

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the November 29, 2002/Agrahayana 8, 1924 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and Forests;
Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development; Ocean
Development; Railways; Science and Technology; Steel; Youth
Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions—155

Milk quality standards

1041. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise the milk quality standards and the mandatory screening at farmers' level, to ensure infection-free and good quality milk for processing and exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has been asked to lay down the quality parameters for milk;

(d) if so, the recommendations of BIS in this regard; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Agro Marketing

1042. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1054, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th July, 2002 and state the status of implementation of the report of Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Agro Marketing?

Fruit and vegetable production

1043. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a substantial increase in the production of fruits and vegetables in the country;

(b) if so, in what ways the fruits and vegetables produced in the country are utilised;

(c) whether any possibility has been explored by Government to increase the export of fruits and vegetables; and

(d) if so, the performance in that regard during the last three years, year-wise?

Opening of a dairy in Uttar Pradesh

1044. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open a dairy in Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of financial allocations made, so far, in this respect; and

(d) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

MSP for Copra

1045. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MSP for Copra has been fixed at Rs. 3300 and Rs. 3555 per quintal, for milling and ball copra, respectively;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken note of the low productivity-rate and the high cost of cultivation, before fixing the MSP;

(c) whether Government have received any requests from the State Governments for raising the MSP; and

(d) if so, the details of the request received and the action taken by Government thereon?

Cultivation on rain-fed land

† 1046. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cultivation on most of the rain-fed land proves to be unremunerative;

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

(c) whether Government have made any assessment regarding the financial gains accruing from cultivation on such land; and

(d) if so, the per hectare of profits by cultivation on such land?

Students in ICAR agricultural universities

1047. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural universities under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) had admitted about 100 foreign students during the last year;

(b) whether ICAR has set up a target for increasing admissions of foreign students into its deemed universities by five times, over the next year;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard; and

(d) how many foreign students are studying in ICAR's deemed universities this year?

Assistance under agricultural scheme to NGOs

† 1048. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being run by the Ministry of Agriculture under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations;

(b) the details of funds allocated to Bihar and Chhattisgarh, organisation-wise and scheme-wise, during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide benefit of these schemes at village level?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bovine development scheme

† 1049. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate or have formulated any rural development scheme for protecting, tending and breeding of bovine in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government in this regard?

Productivity of agriculture sector

† 1050. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibilities of augmenting the existing productivity of agricultural sector in the country;

(b) if so, what is the maximum level of productivity and at which places it is possible;

(c) what is the level of productivity in irrigated and non-irrigated lands at present; and

(d) what are the maximum and minimum levels of productivity in the country and at which places?

Fisheries development in coastal States

1051. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the action taken to give various incentives to coastal States for fisheries development?

Cotton production

1052. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated target/production of various brands of cotton in the country during the last two years and the current year, brand-wise and State-wise, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) the total domestic requirement of cotton and the surplus available for export during the above period; and

(c) the total area, as on date, under cotton cultivation in each State, particularly in Gujarat?

Paddy and wheat production

1053. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of production of paddy and wheat during the last three years stating the country variety, foreign variety and the mixed variety; and

(b) the extent of growing dependence on the World Seed Bank and the reasons therefor?

Construction of cold storage in Tripura

1054. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cultivators of Tripura produce bumper quantity of green rabi crops, every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the surplus green crops cannot be preserved for shortage of cold storages; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the Central Government would provide funds to construct new cold storages at strategic places in Tripura, as demanded under NEC programme?

Gyan Vani and Gyan Darshan Channels by ICAR & IGNOU

1055. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ICAR and IGNOU are jointly launching Gyan Vani and Gyan Darshan Channels, to educate the farmers to enable them to acquire knowledge in agricultural science, while remaining in the villages; and

(b) if so, whether dissemination of such knowledge of agricultural science would be given in a simple and understandable way and the programmes would be so structured that maximum number of semi-literate, or even illiterate, farmers are able to imbibe the same and are geared up for its implementation?

Grants by National Commission for Cattle to Madhya Pradesh

1056. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when was the National Commission for Cattle established;

(b) the grants released by the Commission to Goshalas in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(c) whether the grants were released through the State Government or direct to the Goshalas; and

(d) the amount released to Rajgadh district of Madhya Pradesh, during the last two years?

NAIS for fruits in Andhra Pradesh

1057. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified certain areas in Andhra Pradesh for extending National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) to fruits like mango, orange, banana, etc. in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether premium for these perennial crops has also been decided; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Dues under NAIS in Gujarat

1058. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the insurance amount to be paid to farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme has been outstanding in all the districts of Gujarat for the last two years;

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

(c) the details of payments made as insurance claims during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) by when all the outstanding dues are likely to be cleared?

MSP for sugarcane

1059. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Sugarcane Growers Association in Vijayawada had urged the Central Government on 23rd September, 2002 to declare Rs. 1,000 as Minimum Support Price at 8.5 per cent recovery rate, since the

total yield in the State had come down due to the prevailing drought conditions;

(b) if so, whether requests for high MSP have also been received from Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and other sugar-producing States;

(c) if so, the details of the demands received from different States; and

(d) Government's reaction and response thereto?

