

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the July 31, 2003/Sravana 9, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food
and Public Distribution; Development of North Eastern Region;
Disinvestment; External Affairs; Labour; Planning; Road
Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space;
Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—155

Employees prosecuted by CBI

1177. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the employees of Central Government, State Government and Public Sector Undertakings prosecuted by CBI in case of corruption and misappropriation of Government funds during the last one year in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) the money and assets recovered from them;

(c) the cases pending for investigation; and

(d) the details of the cases let of after investigation?

Village industries in Rajasthan

1178. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village industries set

up in Rajasthan during each of the last three years, industry-wise and year-wise;

(b) the financial allocation of such industries;

(c) the number of units which are making profits;

(d) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to provide incentives to make them viable; and

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

PMRY in Madhya Pradesh

† 1179. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) details of the amount allocated to Madhya Pradesh under the 'Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana' during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of instalments due upto June, 2003 which have not been released;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government have not spent the full amount during each of the years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Steps to encourage Rural Industries

† 1180. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the condition of the traditional Rural Cottage Industries is continuously deteriorating;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to encourage the Rural Industries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rural industries established by KVIC in H.P.

† 1181. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rural Industries established by Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in villages of Himachal Pradesh and the number of people working in them;

(b) the number of registered Rural Industries/Institutions;

(c) the present status of these industries alongwith the number of industries earning profit and those running in loss;

(d) whether there is any scheme for the assistance to the industries which are running in loss; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Agriculture based industries

† 1182. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether Government have identified Agriculture based Industries being run in Rural Areas in different States;

(b) if so, the names of the Major Industries being run in the rural areas, State-wise;

(c) the average percentage of the total persons working in each industry; and

(d) the assessment of per capita income in these industries?

Proposal for developing Cottage Industries in Rajasthan

1183. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the Government of Rajasthan for developing Cottage Industries in the State; and

(b) the details of fund allocated to the State for this purpose during the last three years and the rate of development of Cottage Industries?

US help in nuclear power plants

1184. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT
RAO:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has declined to help India to set up nuclear power plants;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the issue of possible Indo-US cooperation in the civilian nuclear and space areas was raised by India in the recent talks with USA; and

(c) what are the areas where US-India high technology cooperation would take place?

Exposure of workers to radiation

1185. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers of Kalpakkam Atomic Reprocessing Plant were over-exposed to high radiation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken as safety measures to avoid such incidents in future;

(d) whether the victims can continue with the present job after this incident; and

(e) whether Government would provide any compensation to the victims taking into account the damage caused to their lives?

Poor telecom services in Jangla, H.P.

†1186. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that appointment of additional employees, installation of generator and a 512 line exchange in place of a 256 line exchange machine have not been completed in Jangla telephone exchange situated in Shimla district despite the approval of Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) whether Government propose to instruct the concerned Assistant Engineer

(Telecommunications) to inspect the telephone exchange once in a week so that telecommunication system continues to work smoothly and telephone subscribers get a proper service?

Fulfilment of obligation by private operators

1187. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the licence agreement with private operators stipulated that basic telecom service operators were to provide a minimum of 10 per cent of their total commitments as VPTs;

(b) if so, whether the private operators fulfilled their obligations since commencement of their operation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of the loss of amount suffered by Government along with the details of the action taken against the defaulting private operators?

Gram Sanchar Sevak

1188. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Gram Sanchar Sevak" (GSS) scheme launched recently, by Government has received encouraging response from the rural households;

(b) if so, names of the telecom districts in Orissa where GSS scheme has been launched; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to convert this project into a full-fledged

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

scheme across the country especially in remote areas of the State?

Media Lab Asia

1189. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Media Lab Asia (MLA) was launched during June, 2001;

(b) if so, the details including the collaborators, proposed duration of the project and the amount estimated for the same;

(c) whether any of the Indian Scientific Community suggested the need of this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the source of originating this project;

(f) whether \$ 5 million was proposed for using the name "Media Asian Lab";

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the present status of the project and the amount of work done to facilitate access to information in rural areas?

Media Lab Asia Programme

1190. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Media Lab Asia programme, a collaborative venture with the US based MIT was called off in May, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor including the source and reasons for initiating the above project;

(c) whether the above project was pushed ignoring the issues raised in Rajaraman Committee appointed to look into the feasibility of establishing the Media Lab Asia;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any inquiry would be initiated on the formation and conduct of the project Media Lab Asia and the collaborative programme with the MIT?

Development of software for transliterating from Persian to Gurmukhi

1191. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he deserves to be complimented for producing software; and

(b) what is the progress in respect of software for transliterating from Gurmukhi to Persian script and the *vice-versa* since until then, the job remains half done?

Computers in post offices in Rajasthan

1192. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of post offices where computers have not yet been provided for computerised registrations in Rajasthan;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government in this regard?

Service condition of E.D. postal employees

† 1193. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to improve the service conditions of E.D. postal employees;

(b) whether Government are contemplating the proposal of providing them the status of regular departmental employees and pensionary benefits also after their retirement; and

(c) if so, by when, a decision in this regard would be taken?

Internet bandwidth capacity

1194. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has abandoned its plan to augment its internet bandwidth capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons for cancelling tender for bandwidth expansion;

(d) whether the demand from ISPs has been examined before inviting tenders;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Telecommunication system in Manipur

1195. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government's scheme to extend normal and regular telecommunication system in the hilly districts of Manipur;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the pace of the progress;

(c) the factors contributing to the slow progress of the works; and

(d) the steps taken to overcome the same?

Surrender/disconnection of land line telephones

1196. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has witnessed a decrease in a number of land lines during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of the telephone connections that have either been surrendered or disconnected in Delhi and Mumbai during the above said period; and

(c) whether decline in land line telephone connections of MTNL and BSNL is attributed to the poor service provided by these companies, and if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve their services in metros?

Networking of mobile phone service in J & K

1197. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no networking for mobile phone service in Jammu and Kashmir; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when mobile phone service would be made available in the State?

Setting up of High Tech Parks

1198. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of High Tech Parks which have been set up in the country and location thereof;

(b) the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal to set up some High Tech Parks in the State of Orissa was under Government's consideration; and

(d) if so, the places identified for the location of these High Tech Parks?

Postal delivery zones in Delhi

1199. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of postal delivery zones in Delhi are multi-delivery zones, but the postmen make only one delivery of ordinary dak;

(b) if so, the names of delivery zones where two and three deliveries have been approved by the authorities but only one delivery of other than "registered dak" is made; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure compliance of the relevant orders?

Trapping of MTNL workers in manhole

1200. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two workers of MTNL were trapped in a manhole in Delhi on the 27th March, 2003, which they entered into to repair a duct pipe;

(b) if so, what was the status of the workers who died while on duty and compensation due to their next of kin;

(c) whether any employment is offered to the members of the families in such cases;

(d) the number of workers of MTNL who died while on duty during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) whether compensation due in those cases has been paid to the next of kin and the number of cases in which employment was also given to the members of the families?

Telephone connections in villages

†1201. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set a target to provide telephone connections in all the villages of the country by December, 2002;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while granting licenses to telecom circles, a condition was imposed that private operators would cover 60,000 villages and action would be taken against those operators who fail to provide such coverage till December, 2003;

(c) if so, what is the number of villages covered by private operators, so far and also the number of operators against whom action has been taken for not fulfilling the conditions; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bangalore, a Global Telecom City

1202. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangalore is all set to become first Global Telecom City by the year 2008; and

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

of villages that they were contractually bound to connect;

(c) whether all telecom operators have been contributing 5 per cent of their revenue for the last three years for the village telecom project under the Universal Service Fund (USF) meant to finance unremunerative networks; and

(d) if so, the current accumulations in the USF?

Rural WLL services in Andhra Pradesh

1203. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coverage of rural WLL services is very less;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the coverage area;

(c) whether Government also propose to construct new telephone exchanges in rural areas; and

(d) the steps taken to provide coverage of all towns and cities for cell phones in Andhra Pradesh?

Rolling back of call charges by BSNL/MTNL

1205. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL and MTNL have rolled back the call charges from land line phones to mobile cell phones the monthly rent and other tariff rates after May 1, this year when the rates were abruptly raised; and

(b) if so, the details of the revision in rates and the reasons impelling such revision?

Uniform scam in MTNL

†1206. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 471 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd November, 2001 and state:

(a) whether C.B.I. and Vigilance Wing of the Department have submitted their reports after investigations of the whole matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

Basic telecom operators' rural telephony obligation

1204. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deadline for the basic telecom operators to fulfil their rural telephony obligations has been extended;

(b) whether these operators during the last six years have extended their presence only to a minimal 7 per cent of the number

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the charges levelled against the General Secretary of the Staff Union of MTNL and whether these charges have been investigated or are being investigated; and
- (e) by when each matter would be solved?
- (c) by when the programme of distribution of mobile phones would be executed;
- (d) what is the suggestion of the State Government on the number of mobile phones; and
- (e) how the suggestion of the State Government is taken to account?

Mobile and WLL services in NER

1207. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the implementation status of the introduction of BSNL's mobile and WLL services in the North Eastern Region showing the proposed locations, target date for phase-wise implementation and progress made so far;
- (b) whether Government are aware that the quality of service by Reliance Mobile in Guwahati is poor and if so, by when it is likely to be improved by capacity enhancement; and
- (c) location-wise installed capacity of WLL service in Assam showing number of connections already provided and proposed for the current year?

Distribution of mobile phones in NER

1208. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mobile phones Government have decided to distribute in each State of the North-Eastern Region;
- (b) the basis on which this number of mobile phones has been fixed;

Introduction of cell phones in N.E. States

1209. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce cell phones in the North-Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the number of mobile phones earmarked against each State of the North Eastern Region;
- (c) what is the position of the State of Tripura in terms of population and the number of such phones amongst the State of NER; and
- (d) the steps likely to be taken by Government to minimise the gaps on a comparative scale?

Vacation of premises of Post Offices in Krishna Nagar, East Delhi

1210. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Head Post Office and Branch Post Office both at Krishna Nagar (East Delhi) have been shifted from there causing residents to great inconvenience;
- (b) the reasons for vacating the premises where these post offices were working for long;

(c) the reasons for not making a alternative arrangements in Krishna Nagar before shifting these offices elsewhere; and

(d) by when, a post office would be opened in Krishna Nagar?

Cyber crimes

1211. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cyber crimes registered in the country during the last two years;

(b) what are the figures giving nature of offences, State-wise;

(c) what is the age group of the persons involved in such crimes;

(d) whether Government propose to launch an awareness campaign to prevent such crimes by youngsters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Demand of Post Offices in Uttaranchal

† 1212. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demands of Sub-Post Offices and Branch Post Offices in Uttaranchal State;

(b) the district-wise details of the new Post Offices proposed to be opened by Government during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, district-wise; and

(c) the details of the total Sub-Post Offices and Branch Post Offices opened in various districts of Uttaranchal during the last year?

Telephone ratio

† 1213. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) availability of telephones per hundred persons in different States;

(b) whether any time-frame to make telephone availability upto the world level has been fixed; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps being taken in this regard?

