Central Government for development of forests in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to approve these projects?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Environmental clearance for
Uranium Mining and processing
plant at Nalgonda**

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

(a) whether Department of Atomic Energy has submitted a proposal for environmental clearance to its proposed Uranium Mining and processing plant at Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, when such proposal was received in his Ministry; and

(c) the action that has been contemplated on the proposal so far?

Felling of forest wood

†537. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that valuable forest wood is being felled and is being exported despite a ban on the same during the last few years which is adversely affecting environment;

(b) if so, the guidelines laid down for conservation of forests and action taken for violation of such guidelines;

(c) the quantum of wood exported during the last three years alongwith names of countries to which this wood has been exported; and

(d) the steps being taken to check the felling of forest wood and maintaining balance of environment in future?

Manual on e-waste

538. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are preparing a manual on assessing e-waste in the country;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the biggest source of e-waste in India is through imports; and

(d) if so, the action Government are taking in co-ordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and other Ministries concerned, to stop importing obsolete computers and other electronic gadgets which form major e-waste in the country?

Damage to fragile environment

539. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study was conducted by Government on the likely damages to fragile environment of Palk Straight and Gulf of Mannar and endangering the lives of Marine animals and Plants of the area as a result of Sethusamudram Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the results of the study and the follow-up action proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the environment of construction area while implementing the project?

Wildlife crime in the country

540. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Secretary General of Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora has written to the PM expressing

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

concern on wildlife crimes in the country;

(b) whether the above International convention has given some suggestions to control this menace;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan of Government to implement the valuable ones?

Solid wastes of slaughter houses

541. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has fired the Central Pollution Control Board for its failure to deal with solid wastes of slaughter houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

Withdrawal of World Heritage status to Ghana National Bird Sanctuary

†542. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO's Heritage Committee has threatened to withdraw World Heritage status to Ghana National Bird Sanctuary due to its miserable condition;

(b) whether the State Government has sent any proposal to the Central Government for protection and promotion of this sanctuary;

(c) if so, the reasons for not sanctioning this proposal;

(d) whether Government are concerned about the protection of this bird sanctuary; and

(e) if so, by when the required funds will be provided for its protection?

Forestry projects with external aid

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

(a) whether it is a fact that eight forestry projects with external aid are being implemented in different States;

(b) if so, the target/goal set for each project and benefits likely to be achieved; and

(c) the likely dates of completion of these projects?

Powers to gram panchayats for conservation of forests

†544. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to bring about a legal provision after reviewing the position of giving more powers to gram panchayats for conservation of forests and traditional rights of tribals living in the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken/to be taken in this regard?

Declaration of Indira Gandhi National Park as Tiger Reserve

545. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Tamil Nadu has demanded to declare the Indira Gandhi National Park

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and Sanctuary in the Annamalai range in Pollachi as Tiger Reserve;

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

(c) whether Government are also considering to declare other national parks as Tiger Reserves in many other places across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Bandipur Tiger Reserve

546. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sought financial assistance from the Central Government in respect of Bandipur Tiger Reserve; and

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

Biosphere reserves

547. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budgetary allocations made especially for restoring biosphere reserves during the last five years; and

(b) the efforts made by Government to make use of the biodiversity for social and economic benefits as India is one of the 12 mega diversity 'hotspot' regions in the world?

Tourist attractions near sanctuaries

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number

of sanctuaries have huge hotels and other tourist attractions on their borders and periphery;

(b) if so, whether any study has been done on the need to limit tourism near or through such sanctuaries;

(c) whether any limit has been placed on the number of people to visit such sanctuaries on any given day;

(d) the studies done on the negative impact of tourism on game sanctuaries; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that animals and fauna do not become extinct due to large influx of tourists and visitors in sanctuaries?

Codification of problems of tiger reserves

549. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to codify the problems of tiger reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many States have sought more funds and powers to deal with the problems; and

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

Prime Minister's visit to Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

550. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited Ranthambore Tiger Reserve to have stock of the latest position of the tiger population and to review the crisis facing the tiger in that and other reserves, on 23rd May, 2005;

- (b) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken and being taken to protect and promote the tiger population in the light thereof?