Back-yard poultry farming

1060. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has agreed to examine the proposal of providing its vast infrastructure to help the small farmers and landless rural workers to do backyard poultry farming in several States; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and by when it is likely to be implemented?

Promotion of animal husbandry

†1061. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made the annual allocations for promotion and development of animal husbandry during Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that crores of people have got full time and part time employment in this sector; and

(d) if so, the number of such people by the end of the Ninties, who had had the full as well as part time employment?

Water problems of backward districts

1062. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor living conditions of agriculturists from backward districts of our country who are fully depending upon the rain water;

(b) whether Government are also aware of their sufferings during monsoon failure;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to provide alternative relief measures for those affected agriculturists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

KVK at Kangra

1063. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sanction Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Kangra in Himachal Pradesh;

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

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Agricultural education in Uttar Pradesh and NER

1064. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total outlay for agricultural education for Uttar Pradesh and the North Eastern Region during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of allocations made for animal husbandry, fishery, agriculture and allied fields during the Tenth Five Year Plan, in various States of the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of expenditure incurred thereon during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

National Institute for Organic Agriculture

1065. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a National Institute for Organic Agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government received any request from the Kerala Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of Government thereto?

Restructuring Co-operative Credit Structure

1066. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a Rs. 8000 crore financial package for

restructuring the Co-operative Credit Structure in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Fishing harbours in Kerala

1067. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from Kerala for setting up of fishing harbours which are pending with the Centre for clearance;

(b) the estimated cost of each of the projects; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in giving clearance?

Foodgrains production in NER

1068. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target fixed for foodgrains production during the Tenth Five Year Plan for NER;

(b) the details of steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of investment proposed to be made in the production of foodgrains in NER?

Production of fruits, vegetables and floriculture products

†1069. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total production of fruits, vegetables and floriculture products during each of the last three years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government are aware of the problems being faced by the producers of these products;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether production of these items has been stopped by the producers; and

(d) if so, what measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

Agricultural contribution in GDP

† 1070. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contribution of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product of the country has continuously been declining during past decades:

(b) if so, the percentage of this contribution at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the estimated percentage thereof at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Decline in agricultural production due to drought

† 1071. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE) has expressed apprehensions regarding decline in the total production of agriculture in the current financial year, due to drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a possibility of decline in the rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) due to the above decline; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to contain the decline in the rate of GDP?

Regulating spurious and misbranded pesticides

1072. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stiffen the penalty for dealers selling spurious and misbranded pesticides, promoted by recent raids on pesticide dealers in Delhi by Plant Protection Division;

(b) the details of such cases investigated and punishment awarded during the last two years;

(c) whether high expenditure on ineffective and fake pesticides, particularly for cotton, is reported to have drained off poor farmers' meagre resources on inputs; and

(d) whether Government would consider appointing a regulatory authority to oversee quality control for pesticides, fertilizers, manures, seeds, to protect farmers; if so, the details in this regard?

Nominations for institutions Ministry of Agriculture

1073. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Government institutions/undertakings functioning under the Ministry, in which non-Governmental persons are nominated;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of persons nominated in these institutions and the criteria adopted therefor;

(c) whether any person from Gujarat has ever been nominated; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Distribution of drought relief funds

1074. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drought relief funds were inappropriately distributed to States during the recent drought situation;

(b) whether the highest relief amount was granted to Gujarat, which faced the drought in the initial stages of summer this year, but had an averagely good monsoon later on; and

(c) if so, whether Government intend to constitute a task force under the Disaster Relief Management, that would study any crises situation in all the States on ground level before the Centre allocates its relief funds?

CACP recommendations

1075. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of recommendations of the Commission on Agricultural Costs & Prices, submitted to Government in September, 2002, their revenue implications and the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) whether it is a fact that the recommendations tend to benefit the rich farmers only, with little relief to drought-affected marginal and small farmers; and

(c) the relief provided to each segment of the rich, marginal and small farmers of the farming community affected by natural calamities during the last three years, region-wise and year-wise?

Revamping HFCL and FCIL

1076. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the unanimous resolution of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has submitted a fresh proposal to the Union Government for revamping of Durgapur Plant of HFCL and Sindri Plant of FCIL, with Coal Bed Methane;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the same has been deliberated upon and the decision taken by the Cabinet; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being proposed for revival of these plants?

Restarting of HFCL and FCI Plants

1077. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article published in 'The Statesman' dated the 27th October, 2002 under the caption, "Bangla Ready to Sell Gas to India"; and

(b) if so, the steps being initiated by Government to use this Gas for restarting the HFCL & FCI Plants, located in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa?

Pruning the fertilizer subsidy

1078. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to prune fertilizer subsidy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Governments have been taken into confidence before taking a final view; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Revamping of HFCL

1079. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Government has sent a proposal for revamping of HFCL Durgapur Unit, with Coal Bed Methane (CBM) as feed stock; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard and whether the Union Government's decision dated 5th September, 2002 to close down the Durgapur Plant, is being reviewed; if not, the reasons for non-consideration of the proposal?