Telephone facilities in Singhbhum areas of Jharkhand

† 1214. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no telephone facility in Badgaon Suvan Gayalkera Tantnagar, Manjhari and Kumarigeri blocks of Singhbhum areas of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to provide telephone facilities in these blocks?

New Post Offices in Mumbai

1215. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open new Post Offices in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed Post Offices, area-wise; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when the proposal would be implemented?

MTNL's Overseas Venture

1216. MISS MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI B. J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL Plans Overseas Ventures, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether MTNL propose to finalise and inter-connect agreement with Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) for the year 2003-04; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far MTNL has succeeded in adding subscribers in the country during the year 2002-03?

Funds for expansion of telephone system

1217. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has asked the Department of Telecommunications to prepare a comprehensive paper on funds required for the expansion of telephone system in rural India and to present it before the Finance Ministry;

(b) if so, whether the Department has already submitted the report to the Finance Ministry;

(c) if so, what is their reaction;

(d) by when funds would be allotted so that the implementation of the programme could start;

(e) whether the Planning Commission has set the target for providing telephone facilities to the rural India; and

(f) if so, the details of the target set?

Decline in rice stock

†1218. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rice stock with Government which was 234 lakh tonnes in June, 2002 has declined to barely 132 lakh tonnes this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what fresh measures have been taken by Government to keep safe stock of rice in the Country atleast at 100 lakh tonnes and to prevent farmers of Orissa from selling their rice every year at throw-away price?

Downward revision of foodgrains

1219. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a downward revision of foodgrains production estimates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to meet consumption demand in case of a shortfall in production?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sugar development fund

1220. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) when the Sugar Development fund was set up and what is the arrear at present;

(b) the amount and the manner in which it is utilised, so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that it has neither benefited sugar mill owners nor cane growers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of Kerosene

† 1221. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Kerosene allocated to different States during the last two years month-wise;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh has requested the Central Government to increase the allocation of Kerosene, time and again and whether instead of increasing the allocation it has been further reduced;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Kerosene would be allocated to all the States adopting equal norms?

Misuse of ISI marks

1222. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of misuse of

ISI mark detected during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by Government against individuals/firms for misusing the ISI mark;

(c) whether a number of Government officials were also found involved in such cases; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them?

Poor quality foodgrain supply to States

1223. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by Government against Food Corporation of India for supplying sub-standard foodgrain to various States under Public Distribution System during the last three years and till date, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the remedial measures taken by Government to ensure that such foodgrain supply conforms to the standards laid down in Prevention of Food Adulteration Act?

FCI godowns in Bihar

† 1224. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Bihar that have FCI godowns and how many districts do not have such godowns;

(b) whether Government have formulating any scheme for setting up FCI godowns in the districts which do not have any godowns;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Bacteria in packaged water

1225. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that samples obtained from prominent manufacturers of packaged distilled water contain an alarming rate of bacteria;

(b) whether according to press report titled "Study finds faecal bacteria in packaged water" and recent random survey conducted by the concerned authorities on sample bottles from six companies have revealed to have faecal coliform in their water; and

(c) if so, the names of the companies and the action taken by Government so far in the interest of public health?

Misuse of ISI marks

1226. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of misuse of ISI marks detected in the year 2002;

(b) how many of them are from Andhra Pradesh;

(c) how many persecutions have been launched; and

(d) in what stages are they at present?

Payment of sugarcane growers

†1227. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) the action taken by Government so far to help sugarcane growers in getting their payments and the number of farmers who have been helped in getting their payments during the last three months;

(b) what is the outstanding amount of sugarcane growers against sugar mills and by when sugarcane growers would be able to get their payments;

(c) whether it is a fact that sugarcane growers are not paid with the interest by sugar mills on their outstanding dues; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Distribution of foodgrains to States

1228. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Rice and Wheat procured for the Central Pool during the last three years separately;

(b) the quantum of Rice and Wheat distributed to States during this period separately, State-wise each year; and

(c) in what manner the surplus foodgrains is disposed each year?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Food stock in Private and Government godowns

†1229. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat and rice is stored in Government and private godowns after procuring from producers;

(b) if so, the quantity of foodgrains stored in Government godowns and private godowns at the end of March, 2003; and

(c) storage capacity of Government and private godowns under the Food Corporation of India?

Sale of foodgrain under PDS

†1230. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether wheat and rice is sold to the customers under Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat and rice sold to the customers below the poverty line and those above the poverty line separately during the year 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and

(c) the sale price of wheat and rice for both category of customers during each said year?

Foodgrain stock in FCI godowns

†1231. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India as on 30th June, 2003;

(b) what is the total annual expenditure on the storage of above foodgrains; and

(c) out of the total quantity of wheat and rice available in the godowns of Food Corporation, the quantity of foodgrains which is not fit for consumption and the quantity of foodgrains which has rotten?

Sarva Priya Yojana

1232. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sarva Priya Yojana is being implemented in Karnataka to distribute 11 essential commodities under PDS;

(b) if so, places where the above Yojana has been implemented and the number of beneficiaries;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the essential commodities to be supplied by Government under the above Yojana?

Sale in Fair Price Shops

1233. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a significant decrease in sale in Fair Price Shops through Public Distribution System in the capital;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the sales through FPS in Delhi, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the decrease in sales; and

(d) whether a similar trend has also been observed in other metros as well?

Increase in food subsidy bill

1234. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food subsidy bill has registered 325 per cent increase in seven years;

(b) whether no accounts are maintained to check whether subsidy actually went towards feeding the poor; and

(c) the amount lost on "transit shortages" and "regularisation of shortages" during the last three years?

People Below Poverty Line in States

† 1235. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the directions given by the Supreme Court during the hearing on a PIL regarding formulation of an action plan after obtaining the number of people living below poverty line from each State;

(b) if so, the number of States included under this action plan; and

(c) the details of the steps taken so far, State-wise?

Food supplements

1236. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of products are being marketed in India as food supplements;

(b) whether it is a fact that some food supplements are being exported and some food supplements of foreign origin are also finding their way into India;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware of the need for an Act to regulate production, marketing and export of food supplements; and

(d) the action taken so far in this direction?

Amendment of Essential Commodities Act

1237. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost 200 sugar mills in the Country, of which 138 are working, could not be able to sell a single Kg. of sugar during June, 2003 with the amendment to the Essential Commodities Act took effective from June 2, 2003;

(b) if so, the total number of Sugar Mills who have been granted free-sale quota for June;

(c) whether Government are planning to introduce a Bill to bring the amendments to the ECA under the Ninth Schedule (Article 31B) of the Constitution; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, whether Government are also likely to issue Ordinance to this effect?

Corporation on the basis of Economic Cost due to this sale for export in the above years?

Special cell in FCI

1238. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether to ease the pressure of procuring foodgrains like wheat and rice and maintaining huge stocks in their own godowns, the Food Corporation of India is planning to set up a special cell which would advise State Governments and farmers to diversify into other crops like oilseeds;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the steps FCI is proposing to take to meet the excess stocks and also make available space for further stocks of Rice and Wheat in the Country?

Sale of foodgrains to exporter

†1239. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

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 sold wheat and rice for export in the last years;

(b) if so, the quantum of wheat and rice sold to the Indian exporters in the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 togetherwith the prices at which these were sold; and

(c) the losses suffered by the

Cost of buffer stock of foodgrains

†1240. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the value of the buffer stock of grains in the Food Corporation of India in the year 1996-97 was Rs. 827 crore which has increased to Rs. 8066 crores in the year 2002-03;

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

(c) the reasons for this tremendous increase in value togetherwith the contribution of each of reasons for tremendous increase?

Sale of foodgrain for export

†1241. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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 had fixed target for the sale of wheat and rice for export during the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the quantum of such wheat and rice separately; and

(c) the sale price fixed for wheat and rice and to what extent this sale price is less than the Economic Cost of the Corporation?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Carrying cost of buffer stock in FCI

† 1242. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the carrying cost of buffer stock in the Food Corporation of India was Rs. 1,655.30 per tonne during the Ninth Five Year Plan which is being assessed to be Rs. 2,631.20 per tonne during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the reasons for this increase in cost togetherwith the contribution of each of these reasons for increase in the cost?

PSUs earmarked for disinvestment

1243. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of PSUs which have been earmarked for the next round of disinvestment during the year 2003-04;

(b) the number and names of PSUs out of the above, which have negative net worth and accumulated losses; and

(c) whether Government have invited bidders for these PSUs and if so, the details thereof?

Disinvestment in Maruti Udyog Limited

1244. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first ever disinvestment of the Government's holding

in Maruti Udyog Limited attracted favourable response of investors;

(b) the details of the offer made by Government and response received thereto; and

(c) whether Government proposes to review the strategy of the proposed disinvestment of equities in companies like HPCL, BPCL, Air India etc. in the light of the quality and magnitude of the response of investors which MUL offer attracted recently?

PSUs sold to private companies

† 1245. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PSUs sold to the private companies, so far, alongwith the number of PSUs planned to be sold;

(b) the reasons for selling PSUs;

(c) whether unemployment and poverty has not increased as a result of the sale of PSUs;

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide employment to the persons rendered unemployed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Tenure of Disinvestment Commission

1246. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tenure of Disinvestment Commission has further been extended;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with details of PSUs under consideration of the Commission for Disinvestment;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the PSUs disinvested so far with details of Government's stake in each of them and proceeds derived from each disinvestment;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of resentment among the employees, particularly of successful PSUs, on the issue of disinvestment; and

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

Disinvestment of HPCL/BPCL

1247. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in the process of disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL;

(b) whether cases are still pending in Supreme Court against disinvestment of these companies;

(c) the approximate period for completion of the process of disinvestment of these companies; and

(d) the proceeds Government hopes to get from these disinvestments?

Disinvestment in PSUs

1248. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the PSUs which have been disinvested in the last five years, so far, alongwith the amount Government have earned through each PSU;

(b) the purpose for which the money has been utilised;

(c) the names of PSUs likely to be disinvested during the next one year; and

(d) whether Government have also decided to disinvest State Government Undertakings and if so, the details thereof?

Disinvestment of residual stakes in companies

1249. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision to disinvest its residual stakes in VSNL, IBP, IPCL and CMC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the targeted amount Government are contemplating to raise as a result of the disinvestment of these four companies; and

(d) how are the disinvestment proceedings proposed to be utilised?

Disinvestment process of SCI

1250. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment has abandoned the disinvestment process of the Shipping Corporation of India and to start the whole process afresh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for restarting the entire process again;

(d) whether any advisor has been appointed for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

CAG objections on recruitment in Foreign Missions

1251. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has pointed out that the Heads of Foreign Missions abroad are flouting the rules relating to the recruitment of Group D personnel in their establishments despite repeated objections by the CAG;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that these rules are strictly adhered to by the Foreign Missions abroad?

No war pact with Pakistan

1252. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that General Pervez Musharraf has made gesture of peace mooted a no war pact with India followed by the de-nuclearisation, provided the Kashmir issue was resolved first; and

(b) if so, what has been the response of Government to this proposal?