Rehabilitation of displaced families

551. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sought Centre's approval for release of 21 hectares of forest land in Somwarpet Taluk, District Kodagu, for rehabilitation of 21 families displaced by the Harangi Project; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with the likely date by when the clearance would be accorded?

Upgradation in forests areas

552. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given a blanket clearance for upgradation of temporary forest roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had issued fresh guidelines regarding upgradation in protected areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Coastal Zone Management Plan

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has submitted

a proposal for sanction of the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) for Mumbai and Navi Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the sanction would be given so that Government of Maharashtra starts this project?

Amendment of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1992

554. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of proposals given by CBI, his Ministry is proposing to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1992, to strengthen it further against poaching;

(b) whether the proposals have been gone through by the Task Force set up; and

(c) if so, the recommendations made by the Task Force?

Permission to MONSANTO-MAHYCO for seed production

555. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has granted permission to MONSANTO-MAHYCO for seed production and large scale field trials of various varieties of hybrid cotton in South and Central Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that permission was given for commercial release of Bt. Cotton Hybrids; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

National River Conservation Plan

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

(a) whether it is a fact that action plan under National River Conservation Plan is implemented by National River Conservation Directorate of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of action taken to improve the water quality of rivers during last three years and the amount spent on each work;

(c) the action plan to be taken during 2005-06 and proposed to be taken during 2006-07; and

(d) whether the cost of work is borne by the Central Government or shared by State Governments?

Developing FP units in M.P.

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

(a) the details of the steps being taken by Central Government for the development of food processing units in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any Central Scheme to set up such units in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the locations identified for setting up such units so that Madhya Pradesh could reap optimum benefit in this sector?

Reviving FPIs

558. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food processing

industry, which handles only a measly 2 per cent of the total produce in the country is going through a bad patch with paltry fund allocations in recent budgets;

(b) whether the proposed Integrated Food Law, when enacted, is likely to revive the sector; and

(c) the estimated capital outlay needed to get key food processing projects off the ground?

Surge in food processing sector

559. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: DR. T. SUBBARAMIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attractive valuations, expected growth rate in the near future and Government's thrust on agriculture and agro-related business have all led to a surge in the food processing sector with some stocks of the sector appreciating upto 100 per cent in the past one month since 2nd May, 2005;

(b) whether market capitalisation of this sector also witnessed a rise of almost 20 per cent in the last one month;

(c) whether highest rise was witnessed by industries that closed at Rs. 28.90 on 30th May, 2005, compared to Rs. 12.70 on 2nd May, 2005; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to meet food processing stocks which are on rise?

FDI in food processing sector

560. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

propose to attract foreign investment in the food processing industry sector and propose to spend around Rs. 100 crore in mega food parks and offer 100 per cent FDI with income tax benefits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan of Government to provide impetus to the food processing sector;

(d) whether Government have worked out a National Food Processing Policy to address the challenges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Share of small and cottage industries in the growth of FPI

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

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food processing industry has achieved around 8 per cent growth rate in recent years;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the share of small and cottage industries is much more than that of multi-national companies and large industries; and

(d) if so, the ratio of the share of small and cottage industry and the production being made out of total established capacity in this sector?

Effect of inadequate transportation facilities on food articles

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

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent of food articles are destroyed during transportation from producer to processing unit due to lack of transport system in the country;

(b) if not, Government's assessment in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several units of processing industry are either closed down temporarily or produce at lower capacity in off-seasons due to this loss; and

(d) if so, Government's assessment in this regard and annual loss to the industry due to above said reasons?

Staff shortage in CGHS dispensary, North Avenue

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

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the time North Avenue CGHS dispensary has been without any chemist attached to it since December, 2004 and the beneficiaries were asked to purchase medicines from market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of bills of pensioners for reimbursement pending since February, 2005, alongwith the details, month-wise; and

(d) the reasons for such long delay and by when these bills will be paid to the pensioners?