Disinvesting the National Fertilizer Company

1080. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Fertilizer Company has been playing crucial role in providing nutrients to the farmers timely at reasonable prices;
- (b) if so, the details regarding the total production and the profit earned during the last three years; and

- (c) whether Government propose to disinvest the National Fertilizer Company; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

Closure of Barauni fertilizer plant

† 1081. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to finally close down the only fertilizer factory at Barauni in Bihar;
- (b) if so, what are the reasons for this decision;
- (c) the suggestions given by the committees set up to improve the situation of the factory during the years 1986 and 2002 and whether Government have considered these suggestions;
- (d) if so, what is the justification for closing the factory; and
- (e) if not, what are the reasons for not considering the suggestions?

Losses in public sector fertilizer units

† 1082. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is an apprehension of losses in a number of public and private sector chemical fertilizer producing units, due to reduction of subsidy after implementation of the New Fertilizer Policy;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the estimated annual losses in public sector fertilizer producing units, after implementation of the new policy; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) to what extent the amount of said losses would be more, as compared to the amount of current losses?

Production of Polymers

1083. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Polymers in the country during the last three years, State-wise, including Gujarat;

(b) the details of proposals under consideration for development of Polymers for multiple use, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken to identify new areas in public/private sectors where the use of Polymers can play a vital role; and

(d) the details of research and development proposals cleared for development of Polymers during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat?

Revival of IDPL

† 1084. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to revive IDPL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Reforms in fertilizer subsidy

1085. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Group of Ministers, headed by the Chairman of the Planning Commission, has finalized a plan of Reforms, which would do away with the massive subsidy of over Rs. 140 billion to the fertilizer industry;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Group and by when the detailed policy on urea/fertilizers would be made public;

(c) whether it would be done in a phased manner, spread over five years, commencing in 2003, and would further prevent the agricultural sector from global competition; and

(d) if so, how Government hope to protect the farmers from China, European Union and USA, with these reforms?

Notices by NPPA against overcharging

1086. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what system is being followed by NPPA for monitoring the prices of de-controlled drugs;

(b) whether it is a fact that notices are being sent to companies for overcharging on non-scheduled drugs;

(c) if so, the names of the companies and the medicines and the prices being charged and the criteria for sending notices;

(d) whether NPPA is resorting to favouritism in sending the notices; and

(e) upto what level the increase in prices is justified by NPPA?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Closure of HFCL and FCIL

1087. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, following the Union Government's decision dated the 5th September, 2002 to close down HFCL and FCIL Plants, permission has already been sought from the competent authority as per the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for closure of HFCL, FCIL Plants by the respective companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the employees' organisations have been given ample opportunity of being heard; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

Chemical industrial estates

1088. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up mega chemical industrial estates across the country;

(b) if so, what would be the total cost of setting up these mega projects;

(c) how many States have shown interest in these projects; and

(d) the criteria for funding these projects?

Penalising impact of subsidy cut on private fertilizer plants

1089. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy losses are being sustained by most of the public

sector fertilizer plants year after year which were as high as Rs. 2,466 crore in the year 2001-02, as per the report of the Ministry; and

(b) whether Government are subsidizing such losses, at the same time trying to save much smaller amounts on subsidy, by penalizing the efficiency of private and co-operative sector fertilizer plants, under the garb of reducing subsidy, if so, how Government expect to ensure continued health and viability of efficiently run fertilizer plants?

Revival of sick fertilizer units

† 1090. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for revival of certain sick fertilizer companies in the public sector;

(b) if so, the names thereof; and

(c) the amount required to make these companies productive?

Enforcement of new pharmaceutical policy

1091. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2095, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the new pharmaceutical policy has been enforced;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the same is likely to be implemented?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Violation of DPCO

1092. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the violation of DPCO, by selling the products in the name of Small Scale Company, by some big Pharmaceutical Companies; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken against the companies for violation of DPCO?

Closure of sick fertilizer units

1093. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of fertilizer units in the country, declared sick during the last three years;

(b) the names of fertilizer units that would be closed during the next three years; and

(c) whether self-sufficiency of the country in fertilizer production would be affected by their closing down; if so, to what extent and the justification thereof?

Vintage allowance to fertilizer units

1094. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector fertilizer plants have stopped getting vintage allowance from Government; if so, whether it would render the urea units financially weak;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to assist these units;

(c) how much money Government are trying to recover from the fertilizer industry,

which was given to them by way of vintage allowance; and

(d) the names of the companies and the outstanding dues against each of them?

Prices of imported medicines

1095. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NPPA had been fixing the prices of all the imported formulations;

(b) if so, the profit being allowed on such imported formulations; and

(c) how NPPA monitor the price of imported formulations being sold at exorbitant prices in the market?

Performance of Fertilizer Plants in Public Sector

1096. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fertilizer Plants in the Public, Private and Co-operative Sectors separately operating at present;

(b) the capacity utilisation of these Plants;

(c) the reasons for poor performance of the Public Sector Plants; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the operation of the Public Sector Fertilizer Plants?

Extradition of UCL Chief

1097. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to initiate extradition proceedings against the

former Union Carbide Chief, Waren Anderson, in connection with the 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy;

(b) if so, the progress made, so far, in the matter; and

(c) by when the extradition proceedings are likely to be completed?