Criteria for foreign visits

1253. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for according or refusing permission to visit foreign countries by the Central and State Ministers including Chief Ministers;

(b) the details of such Ministers who were granted permission to visit foreign

countries since January, 2001 together with the details of those who were refused permission during the same period along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to simplify the procedure for according approval to foreign visits?

Cases of diplomatic immunity

1254. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that diplomatic immunity under the Vienna Convention was granted to diplomats so that they are not harassed unnecessarily;

(b) if so, the reasons for diplomatic immunity in three cases involving Zimbabwean diplomat's car, another diplomat's wife slapping a senior journalist and Senegalese Ambassador's son killing his father's driver in a scuffle; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to book such culprits?

L-1 Non-Immigration Reforms Act

1255. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Congress has announced plans to introduce the 'L-1 Non-Immigration Reforms Act' which would plug loopholes which allow companies to recruit foreign workers at lower wages thereby displacing the American workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the fate of the Indians on L-1 visas in USA; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the interests of the Indian workers affected by the legislation as aforesaid?

PM's statement on "Compromise" on Jammu and Kashmir

1256. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent visit to Germany, the Prime Minister is reported to have said that India will have to make some "Compromise" on Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the basis on which Prime Minister made this statement;

(c) whether this statement is contrary to the unanimous resolution passed by Parliament in 1994 that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir was the integral part of India; and

(d) does the question of compromise come on Jammu and Kashmir arise; if so, in what manner?

Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan jails

1257. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen arrested and detained by the Sri Lankan Government during the last three years;

(b) how many of them are still languishing in the Sri Lankan jails; and

(c) what actions have been taken or are proposed to be taken to release those fishermen?

UN sanctions on Iraq

1258. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNO has lifted the sanctions imposed against Iraq; and

(b) if so, the details of initiatives being taken by Government for investments in Iraq, security of crude supplies to India and export of plant and machinery, agro products, garments, cement, minerals etc.?

Easing of visa rules for Chinese

† 1259. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to ease its stringent visa rules in a phased manner for the Chinese with the purpose of attracting Chinese tourists as well as establishing better relations between the two neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Use of Hindi in UNO

† 1260. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have so far been taken by Government for providing proper place to the Hindi language in UNO;

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

(c) Government's reaction in this regard?

Relief and rehabilitation for Iraq

1261. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance has been provided for relief and rehabilitation in war torn Iraq; if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, under whose command and control relief and rehabilitation provided by India are being utilized; and

(c) to what extent UN role has been insured in such measures?

Change in Pak policy towards militant groups

1262. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any perceptible change in Pakistan Government policy towards militant outfits, like Hizbul Mujahideen operating from Pakistan or Pak occupied Kashmir has been noticed since Prime Minister's talk with Pak Premier on phone regarding resumption of Indo-Pak dialogue;

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

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported Pak move to restrict the movements of Hizbul Mujahideen; and

(d) if so, the details of the restrictions imposed and Government's reaction thereto?

Visit of US Deputy Secretary of State to India

1263. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had apprised US Deputy Secretary of State during his last visit regarding India's concerns about ultras' camps and other infrastructure in Pakistan and Pak occupied Kashmir and terrorist activities being permitted by them;

(b) if so, whether he articulated India's concerns to Pak President and other Pak authorities, during his subsequent Pakistan visit; if so, in what terms; and

(c) the Pak Government's response to dismantle these infrastructures?

Pak Foreign Minister's statement on cross border terrorism

1264. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Pakistan Foreign Minister made on 2nd June, 2003 to the effect that 'Pakistan did not have an "Aladdin's Lamp" to put an end to cross border terrorism, but was ready to cooperate with India in this regard;

(b) if so, whether Government see this as an admission of the continuing cross border terrorism in Kashmir; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto by way of bringing home the underlying meaning of the Pak statement to the international community, especially the big powers?

Proposal for internal monitoring of Indo-Pak border

1265. PROF. M. SANKARA-
LINGAM:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal from Pakistan for monitoring of international borders to check infiltration on the grounds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the other proposals from Pakistan; and

(d) the decisions taken by Government on such proposals?

Proposal by USA for joint group to tackle environmental problems

† 1266. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint group of four Countries comprising India, Russia, China and America is being formed by USA to tackle the environmental problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that USA is taking such initiatives to bring India under its influence; and

(d) if so, what is Government's stand thereto?

Four stage approach to resolve Kashmir issue

1267. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that President of Pakistan has recently outlined a four stage approach to resolve the Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Measures to counter India's negative projection abroad

1268. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's negative projection abroad especially in the US has been reported by eminent personalities like UN civilian police adviser; and

(b) the measures proposed by the Indian Missions abroad to counter such projection and depict true picture for attracting foreign tourists?

Indo-Pak bilateral trade

1269. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India-Pakistan bilateral trade at present stands at a dismal figure of \$ 250 million per annum against its potential of \$ 6 billion figure;

(b) whether Pakistan has not allowed India any trade concessions, starting with the Most Favoured Nation status;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to boost the trade between the two Countries; and

(d) the reaction of Pakistan to the proposal of establishing a South Asian Union?

Attacks on Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan navy

1270. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the frequent attacks on the Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan navy causing great difficulties for Indian fishermen, especially from Nagapatinam and Rameswaram;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from fishermen association to solve this problem; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what remedies are proposed by Government to solve this problem?

Simplifying procedure for issue of passports

1271. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that police verification of applicants is one of the major reasons causing delay in the issuing of passports to them in a stipulated period; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to simplify this procedure?

Strategic dialogue between India and UAE

1272. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a diplomatic breakthrough, India and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to a framework of strategic dialogue for the first time;

(b) if so, what are the main issues on which both the Countries have agreed to help each other;

(c) whether a delegation from the UAE visited India in July, 2003 and had discussions with various leaders including the Deputy Prime Minister; and

(d) if so, to what extent it has helped to improve the relations between the two Countries?

China border issue

1273. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have fixed terms for China border issue;

(b) if so, whether India has proposed the National Security Adviser to be the Special Representative and China has also appointed their representative to have talks between two Countries;

(c) whether both Countries will be able to develop economy and reduce tension on borders and improve cultural and other activities;

(d) if so, whether work on the projects of reaching agreements on border disputes have been worked out and initiatives taken; and

(e) if so, whether after agreements reached, India is hopeful of speedy border settlement between two Countries?

Nation-wide strike by workers

1274. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working class went on a nation-wide strike on the 21st May, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of the demand raised by the workers;

(c) whether Government offered effective measures to redress the grievances of the striking workers in order to avert the strike;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Vocational training to women and girls in Rajasthan

1275. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Employment and Training is providing Vocational Training to women and girls in Rajasthan;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if answer to part (b) above is in the affirmative, the number of girls and women that have been benefited during the last three years?

Increase in number of unemployed persons

† 1276. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of unemployed persons during the last decade as compared to previous ones, if so, the details of the figures of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra in this regard;

(b) whether the employment opportunities for women are lesser as compared to men; and

(c) whether the decrease in the number of Government jobs is also one of the reasons for the same?

Child labour

1277. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Central Law in place to prevent the Child Labour from being employed in hazardous occupations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous occupations;

(d) whether it is proposed to make a comprehensive Legislation to provide education, welfare, entertainment and rehabilitation to the entire child labour force in the country; and

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

Welfare Board for unorganised workers

1278. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a legislation for setting up of a Welfare Board for unorganised sector workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funding pattern and financial resources for functioning of the Board has been earmarked;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what would be the role assigned to NGOs in this Welfare Board?

Bonded child labour

1279. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children under fourteen years of age who are still employed as bonded labourers in the country;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of Children out of these that have fallen prey to sexual exploitation during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government are soliciting NGOs' support Nationally and Internationally to curb this menace of bonded labour?

Problems of unorganised workers

1280. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any survey to assess the problems and conditions of unorganised workers;

(b) if so, the sectors where unorganised workers suffer more; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve their lot?

Strike by labour organisations

†1281. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a nation-wide strike was called by the different labour organisations on the 21st May, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the loss suffered by each sector due to the strike; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

EPF trustees

1282. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exempted Independent Trustees managing EPF and the amount managed by them;

(b) if these trustees have lower yields on PF than the prescribed 9 per cent norm, whether the companies are required to pay from their pockets to make up the shortfall; and

(c) if not, whether the Employees' PF Organisation would step in to manage PF of such exempted companies?

Labour unrest in Assam tea estates

1283. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the labour unrest in several Tea Gardens in Assam which led to the killings of several Managers of some of the Gardens;

(b) whether it is a fact that the living conditions of the labourers have not been improved and also there is no increase in their wages and other facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what effective measures have been devised to eradicate the grievances of the workers as surfaced during such unrest?

Creation of additional employment opportunities

†1284. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made with regard to the creation of additional employment opportunities on the basis of eight per cent annual growth rate during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the number of additional employment opportunities expected to be

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

generated from eight per cent annual growth rate; and

(c) the number of additional employment opportunities expected in agriculture, industry and service sectors, separately?

**Sub-Regional EPF Office at
Keonjhar, Orissa**

1285. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request to open a Sub-Regional EPF Office at Keonjhar, Orissa;

(b) whether it is a fact that Regional Committee of Orissa in its meeting No. 60 held on the 3rd May, 2002 also recommended opening of Sub-Regional EPF Office at Keonjhar; and

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

ESI cover to employees in Karnataka

1286. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees covered, so far, under Employees State Insurance Act in Karnataka;

(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that a large number of Establishments which have more than twenty five workers are not yet covered under ESI Act in the State; and

(c) whether Government would conduct an extensive survey in this regard?

Nation-wide Trade Union strike

1287. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of the Trade Unions had met him on the 19th May, 2003 on his invitation and made clear their decision to go ahead with the nation-wide trade union strike to protest against the economic, anti-national and anti-people policies of Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government was presented an eight point charter of demands; and

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

Bill for unorganised workers

† 1288. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Bill proposed to be introduced for the protection of labourers of unorganised sector—has been withheld by Government due to the objections of the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are neglecting the interests of the workers; and

(d) what further steps Government are taking in the interest of the workers?

**Welfare fund for unorganised
workers**

1289. DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Welfare Fund for some categories of unorganised labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount disbursed and labourers helped during the last two years, year-wise;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether some other kind of social security cover is also available to the unorganised workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Closure of Industries under Industrial Disputes Act in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

1290. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units, covered by Industrial Disputes Act, closed in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of workers affected by such closures during the said period; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to revive these industrial units of the States so that affected workers could be rehabilitated?

Transfer of the employees of ESIC Hospitals/Dispensaries

1291. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transfer of Group A and B Officers in Hospitals and Dispensaries of the Employees State Insurance Corporation has been referred to the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee of the Corporation;

(b) whether even then mass transfer of Officers in Medical and Non-Medical Cadres has been effected incurring huge burden on the beneficiaries;

(c) whether such a situation may lead to collapse of essential Medical Services;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by

Government to deal with the crisis effectively; and

(e) the steps being taken not to resort to unnecessary transfers of Group A and B Officers?