Free treatment to poor patients

564. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to arrange for free heart and cardiac operations for poor people all over the country;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme to provide free cardiac care to the people living below poverty line;

(c) which are the hospitals where people can get such treatment;

(d) what steps are proposed to plan a schemes so that cardiac treatment becomes free all over the country; and

(e) the time table for implementation of such a policy?

Pending medical claims

565. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that several crores of rupees pertaining to the medical treatment given to C.G.H.S. beneficiaries by the private hospitals approved by the C.G.H.S. have been outstanding for the last several months;

(b) if so, the details of each such hospital

as on the 1st May, 2005 alongwith the specific reasons for not releasing the payment; and

(c) by when these dues are likely to be paid to each hospital?

Private wards to retired patients

566. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per letter No. 11011/49/86-CGHS(P), dated the 25th March, 1987 issued by his Ministry, Government servants who retired prior to 1987 with basic pay of Rs. 1200/- are entitled to private wards in Central Government Health Scheme recognized private hospitals;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any representation in this behalf; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what action Government have taken/propose to take in this regard?

AIIMS like institutions

567. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six AIIMS like medical institutions are being set up under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will consider setting up such institution in Tamil Nadu?

Alarming level of pesticides in hospitals

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the alarming level of pesticides has been detected in leading hospitals of Delhi;

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

(c) whether Government had issued any directions to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Emergency medical care and medical insurance policy

569. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many private hospitals are refusing to admit patients who require emergency medical care on the ground that the patients are unable to deposit cash in advance, and even medical insurance certificates of nationalised insurance agencies are also disregarded by the hospitals; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take for ensuring proper medical attention to the emergency patients having medical insurance certificates?

CGHS dispensary in NOIDA

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

(a) whether it is a fact that NOIDA which consists of more than 107 sectors, has got only one CGHS Dispensary;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the patients have to wait for hours to get their turn to get medicine or the medical consultation;

(d) whether there is a proposal to set up more CGHS Dispensaries in NOIDA; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Mental health care

571. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are giving least consideration for mental health care as the living conditions of the mentally ill people are pathetic and their rights are not respected;

(b) the details of the existing mechanism by Government to monitor the mental health centres in the country; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to provide a better environment and health care for the mentally ill people?

Delay in medical reimbursement

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

(a) the number of medical claims submitted by the pensioners in each CGHS dispensary in the Capital for reimbursement of the cost of medicines which could not be provided to them on account of frequent strikes by the Chemists during the current year;

(b) how many of them are still pending alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether responsibility has been fixed on the officials concerned for not releasing

the payment which is causing great inconvenience to pensioners?

Allegations against MCI

†573. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 200 MPs of the country have levelled allegations of corruption against the Medical Council of India;

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

(c) whether Government are considering to conduct any legal enquiry into this matter; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent corruption prevailing in the field of medical education?

Diabetes in India

574. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICMR has done any studies on the growing prevalence of diabetes amongst the younger people in India;

(b) if so, the findings of this study;

(c) to what extent has the study shown that soft drinks, sugar-based food, fast food are the primary causes of diabetes amongst our youth;

(d) whether Government have made awareness schemes to counter this trend of sickness amongst our youth; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Slide in growth of HIV infections

575. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an unprecedented slide in the annual growth of HIV infections in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this drastic decrease is due to a methodological flaw?

Leprosy, TB and AIDS cases in the country

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

(a) the number of leprosy, TB and AIDS cases detected in the country as on date and the number of new hospitals set up for the same in 2004-05 and 2005-06, till-date;

(b) the number of leprosy, TB and AIDS hospitals in the country as on date, State-wise/hospital-wise; and

(c) the details of foreign assistance provided to these hospitals during the last three years and the amount spent so far in this regard?

Safe blood to patients

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

(a) whether Government have any plan to provide safe blood to patients needing blood transfusion besides AIDS patients; and

(b) if so, whether patients will be required to pay for the blood?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Meningitis in Northern States

578. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether meningitis has taken a heavy toll of life, especially of children in the Northern States, during April-June this year;

(b) if so, the meningitis cases during the period, State-wise and how many of them proved fatal;

(c) the comparative figures for the past two years; and

(d) the special steps taken to fight the disease and the expenditure incurred by the Central and State Governments thereon?