Wildlife semen bank

1098. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether there is a need to open a wildlife semen bank, to store semen and egg samples of all the endangered species of animals in the country;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this direction;

(c) if not, whether it is worried that certain species would come on the endangered list or become extinct; and

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

Haze over India

1099. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI PRASANTA
CHATTERJEE:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report has pointed out that a thick brown haze forms over India and much of Asia, containing ash, acids, aerosols and other particles, which could have profound effect

on human health, crop-yield and the rain pattern;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and how far it would pollute air in our land;

(c) the details of the major observations/conclusions contained in the report and the result of any further investigations made into these conclusions; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to guard against the harmful effects on our system?

Eco-friendly and bio-degradable plastic

†1100. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI :
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any special action plan for a new protocol to promote eco-friendly and bio-degradable plastic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent pollution spread by the plastic and by when the eco-friendly and bio-degradable plastic would be made available in the Indian market?

NFAP in Gujarat

1101. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the composition and objectives of the National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP);

(b) the total land earmarked for implementation of the programme in Gujarat; and

(c) the details of land earmarked for each main and sub-programme under the main components?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

JFM Scheme in Assam

1102. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with a view to protect and preserve the forests and environment, the Central Government are encouraging the Joint Forest Management (JFM) Scheme, emphasizing the need for local people's involvement with the forest management;

(b) how much money has been given to Assam during the current financial year to implement JFM scheme and how effective is the policy;

(c) whether the area of forest in Assam is drastically reducing, instead of increasing, due to lack of effective policy; and

(d) if so, the details of action plan in this regard?

Unauthorised constructions near wild life sanctuaries

1103. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many unauthorised buildings and residential colonies have come up around the wild life sanctuaries and parks, causing danger to lives, both of wild animals and human beings, living around;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to remove unauthorised structures and to provide their habitants safer places to live?

Vacant posts in the Forest Department

1104. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of front line posts in the Department of Forest are lying vacant in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the lack of adequate strength of forest guards causes the large scale encroachment on forest land and also increases poaching;

(d) if so, whether Government have initiated steps to lift the present ban on recruitments in this sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Division to study endangered species

1105. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government have already placed a special Division that would study and help in protecting endangered species in the country;

(b) if so, the roles defined for the functioning of this special Division;

(c) whether this division would also be involved directly in the fight against poaching;

(d) if so, to what extent and if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether it is a fact that there is a need for such a Division?

Environmental damage by advertisements

1106. SHRI BHAGAT RAM
MANHAR:
PROF. M. SANKARA-
LINGAM:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court imposed penalty in the recent past on Pepsi, Coca Cola, Birla White Cement and other companies for causing damage to environment in Rohtang Pass, by way of painting advertisements on rocks; if so, whether these companies have paid the penalties;

(b) what are the contents of the Supreme Court order and the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have formulated set rules, to be followed strictly in future, in this regard;

(d) whether a committee which went into this, had confirmed that these companies had further damaged rocks while trying to remove advertisements from the rocks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Increased investment-limit for new environmental project

1107. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government have effected a change in the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994, which raises the investment-limit for new projects, from Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 100 crore;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified around 16 categories of industries for relaxation;

(c) whether it would help to make the process simpler and quicker; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

New pollution control laws

1108. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the impact of Himachal Pradesh Non-biodegradable Garbage Control Act, 1996, Himachal Pradesh Government Special Ordinance, on keeping Manali Town area free of pollution and environmental hazards;

(b) if so, the findings thereon; and

(c) whether the Centre would consider enactment of similar laws to protect urban/ industrial conglomerations all over the country?

Death of trees in Delhi

1109. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to various studies conducted by Kalpavriksh and other institutes, concretisation of pavements is the root cause behind tree deaths in Delhi;

(b) whether digging near the tree trunks, thereby cutting of the roots, is also the second major factor;

(c) if so, the reasons for such heavy tiling or stoning of pavements, especially when it is not used by pedestrians; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to protect the trees, which play a major role in bringing down the pollution level on the roads in Delhi?

Forest cover in A.P.

1110. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have assessed the present forest cover in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it has increased or decreased over the previous assessment, giving the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures being taken to increase the forest cover in the State?

Animal sacrifice in Orissa

† 1111. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that lacs of animals are sacrificed in various parts of the country, particularly in Orissa, on the occasion of Mata Puja, as reported in The Hindustan Times dated the 17th October, 2002;
- (b) whether it is an offence in Orissa but the State Government has failed to ensure compliance of law, by the people; and
- (c) if so, what steps Government have taken to save the animals and to ensure stringent compliance of laws with regard to prevention of cruelty against animals, alongwith the results thereof?

Preservation of environment and forests at Surajkund and Badkal Lakes

† 1112. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that land in famous tourists places of Surajkund and Badkal Lakes of Haryana along the Delhi border is being levelled by blasting, in gross violation of the Supreme Court orders in this regard; and
- (b) if so, the details of steps Government have taken to protect the forests, as well as the environment of this area?

Endangered species of birds

† 1113. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bombay Natural History Society and Bird Life International have warned that the rate of decline in the birds of endangered species in India is increasing alarmingly;
- (b) if so, whether these institutes have warned that two species of pinhead duck, forest owlet, jardons cruiser, Himalayan mountain quails, cranes and vultures are also included in the endangered birds, which need protection; and
- (c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to protect these birds?

Reduction of CO₂ and CFC

† 1114. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the view point of India in the C.O.P. Conference was different from the earlier view point;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such important changes in Government's policy on such a serious issue, like environment; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide and C.F.C. at national level?