International Skill Development Fund

†1292. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Constitution of International Skill Development Fund have been suggested in the recently organised International Labour Conference;

(b) whether by constituting this fund it would be easier to provide modern training in an appropriate atmosphere and on low cost to the labour of a developing country like India;

(c) if so, the outlines of the constitution of this fund;

(d) the kind of training proposed to be provided to Indian labourers under the same; and

(e) the amount that would be incurred on the same?

Protection of interest of Indian business processes outsourcing units

1293. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to protect the interest of Indian business processes outsourcing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Child labour in Orissa

1294. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether child labourers are rampant in Orissa; and

(b) whether Government have launched any special schemes to dissuade child labourer?

Workers in salt industry in Gujarat

1295. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers deployed by the contractors in salt industry in Gujarat;

(b) whether any agreement is signed between the contractors and the management regarding the working conditions and wages of workers;

(c) if so, the total emoluments fixed to be paid to the workers deployed by contractors in different categories;

(d) whether the workers are being paid in accordance with the agreement by the contractors; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Industrial growth of Orissa

1296. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa has set a target of eight per cent Industrial growth to catch up with the National average;

(b) whether the State has laid emphasis on agro-based and small industries that generate more jobs; and

(c) the assistance rendered by the Centre to the State to catch up with the developed States?

Central assistance to Madhya Pradesh

† 1297. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madhya Pradesh has been provided Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 9324.31 crores under Ninth Five Year Plan and Rs. 10168.13 crores have been estimated to be provided during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the names of such States which have been projected to be provided more than Rs. 4000 crores as central assistance during Tenth Five Year Plan as compared to the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the details of the additional amount projected to be provided to these States together with the basis thereof; and

(d) the details of the criteria for providing Central Assistance to the States and whether Central assistance has also been provided by deviating from these criteria?

Total plan outlays for States/Union Territories

1298. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) total plan outlays incurred by the different States and Union Territories for the years 1999—2003 year-wise and State-wise figures;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the total plan assistance given by Government to these States and Union Territories, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the norms adopted by Government for sanctioning plan assistance to the State Governments?

Annual Plan outlay for Jammu and Kashmir

1299. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the annual plan outlay for Jammu and Kashmir in the year 2002-03;

(b) whether it has been increased in the current financial year *i.e.* 2003-04;

(c) if so, the amount increased; and

(d) the areas/fields identified for utilization of the allocated funds?

Annual Plan outlay for States

1300. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Annual Plan outlay of States comprises of States' own resources plus central assistance;

(b) if so, the ratio out of these for Madhya Pradesh during the Tenth Plan; and

(c) how these compare with those for Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh?

Plan outlay for Madhya Pradesh

1301. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita plan outlay for States for 2001-2002;

(b) the reasons for low per capita plan outlay for Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to increase flow of finances to Madhya Pradesh?

Budget allocation to water resources and telecommunication

1302. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocations made for Water resources and Telecommunications during the Tenth Plan; and

(b) whether Government propose to review and re-allocate more realistic amount to Water resources, giving priority to inter linking of rivers to solve water shortage problems of certain States in the South India?

Credit support to farmers

1303. DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan for implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan for providing timely and adequate credit support to farmers particularly to small and marginal farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation for water resources and Telecommunications

1304. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation made in

the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans for Water resources and Telecommunications sectors;

(b) whether Government propose to re-orient and give priority to linking of rivers; and

(c) if so, the re-allocation proposed to solve Water shortages at several States as surplus water of Brahmaputra is going waste this year too?

Pending projects of Andhra Pradesh

1305. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:

SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT
RAO:

SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have requested to clear their pending projects early;

(b) if so, the details of projects of Andhra Pradesh Government which have been cleared; and

(c) the details of projects yet to be cleared?

Roads in Kolkata

1306. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale demonstration took place on the 31st May, 2003, at Kolkata with a demand to restore the badly damaged Taratalo road and a portion of Central Garden Reach Road owned by Kolkata Port Trust; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to restore the road?

Annual social cost of road accidents

1307. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as per Planning Commission the estimated annual social cost of road accidents in India is Rs. 55,000 crores, and that 81,966 people were killed in road accidents in 1999 and in 2000 the figure was 78,911;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made to identify the reasons for this huge loss, and how many people were killed in road accidents during 2001 and 2002; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to gradually reduce road accidents?

Pune-Satara Super Highway

1308. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present status of Pune-Satara Super Highway work;

(b) by when, would it be completed and the cost involved; and

(c) whether Government have made sufficient provisions for completion of this highway?

Road Projects in Karnataka

1309. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing projects particularly in Karnataka;

(b) the details of projects which have not been completed resulting in cost escalation, State-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to speed up the projects to avoid cost escalation?

Roads in Manipur

1310. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that out of the three National Highways N.H.-39, N.H.-53 and N.H.-150, in Manipur, the first one alone is double lane;

(b) whether Government plan to keep NH-39 at normal standard and to make the two other National Highways, double lanes;

(c) how long it would take to complete the works; and

(d) the agencies for implementation of the N.H. schemes in Manipur?

Conversion of roads into six lanes

†1311. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Development Project is working to convert some parts of National Highways network into six lanes; and

(b) the number of National Highways likely to be converted into six lanes and by when this work would be completed?

Completion of Golden Quadrilateral Project

1312. SHRI R. P. GOENKA:
SHRI G. K. VASAN:
SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prestigious Golden Quadrilateral project, for connecting the four metros is not likely

to be completed by the targeted date *i.e.* December, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as well as its present progress;

(c) the details of the revised time-schedule drawn up, if any, and the cost overrun involved; and

(d) the steps taken to fine-tune the monitoring mechanism so as to avoid any further time and/or cost over-runs?

Roads in Madhya Pradesh

†1313. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of important roads in Madhya Pradesh proposed to be converted into National Highways during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the names of the roads proposed to be converted into National Highways during the next three years?

Flyover near Vani Vihar in Bhubaneswar

1314. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to construct a flyover near Vani Vihar in Bhubaneswar on National Highway No. 5;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the flyover project; and

(c) whether it would be started during the financial year 2003-04?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways

1315. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have converted a number of State Highways into National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with number of State Highways converted into National Highways in each State during the last three years;

(c) the recurring and non-recurring expenditure on conversion and maintenance of each such converted National Highways; and

(d) the number of State Highways proposed to be converted into National Highways during the Tenth Five Year Plan Period with allocations made for the purpose, State-wise?

Work under National Highways Development Project in Andhra Pradesh

1316. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have revised the target of National Highways Development Project to 2004;

(b) the percentage of work completed in North-South and East-West corridors and on Golden Quadrilateral;

(c) the percentage of work completed in Andhra Pradesh under NHDP; and

(d) the reasons for enormous delay in completing the work in time?

National Highways in Assam

† 1317. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the National Highways in Assam where construction work has been completed during the current year;

(b) the details of sanctioned/issued/used amount for this purpose during this period; and

(c) the details of policy framed by Government for the development of National Highways in Assam?

Status of National Highways

1318. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of National Highways in terms of their maintenance;

(b) whether Government have formulated any schemes for the maintenance of National Highways;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is a proposal to help the States to maintain State Highways in order to improve and develop the overall programme of Highways in the country as a whole;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

National Highways in NER

1319. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of newly declared national highways in the North-East

† Original notice of the question received in H indi.

during the last five years showing progress of work and target set for completion of each road;

(b) the status of the construction of still-well road beyond NH-38 after taking over as National Highway, showing sectoral progress and target set for the same; and

(c) list of roads implemented from CRF in Assam during last three financial years showing sanction and utilization thereof?

Four laning of NH-47

1320. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct four lane track on the National Highways;

(b) if so, the National Highways selected for the same;

(c) whether Government have received any project seeking sanctions to construct four lane track on NH-47, from Cherthala to Parassala in Kerala;

(d) whether Government consider to accord sanction for the above project; and

(e) if so, the way in which the project is proposed to be implemented?

Hi-Tech Safety Systems on Highways

1321. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fatal accidents that occurred on different Highways during the last one year;

(b) whether there is an increase in such accidents;

(c) if so, what remedial measures are proposed to make the highways accident free;

(d) whether Government propose to install Hi-Tech Safety Systems on Highways; and

(e) if so, the details of such Safety Systems proposed to be installed or already installed on the Highways?

National Highways in Orissa

1322. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to take up expansion of National Highways in Orissa at their expense;

(b) if so, how many road kilometres would be expanded in the State to connect the National Highways of other States;

(c) whether the project is moving at a slow pace; and

(d) the steps taken by Central Government to expedite execution of the works?

Accidents on Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra highways

1323. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra highways are the most accident prone of the all highways leading out of the capital;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been done on these routes to know the causes of accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Condition of NH-91

1324. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether condition of NH-91 is not satisfactory; and

(b) if so, what are Government's plans for its repair, maintenance and development?

De-reservation of items for small scale sector

1325. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently cleared de-reservation of more items from the small scale sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the de-reservation of the items have been made to favour MNCs and big Industrial Houses;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(e) the likely impact of the de-reservation of more items on SSI Units?

Harassment of SSI units due to Inspector Raj

1326. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industry Units often complaint about the prevalence of Inspector Raj harassing them on plea of safety, security and environment; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to check their harassment?

Increase in quantum of advances to SSI

1327. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of advances to SSI sector have increased during the last year in spite of industrial slump;

(b) whether the quantum of credit flow to the SSI sector is adequate to meet the requirements of the funds for SSI sector in the year 2002-03; and

(c) the efforts that are being made or proposed to be made in future by Government to improve the situation?

Laghu Udyog Credit Scheme

1328. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of small scale units which have availed of laghu udyog credit scheme during the last 3 years; year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) in what manner Government propose to make the scheme more effective and efficient so as to help the SSI sector in the country?

Development of cryogenic engine

† 1329. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the development of cryogenic engine being developed by indigenous technique for space programme;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) by when, the Indian satellite, based on indigenous cryogenic engine, is expected to be launched at first; and

(c) whether the indigenously developed cryogenic engines would be sold to other countries also?

Indian astronaut for International Space Station

1330. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to send an Indian Astronaut On Board the International Space Station (ISS) being put together by a consortium of sixteen other nations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the specific experiments and studies being

planned on the International Space Station?

Remote sensing satellite for Thailand

1331. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department has offered to develop, design and launch a remote sensing satellite for Thailand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have launched any satellites for other countries; and

(d) if so, the details of the countries to which India is assisting in their Space Programme?