Increase in TB cases

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tuberculosis (T.B.) cases have increased many folds in the recent past;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the deaths on account of Tuberculosis have also increased;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that required attention has not been given to this disease and much attention is being given to disease like AIDS etc.?

Cheating by doctors in RML Hospital

580. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CBI has

booked a Cardiologist of the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital for cheating and criminal conspiracy by recommending expensive treatment to healthy patients; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Meningitis in Delhi

581. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of Meningitis reported by Delhi hospitals so far during this summer, since March, 2005, month-wise;

(b) the number of deaths that occurred due to this disease so far, since March, 2005, month-wise;

(c) whether an inquiry has been held as to the causes of this disease this year in Delhi; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent this disease in future?

Japanese aid to pulse-polio immunisation campaign

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has agreed to grant Rs.23 crores to intensify pulse-polio immunization campaign to eradicate polio from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of polio cases reported in the country during the last five year, year-wise and State-wise?

Deaths of patients in Government hospitals

†583. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that whereas the specialists dealing with administration of private hospitals maintain that good hospitals all over the world claim to bring death rate to zero level, the same in Government hospitals of Delhi is increasing year after year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the increase thereof;

(c) whether it has been investigated that the main reasons responsible for such deaths are negligence of doctors and staff as well as wrong treatment; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to improve the situation?

Asthma and TB patients in Korba district of Chhattisgarh

†584. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of patients suffering from Asthma and Tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases in district Korba in Chhattisgarh are on the rise during the last five years;

(b) the reasons for rise in the number of such patients in the said district; and

(c) the measures being taken to control such kind of diseases?

AIDS Patients

†585. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of AIDS patients in India has reached over 50 lakhs as per a report of World Bank;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to check its spread as an epidemic, create awareness about it and to make available the resources to infected persons; and

(c) the results achieved so far through the efforts made by Government?

AIIMS like hospitals in Chhattisgarh

†586. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up AIIMS like hospitals in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, whether necessary survey has been carried out in the State for setting up such hospitals; and

(c) the location in the State where said hospitals would be set up and expected cost thereof and capacity earmarked therefor and by when the work for the same would begin?

Clinical Establishment Bill

587. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of introducing a Clinical Establishment Bill that will set uniform standards for healthcare delivery;

(b) if so, whether it will contain provisions for adequate medical coverage of rural areas, setting up of health centres, availability of doctors or para-medical staff,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and regular supply of medicines/injections, etc.; and

(c) whether Government would also enlist the co-operation of NGOs and other voluntary organizations to set up free dispensaries in rural areas by offering them infrastructure, physical facilities like land, power, water, etc. free or at nominal payment basis?

CGHS dispensary in Gurgaon

588. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the large number of CGHS beneficiaries in Gurgaon, the existing CGHS dispensary there is always crowded and congested, thereby causing a lot of inconvenience to the patients;

(b) if so, whether a new premises has been taken on lease for relocating the dispensary;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a suitable plot of land has already been acquired in Gurgaon for constructing a spacious CGHS dispensary to cater to the increasing number of beneficiaries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when the construction is likely to be taken up and completed?

Psychiatric care in the country

589. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who sought

psychiatric care during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the per-capita practicing psychiatrists in the country as at present alongwith patient-psychiatrist ratio during the relevant period;

(c) the number of mental hospitals under the Central and State Governments in the country togetherwith details of patients admitted for treatment therein, year-wise since 2000-01 and the number of qualified psychiatrists engaged, hospital-wise;

(d) the number of faculty in psychiatry departments in medical colleges as in 2000-01 and presently;

(e) whether colleges/hospitals are witnessing exodus of psychiatrists of late;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken for reversal of this trend?

Ban on non-iodised salts

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

(a) whether Government have imposed a ban on the sale of non-iodised salt in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the difference in the cost of iodised and non-iodised salt for the consumer;

(d) the names of companies which are marketing iodised salt in the country;

(e) whether a large number of people are against this ban on non-iodised salt; and

(f) if so, whether Government propose to review this decision?