Study on Ganga pollution

1115. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Ganga Action Plan started;

(b) what are the details of tortuous attempts made to clean the Ganga and the amount spent so far;

(c) how many studies were conducted and the reports submitted so far, giving the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have planned one more study for control of pollution by an international agency; if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(e) by when the report is likely to be presented?

Tiger population

1116. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the tiger population in the country, as on date;

(b) the number of tigers reportedly killed during the last two years, year-wise, in different parts of the country; and

(c) the steps taken to manage the sanctuaries and tiger reserves properly and to increase the tiger population?

Havoc by black deers in M.P.

1117. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the havoc caused by black deers in the Shivpuri District of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have surveyed the losses suffered by the farmers due to the damage caused to wheat, rice and Soyabean crops, and to the human lives; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to compensate the farmers for the losses; and

(d) the steps taken to contain the menace of the black deers?

Stealing of trees from reserve forests in Orissa

1118. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government and the Orissa Government are aware that huge quantities of trees are being stolen every day from Similipal, Satkosia, Sunabeda, Hemgiree, Chandaka, Malyagiri, Anantpura and Ranjagol Reserve Forests and other forests of Orissa; and

(b) if so, what tangible steps are being taken by both the State Government and the Central Government?

Problems of food processing industries

1119. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from various

associations of Food Processing Industries, detailing their problems which were inhibiting their growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to solve their problem and difficulties?

Rationalising taxes on FPIs

1120. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

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

(a) whether Government are seeking to rationalise taxes, affecting the food processing industries;

(b) whether the Centre has requested the State Governments to consider granting zero sales tax status to such industries, especially in the case of perishable products;

(c) whether the Group of Ministers had been constituted to deliberate on integration of food laws and recommend a draft statute;

(d) whether the National Council for Applied Economic Research has estimated that investment in the food processing sector is likely to go up during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, to what extent it is more compared to Ninth Five Year Plan?

Exemption/withdrawal of taxes on FPIs

1121. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:

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

(a) whether the representatives of Food Processing Industries and various industries' associations have demanded exemption or

withdrawal of taxes applicable to processed foods and removal of contract farming for food processing industry, from the purview of the land ceiling law, to achieve quality and economy of scale;

(b) if so, whether this issue was discussed at a meeting of State Ministers for Food Processing Industries;

(c) if so, what were the points discussed in the meeting; and

(d) to what extent Government have agreed to provide help and assistance to the industry?

Community fruit processing and training centres in H.P.

1122. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for setting up of community fruit processing and training Centres in rural areas in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the places covered under this scheme; and

(c) what action has been taken/is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

ICDS projects

1123. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ICDS projects sanctioned by Government up to 30th June, 2002 throughout the country;

(b) how many posts have been sanctioned by the Central Government for implementation of ICDS, as per the project norms and against these sanctioned posts,

how many posts have been sanctioned by the State Governments;

(c) whether the State Governments have reduced these sanctioned posts, if so, the reasons of doing so and why this reduction was permitted; and

(d) whether Government are giving grant to State Governments, according to the posts or sanctioned posts, as per ICDS norms?

Database on foreign universities

1124. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce some form of regulatory framework for foreign educational institutions operating in India;

(b) if so, whether there have been any complaints of malpractices by such institutions;

(c) whether Government have any database on foreign universities operating in India and the students on their rolls; and

(d) whether any Committee has been set up for this purpose?

Reduction of seats in engineering colleges

† 1125. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Council of Technical Education has taken a decision to reduce the number of seats for students in engineering colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise, especially in respect of Chhattisgarh; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to provide adequate facilities in engineering colleges by the All India Council of Technical Education?

Improvement in technical education

† 1126. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to effect large scale improvement in the technical education sector;

(b) if so, whether Government have chalked out any draft plan for effecting such reforms; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the above plan and what decision has been taken by Government for seeking co-operation of the private sector in implementation of the said plan?

Central assistance for science education in A.P.

1127. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central assistance to Andhra Pradesh for improvement of science education in schools of the State, has not been sanctioned since the financial year 2000-2001, onwards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard, so that science education in the State does not lose?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Adverse effect of economic recession on computer education

† 1128. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether computer education has been adversely affected as a result of recession in the area of Information Technology; and

(b) if so, the efforts being made by Government to provide aid to concerned agencies to check the decline in computer education?

Drop-outs among girls

1129. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding percentage of drop-outs among the girl students in the country at various stages of school education, State-wise; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to improve the situation?

Professional courses by foreign Universities

† 1130. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Western International University of USA has set up its campus in Delhi, wherein a number of professional courses have been introduced;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that huge amount of fee is charged from students by the said Institution;

(d) if so, the fees prescribed for different courses, course-wise; and

(e) whether these courses have been accorded official recognition in the country?

Kendriya Vidyalayas in Gujarat

1131. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open more Kendriya Vidyalayas in Gujarat; and

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

Illiterates in backward districts

1132. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of illiterates in backward districts of the country;

(b) whether Government have any plans to improve this percentage; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Universities in UTs

1133. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of universities located in Union Territories;

(b) the number of students in different disciplines in all such universities from UTs themselves and from the neighbouring States, separately;

(c) what is ratio/proportion and actual financial assistance paid to respective universities; and

(d) whether Government pay any grants

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

on annual basis also, to these Universities; if so, the extent thereof?