NEW DELHI;
The 25th July, 2003
Sravana 3, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: 1177,
Agro and Rural Industries	: 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183,
Atomic Energy	: 1185,
Communications and Information Technology	: 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242,
Development of North Eastern Region :	—
Disinvestment	: 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250,
External Affairs	: 1184, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273,
Labour	: 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295,
Planning	: 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305,
Road Transport and Highways	: 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324,
Small Scale Industries	: 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328,
Space	: 1329, 1330, 1331.
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the July 31, 2003/Sravana 9, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food
and Public Distribution; Development of North Eastern Region;
Disinvestment; External Affairs; Labour; Planning; Road
Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space;
Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—155

Employees prosecuted by CBI

1177. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the employees of Central Government, State Government and Public Sector Undertakings prosecuted by CBI in case of corruption and misappropriation of Government funds during the last one year in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) the money and assets recovered from them;

(c) the cases pending for investigation; and

(d) the details of the cases let of after investigation?

Village industries in Rajasthan

1178. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village industries set

up in Rajasthan during each of the last three years, industry-wise and year-wise;

(b) the financial allocation of such industries;

(c) the number of units which are making profits;

(d) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to provide incentives to make them viable; and

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

PMRY in Madhya Pradesh

† 1179. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) details of the amount allocated to Madhya Pradesh under the 'Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana' during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of instalments due upto June, 2003 which have not been released;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government have not spent the full amount during each of the years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Steps to encourage Rural Industries

† 1180. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the condition of the traditional Rural Cottage Industries is continuously deteriorating;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to encourage the Rural Industries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rural industries established by KVIC in H.P.

† 1181. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rural Industries established by Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in villages of Himachal Pradesh and the number of people working in them;

(b) the number of registered Rural Industries/Institutions;

(c) the present status of these industries alongwith the number of industries earning profit and those running in loss;

(d) whether there is any scheme for the assistance to the industries which are running in loss; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Agriculture based industries

† 1182. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether Government have identified Agriculture based Industries being run in Rural Areas in different States;

(b) if so, the names of the Major Industries being run in the rural areas, State-wise;

(c) the average percentage of the total persons working in each industry; and

(d) the assessment of per capita income in these industries?

Proposal for developing Cottage Industries in Rajasthan

1183. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the Government of Rajasthan for developing Cottage Industries in the State; and

(b) the details of fund allocated to the State for this purpose during the last three years and the rate of development of Cottage Industries?

US help in nuclear power plants

1184. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT
RAO:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has declined to help India to set up nuclear power plants;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the issue of possible Indo-US cooperation in the civilian nuclear and space areas was raised by India in the recent talks with USA; and

(c) what are the areas where US-India high technology cooperation would take place?

Exposure of workers to radiation

1185. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers of Kalpakkam Atomic Reprocessing Plant were over-exposed to high radiation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken as safety measures to avoid such incidents in future;

(d) whether the victims can continue with the present job after this incident; and

(e) whether Government would provide any compensation to the victims taking into account the damage caused to their lives?

Poor telecom services in Jangla, H.P.

†1186. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that appointment of additional employees, installation of generator and a 512 line exchange in place of a 256 line exchange machine have not been completed in Jangla telephone exchange situated in Shimla district despite the approval of Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) whether Government propose to instruct the concerned Assistant Engineer

(Telecommunications) to inspect the telephone exchange once in a week so that telecommunication system continues to work smoothly and telephone subscribers get a proper service?

Fulfilment of obligation by private operators

1187. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the licence agreement with private operators stipulated that basic telecom service operators were to provide a minimum of 10 per cent of their total commitments as VPTs;

(b) if so, whether the private operators fulfilled their obligations since commencement of their operation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of the loss of amount suffered by Government along with the details of the action taken against the defaulting private operators?

Gram Sanchar Sevak

1188. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Gram Sanchar Sevak" (GSS) scheme launched recently, by Government has received encouraging response from the rural households;

(b) if so, names of the telecom districts in Orissa where GSS scheme has been launched; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to convert this project into a full-fledged

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

scheme across the country especially in remote areas of the State?

Media Lab Asia

1189. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Media Lab Asia (MLA) was launched during June, 2001;

(b) if so, the details including the collaborators, proposed duration of the project and the amount estimated for the same;

(c) whether any of the Indian Scientific Community suggested the need of this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the source of originating this project;

(f) whether \$ 5 million was proposed for using the name "Media Asian Lab";

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the present status of the project and the amount of work done to facilitate access to information in rural areas?

Media Lab Asia Programme

1190. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Media Lab Asia programme, a collaborative venture with the US based MIT was called off in May, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor including the source and reasons for initiating the above project;

(c) whether the above project was pushed ignoring the issues raised in Rajaraman Committee appointed to look into the feasibility of establishing the Media Lab Asia;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any inquiry would be initiated on the formation and conduct of the project Media Lab Asia and the collaborative programme with the MIT?

Development of software for transliterating from Persian to Gurmukhi

1191. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he deserves to be complimented for producing software; and

(b) what is the progress in respect of software for transliterating from Gurmukhi to Persian script and the *vice-versa* since until then, the job remains half done?

Computers in post offices in Rajasthan

1192. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of post offices where computers have not yet been provided for computerised registrations in Rajasthan;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government in this regard?

Service condition of E.D. postal employees

† 1193. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to improve the service conditions of E.D. postal employees;

(b) whether Government are contemplating the proposal of providing them the status of regular departmental employees and pensionary benefits also after their retirement; and

(c) if so, by when, a decision in this regard would be taken?

Internet bandwidth capacity

1194. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has abandoned its plan to augment its internet bandwidth capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons for cancelling tender for bandwidth expansion;

(d) whether the demand from ISPs has been examined before inviting tenders;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Telecommunication system in Manipur

1195. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government's scheme to extend normal and regular telecommunication system in the hilly districts of Manipur;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the pace of the progress;

(c) the factors contributing to the slow progress of the works; and

(d) the steps taken to overcome the same?

Surrender/disconnection of land line telephones

1196. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has witnessed a decrease in a number of land lines during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of the telephone connections that have either been surrendered or disconnected in Delhi and Mumbai during the above said period; and

(c) whether decline in land line telephone connections of MTNL and BSNL is attributed to the poor service provided by these companies, and if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve their services in metros?

Networking of mobile phone service in J & K

1197. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no networking for mobile phone service in Jammu and Kashmir; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when mobile phone service would be made available in the State?

Setting up of High Tech Parks

1198. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of High Tech Parks which have been set up in the country and location thereof;

(b) the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal to set up some High Tech Parks in the State of Orissa was under Government's consideration; and

(d) if so, the places identified for the location of these High Tech Parks?

Postal delivery zones in Delhi

1199. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of postal delivery zones in Delhi are multi-delivery zones, but the postmen make only one delivery of ordinary dak;

(b) if so, the names of delivery zones where two and three deliveries have been approved by the authorities but only one delivery of other than "registered dak" is made; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure compliance of the relevant orders?

Trapping of MTNL workers in manhole

1200. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two workers of MTNL were trapped in a manhole in Delhi on the 27th March, 2003, which they entered into to repair a duct pipe;

(b) if so, what was the status of the workers who died while on duty and compensation due to their next of kin;

(c) whether any employment is offered to the members of the families in such cases;

(d) the number of workers of MTNL who died while on duty during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) whether compensation due in those cases has been paid to the next of kin and the number of cases in which employment was also given to the members of the families?

Telephone connections in villages

†1201. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set a target to provide telephone connections in all the villages of the country by December, 2002;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while granting licenses to telecom circles, a condition was imposed that private operators would cover 60,000 villages and action would be taken against those operators who fail to provide such coverage till December, 2003;

(c) if so, what is the number of villages covered by private operators, so far and also the number of operators against whom action has been taken for not fulfilling the conditions; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bangalore, a Global Telecom City

1202. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangalore is all set to become first Global Telecom City by the year 2008; and

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

of villages that they were contractually bound to connect;

(c) whether all telecom operators have been contributing 5 per cent of their revenue for the last three years for the village telecom project under the Universal Service Fund (USF) meant to finance unremunerative networks; and

(d) if so, the current accumulations in the USF?

Rural WLL services in Andhra Pradesh

1203. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coverage of rural WLL services is very less;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the coverage area;

(c) whether Government also propose to construct new telephone exchanges in rural areas; and

(d) the steps taken to provide coverage of all towns and cities for cell phones in Andhra Pradesh?

Rolling back of call charges by BSNL/MTNL

1205. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL and MTNL have rolled back the call charges from land line phones to mobile cell phones the monthly rent and other tariff rates after May 1, this year when the rates were abruptly raised; and

(b) if so, the details of the revision in rates and the reasons impelling such revision?

Uniform scam in MTNL

†1206. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 471 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd November, 2001 and state:

(a) whether C.B.I. and Vigilance Wing of the Department have submitted their reports after investigations of the whole matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

Basic telecom operators' rural telephony obligation

1204. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deadline for the basic telecom operators to fulfil their rural telephony obligations has been extended;

(b) whether these operators during the last six years have extended their presence only to a minimal 7 per cent of the number

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the charges levelled against the General Secretary of the Staff Union of MTNL and whether these charges have been investigated or are being investigated; and
- (e) by when each matter would be solved?
- (c) by when the programme of distribution of mobile phones would be executed;
- (d) what is the suggestion of the State Government on the number of mobile phones; and
- (e) how the suggestion of the State Government is taken to account?

Mobile and WLL services in NER

1207. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the implementation status of the introduction of BSNL's mobile and WLL services in the North Eastern Region showing the proposed locations, target date for phase-wise implementation and progress made so far;
- (b) whether Government are aware that the quality of service by Reliance Mobile in Guwahati is poor and if so, by when it is likely to be improved by capacity enhancement; and
- (c) location-wise installed capacity of WLL service in Assam showing number of connections already provided and proposed for the current year?

Distribution of mobile phones in NER

1208. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mobile phones Government have decided to distribute in each State of the North-Eastern Region;
- (b) the basis on which this number of mobile phones has been fixed;

Introduction of cell phones in N.E. States

1209. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce cell phones in the North-Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the number of mobile phones earmarked against each State of the North Eastern Region;
- (c) what is the position of the State of Tripura in terms of population and the number of such phones amongst the State of NER; and
- (d) the steps likely to be taken by Government to minimise the gaps on a comparative scale?

Vacation of premises of Post Offices in Krishna Nagar, East Delhi

1210. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Head Post Office and Branch Post Office both at Krishna Nagar (East Delhi) have been shifted from there causing residents to great inconvenience;
- (b) the reasons for vacating the premises where these post offices were working for long;

(c) the reasons for not making a alternative arrangements in Krishna Nagar before shifting these offices elsewhere; and

(d) by when, a post office would be opened in Krishna Nagar?

Cyber crimes

1211. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cyber crimes registered in the country during the last two years;

(b) what are the figures giving nature of offences, State-wise;

(c) what is the age group of the persons involved in such crimes;

(d) whether Government propose to launch an awareness campaign to prevent such crimes by youngsters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Demand of Post Offices in Uttaranchal

† 1212. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demands of Sub-Post Offices and Branch Post Offices in Uttaranchal State;

(b) the district-wise details of the new Post Offices proposed to be opened by Government during the Tenth Five Year Plan period, district-wise; and

(c) the details of the total Sub-Post Offices and Branch Post Offices opened in various districts of Uttaranchal during the last year?