Awareness programme to control HIV/AIDS

591. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NACO has started Red Ribbon Express as part of its awareness programme to control HIV/AIDS in India;

(b) if so, what are the aims and objectives of the programme; and

(c) the route map of this awareness campaign?

New AIDS vaccine

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

(a) whether Government are aware that Hadassa University Medical Centre of Israel has developed a vaccine for HIV/AIDS for the first time;

(b) if so, the details of the research done by Hadassa University; and

(c) what exactly is the difference between AIDS cocktail medicine that is now being given to patients and the vaccine developed by the said University?

Medical/Dental education facilities

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

(a) the number of medical/dental colleges both in Government and private, functioning at present in the country, State-wise/college-wise;

(b) the norms/guidelines fixed by the colleges for admissions in the above colleges;

(c) whether any management quota in both sectors is available, if so, how it is filled up; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to abolish management quota for admissions in these colleges?

Trial of AIDS vaccine

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

(a) whether it is a fact that National AIDS Research Institute, Pune is all set to start phase-I trial of Adeno Associated virus vaccine;

(b) whether the necessary ethical and regulatory approvals have been obtained from Government to select the necessary volunteers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that French researchers have been able to successfully suppress the AIDS/HIV virus upto one year among a small group of patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Sugar free tablets

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

(a) whether aspartame is used in the manufacture of sugar free tablets and in other products sold in the market for use by diabetics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether aspartame causes various diseases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to ban use of aspartame in sugar free tablets and in other products in the interest of health of diabetics?

Retirement age of Government doctors

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to raise the retirement age of Government doctors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the exodus of the medical specialists from various Government hospitals to private hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of specialist doctors who have left Government hospitals to join private hospitals;

(e) whether Government are contemplating special pay-package for specialist doctors; and

(f) if so, the details in regard thereto?

Single window system for clearing the new drug applications

597. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a single window system is being created for clearing the new drug applications involving recombinant technology and Genetic Engineering; and

(b) if so, by when this will become operational and what will be the requirement for such a clearance?

Funds for National Mission on Rural Health

598. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal from Karnataka for release of funds under National Mission on Rural Health is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the amount would be released?

STDs in UP

599. SHRI R.K. ANAND : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uttar Pradesh has the highest rate of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and is classified as a low prevalence State in terms of AIDS; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps are being taken to see that AIDS disease is eradicated in India?

Banning non-iodised salt

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have reinstated ban on the sale of non-iodised salt from August, 2005;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a very large number of iodine deficiency cases are being reported in the country during the last few years; and

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

Scarcity of drugs

601. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are no life saving medicines available in Government hospitals for the patients of dog bites, snake bites, etc.;

(b) if so, whether the patients of dog bites and snake bites are not getting treatment in time due to non-availability of these life saving medicines in the hospitals; and

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

Infant mortality rate

602. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the infant mortality rate in the country as per the finding of UNICEF and the State-wise break-up in percentage terms; and

(b) whether any special schemes have been launched in the country to ensure availability of nutritious food and supplements for infants in the backward regions and among economically weaker sections of the society?

Proper birth medicare

603. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than half of the mothers give birth of their children at homes with a very small percentage of mothers getting facility of hospitals;

(b) what percentage of these infants are found suffering from disabilities; and

(c) the steps to be taken to curb the menace?

Direct Monitoring System for spurious medicines

604. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of Government in curbing the manufacture of spurious medicines and drugs at manufacturing level and at the level of pharmaceutical distributors;

(b) whether Government would enact any law for directly creating and monitoring vigilance system throughout India to curb the ever growing menace of spurious medicines and drugs worth several thousands of crores of rupees without being controlled by States;

(c) if so, the details of the proposed law; and

(d) if not, the measures Government would propose for its direct involvement to curb this ever growing menace?