Education funds to States

1134. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated to States for education, during the last five years;
- (b) the criteria followed by the Ministry for release of such funds, State-wise;
- (c) the details of various education schemes of Government in different States; and
- (d) the monitoring mechanism in place for effective implementation of such schemes?

Swayamsidha Scheme for women

1135. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are implementing the Swayamsidha scheme for empowerment of women in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the present status of the scheme in Andhra Pradesh?

Promotion of Urdu

1136. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps are being taken by Government to promote Urdu; and
- (b) what is the total Urdu speaking population in the country, as per the 1991 and 2001 census, State-wise?

Direct recruitments in KVs

1137. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have stopped all direct recruitments of teachers and other staff in Kendriya Vidyalayas; and
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there is excess work burden on teachers in various Kendriya Vidyalayas?

UNESCO resources for global education

1138. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has recently urged the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for greater mobilization of resources to fulfil the goals set out for action on Education for All, 2000; and
- (b) if so, what has been the response of UNESCO for meeting the goal of global education?

Primary schools in Rajasthan

1139. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Villages in Rajasthan which are without Primary and Upper Primary School facilities, as on date; and
- (b) the nature of assistance provided by the Central Government to the State Government, in this regard?

Standard of university education

1140. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the standard of university education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the steps taken in the field of higher education, according to the Birla-Ambani report;

(d) whether Government would change the existing norms in the appointment of university teachers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Grants to madarsas

† 1141. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madarsas run by minorities in various States, are being provided with grants from Government;

(b) if so, the amount of money provided to these Madarsas as grant during 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively; and

(c) the number of these Madarsas, State-wise, and the names of States wherein these Madarsas are being run?

Ranking of Central and State universities

1142. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission had made compulsory for all the Central and State Universities in the country, to get themselves ranked by its National Assessment and Accreditation Council by December, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the universities which have got/have not got themselves accredited so far, separately;

(d) the details of those universities which have opposed the proposal of UGC;

(e) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(f) what corrective measures are proposed to be taken in the matter?

Deemed University status for private technical and non-technical institutes

1143. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the
Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of private technical and non-technical institutes, that have mushroomed across the country, have requested for grant of Deemed University status;

(b) if so, the details of these institutions, State-wise and the action taken/proposed to be taken on their requests; and

(c) the details of guidelines laid down for maintaining objectivity in evaluating the private institutes for grant of the required

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

status and the role assigned therefor to the UGC and the AICTE?

Survey of continental shelf

1144. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research has initiated a survey, to establish the outer limit of the country's legal continental shelf;

(b) whether any time-frame has been fixed, by which the survey could be completed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Redefining the outer continental margin

1145. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new norm has been evolved since 1994, which provides for redefinition of the outer continental margin area of coastal States, that permits extension beyond the existing 200 nautical miles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is one of the littoral countries, which can make the extended claims on the outer continental margins; and

(d) if so, whether Government are preparing the necessary papers and presenting them before the U.N. Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf?

Recommendations of Railway safety review committee

1146. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as good as five committees on Railway safety have submitted reports to Government, so far;

(b) if so, what were their main recommendations; and

(c) how many of them have been implemented, giving the details in that regard?

Reorganisation of Railway Zones

1147. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reorganisation of Railway Zones has been announced by Government;

(b) whether the former Chairman of Railway Board and Railway officers' Federation/Associations have urged Government to reconsider reorganisation of Railway Zones; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to reconsider their decision?

Durg-Lucknow train

1148. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce passenger train from Durg to Lucknow *via* Katni-Manikpur-Chitrakut-Kanpur-Lucknow route, as per the demand in this regard;

(b) if so, the action taken in this direction;

(c) whether the train on the said route would be started during the current financial year, keeping in view the passenger facilities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Secunderabad-Jodhpur express train

(b) if so, by when and the latest development in this regard?

1149. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a daily express Train from Secunderabad to Jodhpur, *Via* Chithod, as nearly 10 lakhs of Jains from Secunderabad frequently visit Jodhpur; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Heart transplantation centre by the Railways

1150. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Railways to establish a modern Heart Transplantation Centre, adjacent to the Ballygunj Station area; and

(b) if so, what is the latest position in this regard?

Railway Engineering College at Majherhat

1151. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to establish an Engineering College, adjacent to Majherhat railway station under Sealdah Division, Eastern Railway, was undertaken by the Railways; and

Block proving axle counters in Railways

1152. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khanna Accident Enquiry Committee in its Report in 1998, had recommended to instal Block Proving Axle Counters section-wise, to detect presence of a vehicle at a defined length on a railway track;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure to detect the inspection trolley at Nabagram, about 69 km from Kolkata, where the Sealdah bound Rajdhani Express collided with the said trolley, recently; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to ensure that the recommendations made by Commissions on Railway Safety are implemented, in letter and spirit?

Pantry services in TN and GT Expresses

1153. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the pantry services in the Tamil Nadu Express and Grant Trunk Express are poor and the quality of food served is not good;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against the persons responsible for such poor pantry services; and

(c) the action taken to improve pantry services in the above trains?