Telephone ratio

† 1213. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) availability of telephones per hundred persons in different States;

(b) whether any time-frame to make telephone availability upto the world level has been fixed; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps being taken in this regard?

Telephone facilities in Singhbhum areas of Jharkhand

† 1214. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no telephone facility in Badgaon Suvan Gayalkera Tantnagar, Manjhari and Kumarigeri blocks of Singhbhum areas of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to provide telephone facilities in these blocks?

New Post Offices in Mumbai

1215. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open new Post Offices in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed Post Offices, area-wise; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when the proposal would be implemented?

MTNL's Overseas Venture

1216. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL Plans Overseas Ventures, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether MTNL propose to finalise and inter-connect agreement with Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) for the year 2003-04; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far MTNL has succeeded in adding subscribers in the country during the year 2002-03?

Funds for expansion of telephone system

1217. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has asked the Department of Telecommunications to prepare a comprehensive paper on funds required for the expansion of telephone system in rural India and to present it before the Finance Ministry;

(b) if so, whether the Department has already submitted the report to the Finance Ministry;

(c) if so, what is their reaction;

(d) by when funds would be allotted so that the implementation of the programme could start;

(e) whether the Planning Commission has set the target for providing telephone facilities to the rural India; and

(f) if so, the details of the target set?

Decline in rice stock

†1218. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rice stock with Government which was 234 lakh tonnes in June, 2002 has declined to barely 132 lakh tonnes this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what fresh measures have been taken by Government to keep safe stock of rice in the Country atleast at 100 lakh tonnes and to prevent farmers of Orissa from selling their rice every year at throw-away price?

Downward revision of foodgrains

1219. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a downward revision of foodgrains production estimates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to meet consumption demand in case of a shortfall in production?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sugar development fund

1220. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) when the Sugar Development fund was set up and what is the arrear at present;

(b) the amount and the manner in which it is utilised, so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that it has neither benefited sugar mill owners nor cane growers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of Kerosene

† 1221. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Kerosene allocated to different States during the last two years month-wise;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh has requested the Central Government to increase the allocation of Kerosene, time and again and whether instead of increasing the allocation it has been further reduced;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Kerosene would be allocated to all the States adopting equal norms?

Misuse of ISI marks

1222. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of misuse of

ISI mark detected during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by Government against individuals/firms for misusing the ISI mark;

(c) whether a number of Government officials were also found involved in such cases; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them?

Poor quality foodgrain supply to States

1223. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by Government against Food Corporation of India for supplying sub-standard foodgrain to various States under Public Distribution System during the last three years and till date, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the remedial measures taken by Government to ensure that such foodgrain supply conforms to the standards laid down in Prevention of Food Adulteration Act?

FCI godowns in Bihar

† 1224. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Bihar that have FCI godowns and how many districts do not have such godowns;

(b) whether Government have formulating any scheme for setting up FCI godowns in the districts which do not have any godowns;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Bacteria in packaged water

1225. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that samples obtained from prominent manufacturers of packaged distilled water contain an alarming rate of bacteria;

(b) whether according to press report titled "Study finds faecal bacteria in packaged water" and recent random survey conducted by the concerned authorities on sample bottles from six companies have revealed to have faecal coliform in their water; and

(c) if so, the names of the companies and the action taken by Government so far in the interest of public health?

Misuse of ISI marks

1226. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of misuse of ISI marks detected in the year 2002;

(b) how many of them are from Andhra Pradesh;

(c) how many persecutions have been launched; and

(d) in what stages are they at present?

Payment of sugarcane growers

†1227. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) the action taken by Government so far to help sugarcane growers in getting their payments and the number of farmers who have been helped in getting their payments during the last three months;

(b) what is the outstanding amount of sugarcane growers against sugar mills and by when sugarcane growers would be able to get their payments;

(c) whether it is a fact that sugarcane growers are not paid with the interest by sugar mills on their outstanding dues; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Distribution of foodgrains to States

1228. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Rice and Wheat procured for the Central Pool during the last three years separately;

(b) the quantum of Rice and Wheat distributed to States during this period separately, State-wise each year; and

(c) in what manner the surplus foodgrains is disposed each year?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Food stock in Private and Government godowns

†1229. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat and rice is stored in Government and private godowns after procuring from producers;

(b) if so, the quantity of foodgrains stored in Government godowns and private godowns at the end of March, 2003; and

(c) storage capacity of Government and private godowns under the Food Corporation of India?

Sale of foodgrain under PDS

†1230. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether wheat and rice is sold to the customers under Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat and rice sold to the customers below the poverty line and those above the poverty line separately during the year 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and

(c) the sale price of wheat and rice for both category of customers during each said year?

Foodgrain stock in FCI godowns

†1231. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India as on 30th June, 2003;

(b) what is the total annual expenditure on the storage of above foodgrains; and

(c) out of the total quantity of wheat and rice available in the godowns of Food Corporation, the quantity of foodgrains which is not fit for consumption and the quantity of foodgrains which has rotten?

Sarva Priya Yojana

1232. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sarva Priya Yojana is being implemented in Karnataka to distribute 11 essential commodities under PDS;

(b) if so, places where the above Yojana has been implemented and the number of beneficiaries;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the essential commodities to be supplied by Government under the above Yojana?

Sale in Fair Price Shops

1233. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a significant decrease in sale in Fair Price Shops through Public Distribution System in the capital;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the sales through FPS in Delhi, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the decrease in sales; and

(d) whether a similar trend has also been observed in other metros as well?

Increase in food subsidy bill

1234. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food subsidy bill has registered 325 per cent increase in seven years;

(b) whether no accounts are maintained to check whether subsidy actually went towards feeding the poor; and

(c) the amount lost on "transit shortages" and "regularisation of shortages" during the last three years?

People Below Poverty Line in States

† 1235. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the directions given by the Supreme Court during the hearing on a PIL regarding formulation of an action plan after obtaining the number of people living below poverty line from each State;

(b) if so, the number of States included under this action plan; and

(c) the details of the steps taken so far, State-wise?

Food supplements

1236. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of products are being marketed in India as food supplements;

(b) whether it is a fact that some food supplements are being exported and some food supplements of foreign origin are also finding their way into India;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware of the need for an Act to regulate production, marketing and export of food supplements; and

(d) the action taken so far in this direction?

Amendment of Essential Commodities Act

1237. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost 200 sugar mills in the Country, of which 138 are working, could not be able to sell a single Kg. of sugar during June, 2003 with the amendment to the Essential Commodities Act took effective from June 2, 2003;

(b) if so, the total number of Sugar Mills who have been granted free-sale quota for June;

(c) whether Government are planning to introduce a Bill to bring the amendments to the ECA under the Ninth Schedule (Article 31B) of the Constitution; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, whether Government are also likely to issue Ordinance to this effect?

Corporation on the basis of Economic Cost due to this sale for export in the above years?

Special cell in FCI

1238. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether to ease the pressure of procuring foodgrains like wheat and rice and maintaining huge stocks in their own godowns, the Food Corporation of India is planning to set up a special cell which would advise State Governments and farmers to diversify into other crops like oilseeds;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the steps FCI is proposing to take to meet the excess stocks and also make available space for further stocks of Rice and Wheat in the Country?

Sale of foodgrains to exporter

†1239. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

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 sold wheat and rice for export in the last years;

(b) if so, the quantum of wheat and rice sold to the Indian exporters in the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 togetherwith the prices at which these were sold; and

(c) the losses suffered by the

Cost of buffer stock of foodgrains

†1240. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the value of the buffer stock of grains in the Food Corporation of India in the year 1996-97 was Rs. 827 crore which has increased to Rs. 8066 crores in the year 2002-03;

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

(c) the reasons for this tremendous increase in value togetherwith the contribution of each of reasons for tremendous increase?

Sale of foodgrain for export

†1241. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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 had fixed target for the sale of wheat and rice for export during the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the quantum of such wheat and rice separately; and

(c) the sale price fixed for wheat and rice and to what extent this sale price is less than the Economic Cost of the Corporation?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Carrying cost of buffer stock in FCI

† 1242. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the carrying cost of buffer stock in the Food Corporation of India was Rs. 1,655.30 per tonne during the Ninth Five Year Plan which is being assessed to be Rs. 2,631.20 per tonne during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the reasons for this increase in cost togetherwith the contribution of each of these reasons for increase in the cost?

PSUs earmarked for disinvestment

1243. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of PSUs which have been earmarked for the next round of disinvestment during the year 2003-04;

(b) the number and names of PSUs out of the above, which have negative net worth and accumulated losses; and

(c) whether Government have invited bidders for these PSUs and if so, the details thereof?

Disinvestment in Maruti Udyog Limited

1244. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first ever disinvestment of the Government's holding

in Maruti Udyog Limited attracted favourable response of investors;

(b) the details of the offer made by Government and response received thereto; and

(c) whether Government proposes to review the strategy of the proposed disinvestment of equities in companies like HPCL, BPCL, Air India etc. in the light of the quality and magnitude of the response of investors which MUL offer attracted recently?

PSUs sold to private companies

† 1245. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PSUs sold to the private companies, so far, alongwith the number of PSUs planned to be sold;

(b) the reasons for selling PSUs;

(c) whether unemployment and poverty has not increased as a result of the sale of PSUs;

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide employment to the persons rendered unemployed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Tenure of Disinvestment Commission

1246. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tenure of Disinvestment Commission has further been extended;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with details of PSUs under consideration of the Commission for Disinvestment;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the PSUs disinvested so far with details of Government's stake in each of them and proceeds derived from each disinvestment;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of resentment among the employees, particularly of successful PSUs, on the issue of disinvestment; and

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

Disinvestment of HPCL/BPCL

1247. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in the process of disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL;

(b) whether cases are still pending in Supreme Court against disinvestment of these companies;

(c) the approximate period for completion of the process of disinvestment of these companies; and

(d) the proceeds Government hopes to get from these disinvestments?

Disinvestment in PSUs

1248. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the PSUs which have been disinvested in the last five years, so far, alongwith the amount Government have earned through each PSU;

(b) the purpose for which the money has been utilised;

(c) the names of PSUs likely to be disinvested during the next one year; and

(d) whether Government have also decided to disinvest State Government Undertakings and if so, the details thereof?

Disinvestment of residual stakes in companies

1249. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision to disinvest its residual stakes in VSNL, IBP, IPCL and CMC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the targeted amount Government are contemplating to raise as a result of the disinvestment of these four companies; and

(d) how are the disinvestment proceedings proposed to be utilised?

Disinvestment process of SCI

1250. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment has abandoned the disinvestment process of the Shipping Corporation of India and to start the whole process afresh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for restarting the entire process again;

(d) whether any advisor has been appointed for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

CAG objections on recruitment in Foreign Missions

1251. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has pointed out that the Heads of Foreign Missions abroad are flouting the rules relating to the recruitment of Group D personnel in their establishments despite repeated objections by the CAG;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that these rules are strictly adhered to by the Foreign Missions abroad?

No war pact with Pakistan

1252. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that General Pervez Musharraf has made gesture of peace mooted a no war pact with India followed by the de-nuclearisation, provided the Kashmir issue was resolved first; and

(b) if so, what has been the response of Government to this proposal?