Mashelkar Committee on Spurious drugs

605. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of R.A. Mashelkar report on spurious medicines and drugs;

(b) whether Government would setup special courts in every State to ensure speedy prosecution of spurious medicines and drugs manufacturers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and alternative steps proposed to be taken;

(e) whether Government would ensure more drug inspectors especially for collecting samples for testing and in setting up more modern drug testing laboratories, to detect spurious drugs for speedy prosecution and convictions; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Medical care to people

†606. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the medical facilities which have been set up till today after gaining Independence serves only 20 per cent of the population;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have assessed the size and level of the system for providing medical facilities to the whole population of the country; and

(d) if so, the extent of additional increase which is required in the present system and by when it is targeted to be implemented?

National Rural Health Mission

607. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been launched from April, 2005;

(b) whether Jharkhand has been included among the eight Empowered Action Group States; and

(c) if so, the number of schemes under

the programme started in Jharkhand, the amount of money sanctioned and released so far?

Trauma Centre in Delhi

608. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need of a Trauma Centre in National Capital Delhi and other major metropolis to meet emergency situations;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for setting up such centres in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time frame for its implementation?

Rising gap between male-female ratio in the country

609. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite so many laws and regulations existing in the country, gap between male-female ratio is on the rise;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to ameliorate the situation; and

(c) the reasons for the non-conviction in the past few years in the cases of charges of misuse of diagnostic techniques by various nursing homes and clinics?

Cancer and TB cases in India

610. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons affected with Tuberculosis (TB) and Cancer during the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

year 2000 and added thereto year-wise since then, State-wise;

(b) the details of the NGOs engaged in combating and rendering care to TB and Cancer patients, respectively;

(c) the funds allocated to them in last five years till the current year;

(d) whether any augmented measures are contemplated to eradicate TB and making treatment of Cancer affordable to the common men;

(e) if so, details thereof; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor?

Displaying the content of soft drinks in the bottle

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had taken any specific decision after the orders of the Rajasthan High Court to the effect that every bottle of soft drinks like Coca-Cola and Pepsi should display the information that the drink contains pesticides;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Safety in soft drinks

†612. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of cold drinks like Pepsi and other such drinks is totally safe from the health point of view;

(b) whether it is appropriate health-

wise to write the full details regarding cold drinks on the cans or bottle of cold drinks for the information of consumers;

(c) if so, whether Government have issued any direction to the companies producing cold drinks; and

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

Harmful effects of steroids in meat

†613. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that meat sellers feed to cocks, goats and pigs with steroids so that their weight can be increased and more profit is earned and as a result persons falling ill after eating meat of such animals do not respond to antibiotic medicines;

(b) if so, whether recent test and studies carried out in Micro-bacterial Department of P.G.I., Lucknow have revealed that when antibiotic medicine was given to non-vegetarian patients, it worked against the patients and destroyed the useful bacteria; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken to make people aware about such hazards?

Comprehensive Health Programme

614. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive plan has been formulated to spend about Rs. 100,000 crores, over the next seven years, to improve the health sector in India through some innovative

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

strategies to ensure that the benefits reach the people in the remotest corners of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Panchayats are being given an important role to administer and oversee the functioning of the primary health centres and the community health centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Review of New Catering Policy

615. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to review the New Catering Policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if the new policy is implemented in its original form, more than 50,000 vendors will become jobless; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the small vendors would not be able to pay the license fee proposed in the New Catering Policy?

Gauge conversion, etc. in Gujarat

616. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the pending demands of Gujarat for Gauge conversion, new routes, extension of existing routes and increase in frequency;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat is prepared to enter into an agreement to have projects on Build-Operate-Transfer basis; and

(c) if so, the proposals made by the Government of Gujarat?

Special Railway Safety Fund

617. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) has been created;

(b) if so, how much money has been allotted to this fund and what is the present balance lying at the credit in this fund; and

(c) how far the SRSF has been utilised since its creation till today?

East Coast Railways

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that East Coast Railway (ECR) with headquarters at Bhubaneswar, has shown remarkable growth both in goods and passenger traffic during 2004-05 and similarly there is perceptible rise in revenue earnings;

(b) if so, the details of these results;

(c) the status of the on going and new rail projects, including electrification, which are moving at slow pace on account of lack of adequate allocations; and

(d) the action plan of Government to speed up completion of these projects?