**Zonal/Divisional Offices in South
Eastern Railway**

1154. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Railway Zonal Office at Bilaspur and Divisional Office at Raipur under South-Eastern Railway are likely to come into existence; and

(b) whether any difficulties are being faced in starting the offices; if so, the details of action taken to clear these difficulties and if not, the reasons for the delay?

Unsafe rail travel for women

1155. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail travel is increasingly becoming unsafe for women;

(b) if so, the number of incidents against women on trains during the last three years;

(c) the number of persons booked for offences against women on trains during the same period; and

(d) the measures contemplated for safe travel of women on trains?

Mudkhed-Adilabad rail line

1156. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked this year for completion of Mudkhed - Adilabad rail line; and

(b) by when the project is likely to be completed?

Disinvestment in RITES and IRCON

1157. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways has received any proposal for disinvestment of Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) and Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Ministry thereto?

**Disruption of Bangalore-Mysore rail
service**

1158. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss to the Railways due to cancellation or disruption of rail services between Bangalore and Mysore during Cauvery river water agitation, in the months of September/October, 2002; and

(b) the estimated loss due to damage to rail line and rail engine by the agitators?

**Recruitments in NF Railway from
Assam**

1159. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal in the Ministry of Railways to solve the unemployment problem of Assam;

(b) the number of persons recruited in the NF Railway during the last three years in Gr.-III and Gr.-IV posts; and

(c) how many of them were from Assam?

Decrease in budgetary support for rail projects

† 1160. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as per the status-paper on Indian Railways, not only the budgetary support for the Ministry has decreased during the past Five Year Plans, over the few decades, but debts against the Ministry have also increased and it has become almost difficult to start new projects and complete the old ones, within the stipulated period; and

(b) if so, what is Government's stand in this matter?

Peddapally-Sanga Reddy rail line

1161. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed circumstances and reasons under which rail line was laid from Telapur to Patancheru only, instead of extending it line up to Sanga Reddy, Medak, Siddipet and Peddapally;

(b) whether the rail line from Telapur to Patancheru is functioning; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor lying this line?

Criteria of halt stations

† 1162. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria for constructing a halt station between two railway stations;

(b) whether it is related with the population of surrounding villages and the distance between two stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Demands of NFIR for rail travellers

1163. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) has demanded steps to improve safety and for quality services to the travelling public;

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

(c) the steps taken for early reconditioning of distressed bridges and make available the required staff, for maintenance and operation?

Vacancies of loco staff in SER

1164. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 1250 posts of loco running staff are vacant in South Eastern Railway;

(b) whether the existing staff is required to put extra hours of work, leading to fatigue, bearing an adverse impact on the safety of passengers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the safety of passengers?

Rail foot-over bridge at Warangal

1165. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a second railway booking counter and a foot-over bridge at Warangal Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the allocations made therefor and by when the work would be taken up and completed?

Dangerous rail bridges in Bihar

† 1166. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail bridges in Bihar which have been declared dangerous;

(b) the amount spent by Government for their repair and maintenance during the last three years;

(c) the details of the new bridges for which proposals are being considered; and

(d) by when construction work for the new bridges is likely to be undertaken?

Rail lines in backward regions

1167. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a policy to lay new rail lines in backward regions of India for their development, without considering economical viability;

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

(c) if not, whether rail lines had been laid in the backward regions during past, due to economical viability only?

Irregular trains on Jalukbari-Lakhimpur line

1168. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for irregularity of trains on the metre gauge rail line from Jalukbari to Lakhimpur and up; and

(b) what steps have been planned to remove these causes and to regularise the trains on this line?

Frequency of Rajdhani Expresses

1169. SHRI SURENDRA LATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the frequency of some Rajdhani Express trains has been increased during the last three years;

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

(c) whether Government had a proposal to increase the frequency of Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express also;

(d) if so, the reasons for which the above proposal has not been implemented, till date; and

(e) the steps taken in the matter?

Railway projects in Madhya Pradesh

1170. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway projects under implementation in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether any targets have been set for their completion;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) the total cost *vis-a-vis* funds provided during the last two Railway budgets, for completion of these projects?

Unreserved Ticket System at NDLS

1171. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Railways inaugurated recently the Unreserved Ticket System at New Delhi Railway Station;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the Railways intend to extend this facility to Tamil Nadu and other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

National Rail Vikas Yojna

1172. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be spent under the National Rail Vikas Yojana during this year;

(b) the areas and the projects to be covered;

(c) the amount to be spent for this purpose during this year; and

(d) the action proposed to modernize the existing infrastructure?

Linking of Howrah and Sealdah Railway Stations

1173. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for linking the Sealdah Railway Station with Howrah Railway Station stands today;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the idea was cancelled; if so, when and the reasons therefor?

Trains from the opposite directions on same track

1174. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two trains—one the Jammu Mail and the other a goods train carrying

fuel, were barely 500 metres apart when their drivers saw each other from the opposite directions on the same track and stopped in Hiranagar (Jammu), on 12th October, 2002;

(b) whether an inquiry has been instituted into the incident and the report received;

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

(d) whether installation of anti-collision devices as a train safety, which would start from next year, would be helpful in such eventualities?

Trains cancellations due to closure of Yamuna Bridge

† 1175. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of rise in water level in Yamuna in Delhi in every rainy season, the old railway bridge at Yamuna is closed and many trains are cancelled, due to which the passengers have to suffer;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking concrete steps by Government to tackle the situation;

(c) by when Government would make concrete arrangements in the interest of common men; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Additional track between Ahmedabad and Mumbai

1176. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has revealed that there is justification to provide additional track between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, in view of the increasing traffic;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, when the additional track would be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Train accidents

† 1177. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of major train accidents which took place during the last two years and upto October this year, and on which dates and at which places, togetherwith the number of casualties in these accidents;

(b) what were the causes of each accident and whether various Commissions appointed after these accidents have presented their reports; if so, what are the findings of these Commissions; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government for improving the situation keeping in view the recommendations made by the Commissions?

Employment of retired railway employees in commercial institutions

† 1178. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of retired railway employees are employed with commercial institutions, contracting with the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the posts held by each of them formerly;

(c) whether it is also a fact that they give undue benefits to the private enterprises because of their earlier knowledge and acquaintance and affect the working of the Railways; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken to check the same?

Support from fund for science infrastructure in Karnataka

1179. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many academic institutions in Karnataka have been supported through the programmes of Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology Infrastructure, during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, so far; and

(b) the amount released to these institutions during the above period?

Patents for scientific inventions

† 1180. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any patent has been obtained at National and International level with regard to scientific and technological inventions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what efforts are being made by Government to obtain help from the individuals and small organizations, for getting the patents?

Research on tea technology

1181. SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state whether Government would consider to introduce research on tea technology and other relevant matters of this technology in Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Relief to Drought/flood hit States

1182. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drought hit States are given instant relief and Central aid but the flood hit States are left to fend for themselves;

(b) if so, the relief and aid given to each drought hit and flood hit State this year, indicating the extent of devastation caused in each State;

(c) whether the inadequate relief granted by the Central Government has resulted in starvation deaths in these States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any action plan to fight floods in flood-hit States on a permanent footing has been prepared at the national level; and

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

Losses of SAIL plants

† 1183. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the plant-wise details of profit made or loss suffered by the plants controlled by the SAIL during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any scheme to separate Bhilai Steel Plant earning profit since its inception, from the 'SAIL' and privatize other plants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Steel production and exports

1184. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total annual production of steel in the country, both in quantity and value;

(b) what is the total consumption of steel in the country;

(c) whether the steel is being exported and if so, the total quantity exported during the last three years in value and quantity; and

(d) what is the expected domestic requirement of steel in the next three years?

Stadia in Himachal Pradesh

1185. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals for construction of Skating Ring Stadium, Indoor Stadium, Synthetic Track and Outdoor Stadium in the Himachal Pradesh; if so, the details thereof;

(b) at which places such stadia are proposed to be constructed; and

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

Funds for sports development in NER

1186. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds granted to NER for promotion and development of sports activities, during, the last three years; and

(b) the effective measures being taken by Government to ensure proper utilisation of funds provided for the States?

Schemes/programmes for sportsmen in Assam

1187. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes and programmes

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

formulated and implemented by Government to encourage young sportsmen in Assam;

(b) the details of funds allocated and released for the same during the last three years; and

(c) the details of sports persons benefited so far, by implementing these schemes in the State?

Training to skilled sportsmen of backward regions

1188. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Special Skilled Sportsmen belonging to backward regions of our country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to provide special training for those sports personalities, to encourage them and to develop their sports career to the international standards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Sports academies in H.P.

1189. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals for setting up sports academies in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, at which places such academies are being set up; and

(c) by when the proposals would materialise?

Financial assistance to meritorious sports persons

1190. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sad state of affairs of many retired sports persons who had represented India at the national/international levels;

(b) if so, whether Government have floated any scheme to help them; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any provision for development of meritorious players at the national and international levels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the criteria being followed for providing financial assistance to such players?

Disallowance of Indian body builder at Busan

1191. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's sole body-building competitor was disallowed to participate at the Busan Asian Games;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that officials of the Body Building Association of India had not allowed him to participate in the competition; and

(d) what exactly transpired between the athlete and the Association at Busan?

Consumption of drugs by Indian athletes

† 1192. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of complaints regarding consumption of drugs by the Indian athletes during some of the last international events have been received;

(b) if so, the total number of such incidents, which have come to light, so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such incidents have degraded India in the international arena; and

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

Disqualification of medal winners due to malpractices

1193. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI RUMANDLA
RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national prestige has been lowered during the recent Commonwealth Games, when two Indian medal winners were disqualified, owing to malpractices;

(b) whether enquiry report into the drugs scandal has been received; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the coach and the players involved in drug scandal and to ensure that such scandals are not repeated in future?

Facilities for Indian players at Busan

1194. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last Asian Games at Busan, Geet Sethi and other players were not given proper facilities and that they had to sleep and rest on staircase;

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

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

Delay in construction of youth hostels

1195. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of youth hostels constructed so far under Youth Hostel Scheme, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the work of youth hostel construction projects has been badly delayed in certain States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the fresh steps taken for speedy construction of youth hostel buildings, for which funds had been sanctioned and released?

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd November, 2002
Agrahayana 2, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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