Criteria for foreign visits

1253. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for according or refusing permission to visit foreign countries by the Central and State Ministers including Chief Ministers;

(b) the details of such Ministers who were granted permission to visit foreign

countries since January, 2001 together with the details of those who were refused permission during the same period along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to simplify the procedure for according approval to foreign visits?

Cases of diplomatic immunity

1254. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that diplomatic immunity under the Vienna Convention was granted to diplomats so that they are not harassed unnecessarily;

(b) if so, the reasons for diplomatic immunity in three cases involving Zimbabwean diplomat's car, another diplomat's wife slapping a senior journalist and Senegalese Ambassador's son killing his father's driver in a scuffle; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to book such culprits?

L-1 Non-Immigration Reforms Act

1255. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Congress has announced plans to introduce the 'L-1 Non-Immigration Reforms Act' which would plug loopholes which allow companies to recruit foreign workers at lower wages thereby displacing the American workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the fate of the Indians on L-1 visas in USA; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the interests of the Indian workers affected by the legislation as aforesaid?

PM's statement on "Compromise" on Jammu and Kashmir

1256. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent visit to Germany, the Prime Minister is reported to have said that India will have to make some "Compromise" on Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the basis on which Prime Minister made this statement;

(c) whether this statement is contrary to the unanimous resolution passed by Parliament in 1994 that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir was the integral part of India; and

(d) does the question of compromise come on Jammu and Kashmir arise; if so, in what manner?

Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan jails

1257. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen arrested and detained by the Sri Lankan Government during the last three years;

(b) how many of them are still languishing in the Sri Lankan jails; and

(c) what actions have been taken or are proposed to be taken to release those fishermen?

UN sanctions on Iraq

1258. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNO has lifted the sanctions imposed against Iraq; and

(b) if so, the details of initiatives being taken by Government for investments in Iraq, security of crude supplies to India and export of plant and machinery, agro products, garments, cement, minerals etc.?

Easing of visa rules for Chinese

† 1259. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to ease its stringent visa rules in a phased manner for the Chinese with the purpose of attracting Chinese tourists as well as establishing better relations between the two neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Use of Hindi in UNO

† 1260. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have so far been taken by Government for providing proper place to the Hindi language in UNO;

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

(c) Government's reaction in this regard?

Relief and rehabilitation for Iraq

1261. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance has been provided for relief and rehabilitation in war torn Iraq; if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, under whose command and control relief and rehabilitation provided by India are being utilized; and

(c) to what extent UN role has been insured in such measures?

Change in Pak policy towards militant groups

1262. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any perceptible change in Pakistan Government policy towards militant outfits, like Hizbul Mujahideen operating from Pakistan or Pak occupied Kashmir has been noticed since Prime Minister's talk with Pak Premier on phone regarding resumption of Indo-Pak dialogue;

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

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported Pak move to restrict the movements of Hizbul Mujahideen; and

(d) if so, the details of the restrictions imposed and Government's reaction thereto?

Visit of US Deputy Secretary of State to India

1263. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had apprised US Deputy Secretary of State during his last visit regarding India's concerns about ultras' camps and other infrastructure in Pakistan and Pak occupied Kashmir and terrorist activities being permitted by them;

(b) if so, whether he articulated India's concerns to Pak President and other Pak authorities, during his subsequent Pakistan visit; if so, in what terms; and

(c) the Pak Government's response to dismantle these infrastructures?

Pak Foreign Minister's statement on cross border terrorism

1264. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Pakistan Foreign Minister made on 2nd June, 2003 to the effect that 'Pakistan did not have an "Aladdin's Lamp" to put an end to cross border terrorism, but was ready to cooperate with India in this regard;

(b) if so, whether Government see this as an admission of the continuing cross border terrorism in Kashmir; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto by way of bringing home the underlying meaning of the Pak statement to the international community, especially the big powers?

Proposal for internal monitoring of Indo-Pak border

1265. PROF. M. SANKARA-
LINGAM:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal from Pakistan for monitoring of international borders to check infiltration on the grounds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the other proposals from Pakistan; and

(d) the decisions taken by Government on such proposals?

Proposal by USA for joint group to tackle environmental problems

† 1266. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint group of four Countries comprising India, Russia, China and America is being formed by USA to tackle the environmental problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that USA is taking such initiatives to bring India under its influence; and

(d) if so, what is Government's stand thereto?

Four stage approach to resolve Kashmir issue

1267. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that President of Pakistan has recently outlined a four stage approach to resolve the Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Measures to counter India's negative projection abroad

1268. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's negative projection abroad especially in the US has been reported by eminent personalities like UN civilian police adviser; and

(b) the measures proposed by the Indian Missions abroad to counter such projection and depict true picture for attracting foreign tourists?

Indo-Pak bilateral trade

1269. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India-Pakistan bilateral trade at present stands at a dismal figure of \$ 250 million per annum against its potential of \$ 6 billion figure;

(b) whether Pakistan has not allowed India any trade concessions, starting with the Most Favoured Nation status;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to boost the trade between the two Countries; and

(d) the reaction of Pakistan to the proposal of establishing a South Asian Union?

Attacks on Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan navy

1270. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the frequent attacks on the Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan navy causing great difficulties for Indian fishermen, especially from Nagapatinam and Rameswaram;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from fishermen association to solve this problem; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what remedies are proposed by Government to solve this problem?

Simplifying procedure for issue of passports

1271. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that police verification of applicants is one of the major reasons causing delay in the issuing of passports to them in a stipulated period; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to simplify this procedure?

Strategic dialogue between India and UAE

1272. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a diplomatic breakthrough, India and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to a framework of strategic dialogue for the first time;

(b) if so, what are the main issues on which both the Countries have agreed to help each other;

(c) whether a delegation from the UAE visited India in July, 2003 and had discussions with various leaders including the Deputy Prime Minister; and

(d) if so, to what extent it has helped to improve the relations between the two Countries?

China border issue

1273. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have fixed terms for China border issue;

(b) if so, whether India has proposed the National Security Adviser to be the Special Representative and China has also appointed their representative to have talks between two Countries;

(c) whether both Countries will be able to develop economy and reduce tension on borders and improve cultural and other activities;

(d) if so, whether work on the projects of reaching agreements on border disputes have been worked out and initiatives taken; and

(e) if so, whether after agreements reached, India is hopeful of speedy border settlement between two Countries?

Nation-wide strike by workers

1274. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working class went on a nation-wide strike on the 21st May, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of the demand raised by the workers;

(c) whether Government offered effective measures to redress the grievances of the striking workers in order to avert the strike;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Vocational training to women and girls in Rajasthan

1275. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Employment and Training is providing Vocational Training to women and girls in Rajasthan;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if answer to part (b) above is in the affirmative, the number of girls and women that have been benefited during the last three years?

Increase in number of unemployed persons

† 1276. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of unemployed persons during the last decade as compared to previous ones, if so, the details of the figures of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra in this regard;

(b) whether the employment opportunities for women are lesser as compared to men; and

(c) whether the decrease in the number of Government jobs is also one of the reasons for the same?

Child labour

1277. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Central Law in place to prevent the Child Labour from being employed in hazardous occupations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous occupations;

(d) whether it is proposed to make a comprehensive Legislation to provide education, welfare, entertainment and rehabilitation to the entire child labour force in the country; and

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

Welfare Board for unorganised workers

1278. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a legislation for setting up of a Welfare Board for unorganised sector workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funding pattern and financial resources for functioning of the Board has been earmarked;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what would be the role assigned to NGOs in this Welfare Board?

Bonded child labour

1279. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children under fourteen years of age who are still employed as bonded labourers in the country;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of Children out of these that have fallen prey to sexual exploitation during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government are soliciting NGOs' support Nationally and Internationally to curb this menace of bonded labour?

Problems of unorganised workers

1280. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any survey to assess the problems and conditions of unorganised workers;

(b) if so, the sectors where unorganised workers suffer more; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve their lot?

Strike by labour organisations

†1281. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a nation-wide strike was called by the different labour organisations on the 21st May, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the loss suffered by each sector due to the strike; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

EPF trustees

1282. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exempted Independent Trustees managing EPF and the amount managed by them;

(b) if these trustees have lower yields on PF than the prescribed 9 per cent norm, whether the companies are required to pay from their pockets to make up the shortfall; and

(c) if not, whether the Employees' PF Organisation would step in to manage PF of such exempted companies?

Labour unrest in Assam tea estates

1283. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the labour unrest in several Tea Gardens in Assam which led to the killings of several Managers of some of the Gardens;

(b) whether it is a fact that the living conditions of the labourers have not been improved and also there is no increase in their wages and other facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what effective measures have been devised to eradicate the grievances of the workers as surfaced during such unrest?

Creation of additional employment opportunities

†1284. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made with regard to the creation of additional employment opportunities on the basis of eight per cent annual growth rate during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the number of additional employment opportunities expected to be

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

generated from eight per cent annual growth rate; and

(c) the number of additional employment opportunities expected in agriculture, industry and service sectors, separately?

Sub-Regional EPF Office at Keonjhar, Orissa

1285. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request to open a Sub-Regional EPF Office at Keonjhar, Orissa;

(b) whether it is a fact that Regional Committee of Orissa in its meeting No. 60 held on the 3rd May, 2002 also recommended opening of Sub-Regional EPF Office at Keonjhar; and

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

ESI cover to employees in Karnataka

1286. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees covered, so far, under Employees State Insurance Act in Karnataka;

(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that a large number of Establishments which have more than twenty five workers are not yet covered under ESI Act in the State; and

(c) whether Government would conduct an extensive survey in this regard?

Nation-wide Trade Union strike

1287. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of the Trade Unions had met him on the 19th May, 2003 on his invitation and made clear their decision to go ahead with the nation-wide trade union strike to protest against the economic, anti-national and anti-people policies of Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government was presented an eight point charter of demands; and

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

Bill for unorganised workers

† 1288. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Bill proposed to be introduced for the protection of labourers of unorganised sector—has been withheld by Government due to the objections of the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are neglecting the interests of the workers; and

(d) what further steps Government are taking in the interest of the workers?

Welfare fund for unorganised workers

1289. DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Welfare Fund for some categories of unorganised labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount disbursed and labourers helped during the last two years, year-wise;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether some other kind of social security cover is also available to the unorganised workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Closure of Industries under Industrial Disputes Act in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

1290. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units, covered by Industrial Disputes Act, closed in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of workers affected by such closures during the said period; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to revive these industrial units of the States so that affected workers could be rehabilitated?

Transfer of the employees of ESIC Hospitals/Dispensaries

1291. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transfer of Group A and B Officers in Hospitals and Dispensaries of the Employees State Insurance Corporation has been referred to the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee of the Corporation;

(b) whether even then mass transfer of Officers in Medical and Non-Medical Cadres has been effected incurring huge burden on the beneficiaries;

(c) whether such a situation may lead to collapse of essential Medical Services;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by

Government to deal with the crisis effectively; and

(e) the steps being taken not to resort to unnecessary transfers of Group A and B Officers?