Travelling in the names of MPs/ MLAs

†619. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons who travelled in the names of MPs/MLAs during the last two years, Zone-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government are taking any concrete steps to stop this type of fraud; and

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

Collision of Purushottam Express

620. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Purushottam Express bound for Puri collided head on with a light engine on the same track near Gamariah station in Jharkhand on 20th June, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of persons who lost their lives, seriously injured and those not seriously injured in the accident;

(c) whether an inquiry has been held, if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the amount of ex-gratia payment made to each category of accident victims?

Derailment of Chittorgarh-Mhow Holiday Express

621. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chittorgarh-Mhow Holiday Express derailed near Ratlam on the 6th June, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of persons who lost their lives and were seriously injured as a result of the accident;

(c) whether an inquiry has been held into the cause of derailment, if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the amount of ex-gratia payment

made in relation to those who died and were seriously injured?

Relief to passengers of Shanti Express

622. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for over 36 hours no relief was provided by the Railways to the passengers of the ill-fated Shanti Express which was stranded at Dakor during the recent floods in June in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons for this inaction for 36 hours on the part of Railways or their lack of co-ordination with the Gujarat Administration who took over 28 hours for dropping food packets (most of which fell into the water) for the marooned passengers; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of devising a contingency plan for such a situation in future?

Rail Projects in UP, Maharashtra and Uttaranchal

†623. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the ongoing rail projects in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttaranchal and the amount so far spent on these projects;

(b) the estimated cost of each project along with the amount allocated for these projects during 2005-06; and

(c) the time frame set to complete these projects and the steps taken by Government to complete these projects in time?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Improvement of goods transport
facilitation rail network**

624. SHRISANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to improve various goods transport facilitation rail network in the next five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken for generating additional rail capacity for carrying long and short haul bulk goods by making it industry and consumer friendly;

(c) whether it is a fact that Japan International Co-operation Agency has offered financial assistance for Mumbai-Delhi and Mumbai-Kolkata rail corridor project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Growth rate in the first quarter

625. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has written to all General Managers regarding negative growth in the first quarter during the current year;

(b) if so, the growth rate for all sectors in the first quarter; and

(c) how the situation is likely to be corrected?

Railways package tours

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

(a) whether Government have any plan to launch railway package tours for various places in Southern India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of railway package tours currently under operation by the railways;

(d) whether the railways have received any proposal in this regard from the Southern State Governments; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

**Contractual labour system in parcel
handling**

627. SHRI A. VJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps will be taken to replace the contractual labour system introduced in the parcel handling in many railway stations like Trivandrum Central, Ernakulam Junction, Shornur, Kozhikode and Mangalore under Southern Railways with licensed porters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether steps would be taken to revoke the suspension of twenty two licensed porters at Kozhikode Railway Station in Kerala?

Rail accidents

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

(a) the details of the rail accidents that occurred during the last five years, year-wise and zone-wise;

(b) whether any study has been undertaken to identify the recurring causes of the train accidents;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations of such study and implementation thereof;

(d) whether modernisation/upgradation of railway lines/trackings/signal systems aimed at preventing accidents have not been carried out; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

East-West rail corridor

629. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Japanese Prime Minister, a Japanese proposal to build a \$ 5 billion east-west rail corridor between Delhi and Mumbai and Delhi and Howrah to promote India's infrastructure was discussed;

(b) if so, how the corridor would be operated and how the cost would be shared; and

(c) the details of the decision taken and the steps being taken in pursuance thereof?

New Harsood Railway Station

†630. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Railway Station at Chhanera is proposed to be named as 'New Harsood' by Madhya Pradesh Government after the old Harsood station submerged under water;

(b) the action taken by Government, so far, in this regard; and

(c) by when the procedure of naming the Chhanera Station as New Harsood would be completed?

Travelling in AC coaches at the cost of Sleeper class

†631. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide an opportunity of travelling in A.C. coach to passengers at the cost of sleeper class;

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

(c) the details of profit and loss which would be incurred by railways by introducing this scheme; and

(d) by when the scheme is proposed to be implemented?

Freight Authority

†632. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a tribunal named Freight Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this tribunal would be constituted?

Checking the passengers without valid ticket

†633. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the special squads of railway have carried out special checking to apprehend the passengers travelling without valid ticket or carrying luggage without booking;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of passengers apprehended from January, 2001 till date who were found without ticket or carrying luggage without booking;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this checking shows that many officers of Railways are involved in this illegal activity and if so, the action taken by Government against them; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to see that travelling without ticket is controlled and the responsibility of officers is also fixed therein?

Track breach at Warangal

634. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a serious track breach occurred between Warangal and Hyderabad due to rains recently;

(b) the causes of the track breach at Warangal in the month of July, 2005;

(c) whether Railways have not selected proper routes to ensure that rain water does not impact tracks or local topography;

(d) the steps to be taken to study on what system the Railways should follow to ensure that rain water and flooded rivers do not harm local people; and

(e) what steps will be taken to ensure that adequate number of outlets and drains are built beneath tracks to avoid creating floods by the Railways?

Revenue from advertising

635. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is ample scope for

advertising revenue by letting out air and rail space;

(b) if so, how much money has been generated in the last two years from advertisements;

(c) whether adequate sum has not been generated from advertisements; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Parcel service trains

636. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether parcel service trains have been introduced between Delhi-Mumbai and to other cities;

(b) whether it is proposed to introduce a parcel express train to Tuticorin via Chennai from Delhi to harness the potential of the port at Tuticorin;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Racket in refund of tickets

†637. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a big racket is operating in Railways on the pretext of refund of tickets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite completion of journey, refunds are claimed on the same tickets;

(c) the total amount paid against refunds of tickets during last three years throughout the country;

(d) whether Government would constitute a committee to inquire as to whether it is not a big scam;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Haridaspur-Paradip BG link

638. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Orissa Government has signed an MoU for construction of Haridaspur-Paradip BG link;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time-frame within which it would be taken up for construction, completed and operationalized?

Merger of small steel PSUs with SAIL

639. SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C.
RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering a proposal for the merger of Small Steel Public Sector Enterprises with Steel Authority of India Limited;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether related issues pertaining to the proposal have been adequately considered and all affected interests have been consulted in the matter; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Rising steel price

640. SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp rise in the price of steel;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with comparative figures for the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this price rise is the cause for rising manufacturing cost of motor vehicles;

(d) if so, the details in this regard, with particular reference to the impact of steel price rise on small scale industries dependent on steel; and

(e) the measures initiated to provide relief to the SSIs?

POSCO's MoU with Orissa

641. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether POSCO of South Korea has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Orissa for setting up a 12 million ton steel plant with a capital outlay of more than Rs. 52,000 crores;

(b) whether the details of the MoU has been made public and if so, whether POSCO will be allowed to export high grade iron-ore against import of low grade iron-ore; and

(c) how soon the final Memorandum of Agreement is likely to be signed between POSCO and the Government of Orissa?

Policy on export of raw materials for steel

642. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, being the world's third largest iron-ore producer, is framing a long-

term policy on export of raw materials used to make steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent it would be different from the present one;

(d) whether, under existing policy, India allows free export of iron-ore with a ferrous content of less than 64 per cent but a licence is needed for selling high grade iron-ore; and

(e) if so, to what extent these measures will be considered in the new policy to make it more flexible?

Employment to displaced families at VSP

643. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families who lost their

lands due to acquisition of their lands by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Authority;

(b) the details of Act passed/agreement made in the past to give direct employment to such families in the steel plant at Vizag;

(c) the details of jobs provided so far to such families;

(d) whether direct recruitment took place while many of the entitled youths out of such families still remain to be absorbed;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether Government will absorb the remaining youths of such families;

(g) if so, by when; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd July, 2005
Sravana 1, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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