International Skill Development Fund

†1292. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Constitution of International Skill Development Fund have been suggested in the recently organised International Labour Conference;

(b) whether by constituting this fund it would be easier to provide modern training in an appropriate atmosphere and on low cost to the labour of a developing country like India;

(c) if so, the outlines of the constitution of this fund;

(d) the kind of training proposed to be provided to Indian labourers under the same; and

(e) the amount that would be incurred on the same?

Protection of interest of Indian business processes outsourcing units

1293. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to protect the interest of Indian business processes outsourcing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Child labour in Orissa

1294. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether child labourers are rampant in Orissa; and

(b) whether Government have launched any special schemes to dissuade child labourer?

Workers in salt industry in Gujarat

1295. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers deployed by the contractors in salt industry in Gujarat;

(b) whether any agreement is signed between the contractors and the management regarding the working conditions and wages of workers;

(c) if so, the total emoluments fixed to be paid to the workers deployed by contractors in different categories;

(d) whether the workers are being paid in accordance with the agreement by the contractors; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Industrial growth of Orissa

1296. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa has set a target of eight per cent Industrial growth to catch up with the National average;

(b) whether the State has laid emphasis on agro-based and small industries that generate more jobs; and

(c) the assistance rendered by the Centre to the State to catch up with the developed States?

Central assistance to Madhya Pradesh

† 1297. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madhya Pradesh has been provided Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 9324.31 crores under Ninth Five Year Plan and Rs. 10168.13 crores have been estimated to be provided during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the names of such States which have been projected to be provided more than Rs. 4000 crores as central assistance during Tenth Five Year Plan as compared to the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the details of the additional amount projected to be provided to these States together with the basis thereof; and

(d) the details of the criteria for providing Central Assistance to the States and whether Central assistance has also been provided by deviating from these criteria?

Total plan outlays for States/Union Territories

1298. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) total plan outlays incurred by the different States and Union Territories for the years 1999—2003 year-wise and State-wise figures;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the total plan assistance given by Government to these States and Union Territories, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the norms adopted by Government for sanctioning plan assistance to the State Governments?

Annual Plan outlay for Jammu and Kashmir

1299. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the annual plan outlay for Jammu and Kashmir in the year 2002-03;

(b) whether it has been increased in the current financial year *i.e.* 2003-04;

(c) if so, the amount increased; and

(d) the areas/fields identified for utilization of the allocated funds?

Annual Plan outlay for States

1300. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Annual Plan outlay of States comprises of States' own resources plus central assistance;

(b) if so, the ratio out of these for Madhya Pradesh during the Tenth Plan; and

(c) how these compare with those for Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh?

Plan outlay for Madhya Pradesh

1301. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita plan outlay for States for 2001-2002;

(b) the reasons for low per capita plan outlay for Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to increase flow of finances to Madhya Pradesh?

Budget allocation to water resources and telecommunication

1302. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocations made for Water resources and Telecommunications during the Tenth Plan; and

(b) whether Government propose to review and re-allocate more realistic amount to Water resources, giving priority to inter linking of rivers to solve water shortage problems of certain States in the South India?

Credit support to farmers

1303. DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan for implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan for providing timely and adequate credit support to farmers particularly to small and marginal farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation for water resources and Telecommunications

1304. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocation made in

the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans for Water resources and Telecommunications sectors;

(b) whether Government propose to re-orient and give priority to linking of rivers; and

(c) if so, the re-allocation proposed to solve Water shortages at several States as surplus water of Brahmaputra is going waste this year too?

Pending projects of Andhra Pradesh

1305. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT
RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have requested to clear their pending projects early;

(b) if so, the details of projects of Andhra Pradesh Government which have been cleared; and

(c) the details of projects yet to be cleared?

Roads in Kolkata

1306. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale demonstration took place on the 31st May, 2003, at Kolkata with a demand to restore the badly damaged Taratalo road and a portion of Central Garden Reach Road owned by Kolkata Port Trust; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to restore the road?

Annual social cost of road accidents

1307. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as per Planning Commission the estimated annual social cost of road accidents in India is Rs. 55,000 crores, and that 81,966 people were killed in road accidents in 1999 and in 2000 the figure was 78,911;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made to identify the reasons for this huge loss, and how many people were killed in road accidents during 2001 and 2002; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to gradually reduce road accidents?

Pune-Satara Super Highway

1308. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present status of Pune-Satara Super Highway work;

(b) by when, would it be completed and the cost involved; and

(c) whether Government have made sufficient provisions for completion of this highway?

Road Projects in Karnataka

1309. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing projects particularly in Karnataka;

(b) the details of projects which have not been completed resulting in cost escalation, State-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to speed up the projects to avoid cost escalation?

Roads in Manipur

1310. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that out of the three National Highways N.H.-39, N.H.-53 and N.H.-150, in Manipur, the first one alone is double lane;

(b) whether Government plan to keep NH-39 at normal standard and to make the two other National Highways, double lanes;

(c) how long it would take to complete the works; and

(d) the agencies for implementation of the N.H. schemes in Manipur?

Conversion of roads into six lanes

†1311. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Development Project is working to convert some parts of National Highways network into six lanes; and

(b) the number of National Highways likely to be converted into six lanes and by when this work would be completed?

Completion of Golden Quadrilateral Project

1312. SHRI R. P. GOENKA:
SHRI G. K. VASAN:
SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prestigious Golden Quadrilateral project, for connecting the four metros is not likely

to be completed by the targeted date *i.e.* December, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as well as its present progress;

(c) the details of the revised time-schedule drawn up, if any, and the cost overrun involved; and

(d) the steps taken to fine-tune the monitoring mechanism so as to avoid any further time and/or cost over-runs?

Roads in Madhya Pradesh

†1313. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of important roads in Madhya Pradesh proposed to be converted into National Highways during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the names of the roads proposed to be converted into National Highways during the next three years?

Flyover near Vani Vihar in Bhubaneswar

1314. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to construct a flyover near Vani Vihar in Bhubaneswar on National Highway No. 5;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the flyover project; and

(c) whether it would be started during the financial year 2003-04?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways

1315. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have converted a number of State Highways into National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with number of State Highways converted into National Highways in each State during the last three years;

(c) the recurring and non-recurring expenditure on conversion and maintenance of each such converted National Highways; and

(d) the number of State Highways proposed to be converted into National Highways during the Tenth Five Year Plan Period with allocations made for the purpose, State-wise?

Work under National Highways Development Project in Andhra Pradesh

1316. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have revised the target of National Highways Development Project to 2004;

(b) the percentage of work completed in North-South and East-West corridors and on Golden Quadrilateral;

(c) the percentage of work completed in Andhra Pradesh under NHDP; and

(d) the reasons for enormous delay in completing the work in time?

National Highways in Assam

† 1317. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the National Highways in Assam where construction work has been completed during the current year;

(b) the details of sanctioned/issued/used amount for this purpose during this period; and

(c) the details of policy framed by Government for the development of National Highways in Assam?

Status of National Highways

1318. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of National Highways in terms of their maintenance;

(b) whether Government have formulated any schemes for the maintenance of National Highways;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is a proposal to help the States to maintain State Highways in order to improve and develop the overall programme of Highways in the country as a whole;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

National Highways in NER

1319. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of newly declared national highways in the North-East

† Original notice of the question received in H indi.

during the last five years showing progress of work and target set for completion of each road;

(b) the status of the construction of still-well road beyond NH-38 after taking over as National Highway, showing sectoral progress and target set for the same; and

(c) list of roads implemented from CRF in Assam during last three financial years showing sanction and utilization thereof?

Four laning of NH-47

1320. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct four lane track on the National Highways;

(b) if so, the National Highways selected for the same;

(c) whether Government have received any project seeking sanctions to construct four lane track on NH-47, from Cherthala to Parassala in Kerala;

(d) whether Government consider to accord sanction for the above project; and

(e) if so, the way in which the project is proposed to be implemented?

Hi-Tech Safety Systems on Highways

1321. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fatal accidents that occurred on different Highways during the last one year;

(b) whether there is an increase in such accidents;

(c) if so, what remedial measures are proposed to make the highways accident free;

(d) whether Government propose to install Hi-Tech Safety Systems on Highways; and

(e) if so, the details of such Safety Systems proposed to be installed or already installed on the Highways?

National Highways in Orissa

1322. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to take up expansion of National Highways in Orissa at their expense;

(b) if so, how many road kilometres would be expanded in the State to connect the National Highways of other States;

(c) whether the project is moving at a slow pace; and

(d) the steps taken by Central Government to expedite execution of the works?

Accidents on Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra highways

1323. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra highways are the most accident prone of the all highways leading out of the capital;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been done on these routes to know the causes of accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Condition of NH-91

1324. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether condition of NH-91 is not satisfactory; and

(b) if so, what are Government's plans for its repair, maintenance and development?

De-reservation of items for small scale sector

1325. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently cleared de-reservation of more items from the small scale sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the de-reservation of the items have been made to favour MNCs and big Industrial Houses;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(e) the likely impact of the de-reservation of more items on SSI Units?

Harassment of SSI units due to Inspector Raj

1326. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industry Units often complaint about the prevalence of Inspector Raj harassing them on plea of safety, security and environment; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to check their harassment?

Increase in quantum of advances to SSI

1327. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of advances to SSI sector have increased during the last year in spite of industrial slump;

(b) whether the quantum of credit flow to the SSI sector is adequate to meet the requirements of the funds for SSI sector in the year 2002-03; and

(c) the efforts that are being made or proposed to be made in future by Government to improve the situation?

Laghu Udyog Credit Scheme

1328. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of small scale units which have availed of laghu udyog credit scheme during the last 3 years; year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) in what manner Government propose to make the scheme more effective and efficient so as to help the SSI sector in the country?

Development of cryogenic engine

† 1329. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the development of cryogenic engine being developed by indigenous technique for space programme;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) by when, the Indian satellite, based on indigenous cryogenic engine, is expected to be launched at first; and

(c) whether the indigenously developed cryogenic engines would be sold to other countries also?

Indian astronaut for International Space Station

1330. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to send an Indian Astronaut On Board the International Space Station (ISS) being put together by a consortium of sixteen other nations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the specific experiments and studies being

planned on the International Space Station?

Remote sensing satellite for Thailand

1331. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department has offered to develop, design and launch a remote sensing satellite for Thailand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have launched any satellites for other countries; and

(d) if so, the details of the countries to which India is assisting in their Space Programme?

NEW DELHI;
The 25th July, 2003
Sravana 3, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: 1177,
Agro and Rural Industries	: 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183,
Atomic Energy	: 1185,
Communications and Information Technology	: 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242,
Development of North Eastern Region :	—
Disinvestment	: 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250,
External Affairs	: 1184, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273,
Labour	: 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295,
Planning	: 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305,
Road Transport and Highways	: 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324,
Small Scale Industries	: 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328,
Space	: 1329, 1330, 1331.
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —