

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF: HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4695 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.05.2010

MINORITY STUDENTS IN MINORITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

4695. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism to ensure that minority students are admitted in minority educational institutions with due priority;
- (b) whether Government has any statistics regarding the percentage of minority students in minority educational institutions; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that the percentage of minority students in such institutions is very negligible?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (c) Information with respect to the number of students from Minority communities admitted by minority educational institutions is not maintained centrally. Respective State Governments prescribe norms regulating admissions in the Minority Educational Institutions.

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QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF: AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4624 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.05.2010

CRISIS IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR.

4624. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

(a) the percentage of work force engaged in agriculture sector in our country;

(b) whether it is a fact that families depending on agriculture sector are compelled to move to other areas due to crisis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to resolve this issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a): The Census of India, 2001 has enumerated that of the 402.23 million workers in the country, 234.1 million (58.20%) are agricultural workers.

(b) to (d): While agricultural workers as a percentage of total workers in different sectors of economy have gone down, this has happened for various reasons including rapid growth of secondary and tertiary sectors. The percentage of agricultural workers on a base of total population increased

The Government of India has accorded high priority for revitalization of agriculture sector by formulating different schemes to supplement the efforts of the States and by providing resources for the purpose. A key objective of the National Policy for farmers, 2007 is to improve the economic viability of farming through substantially improving net income of farmers. The major schemes under implementation include Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Micro Irrigation Scheme, Watershed Development Programme, Integrated Nutrient Management & Integrated Pest Management and Macro Management of Agriculture. In addition to these major initiatives, adequate care has been taken to ensure decentralization and participation in decision making and in implementation of the Schemes/Programmes with a view to improving the condition of farmers.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF: BIO-TECHNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS NO 4558 TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.05.2010

ALLOCATION FOR RAJIV GANDHI CENTRE.

4558. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) the quantum of annual allocation for the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) the number of technologies which have been developed by the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology in the past five years; and

(c) the amount of these technologies which are commercialized?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR EARTH SCIENCES

(PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) Sir, after the take over of the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB,

Thiruvannanthapuram by the Department of Biotechnology in the financial year 2007-08, the annual allocation for the last three financial years and the current year is as under:

2007-08 - Rs.859 lakhs
2008-09 - Rs.2500 lakhs
2009-10 - Rs.2400 lakhs and
2010-11 - Rs.2400 lakhs (BE)

(b) Eight

(c) None of the technologies has been commercialised so far.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4470 TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.05.2010

CYBER ESPIONAGE IN INDIAN COMPUTER SYSTEM

4470. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

-

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to prevent cyber espionage network hacking into computer systems of Indian Government;

(b) if so, the details of the preventive measures taken; and

(c) whether preventive steps had been extended to several Indian Embassies abroad ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) and (b): The Government has taken several measures to detect and prevent cyber attacks/espionage. The details are:

1. As per existing computer security guidelines issued by Government, no sensitive information is to be stored on the systems that are connected to Internet.

2. The Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.

3. The organizations operating critical information infrastructure have been advised to implement information security management practices based on International Standard ISO 27001.

4. Ministries and Departments have been advised to carry out their IT systems audit regularly to ensure robustness of their systems. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has already empanelled a number of penetration testing professionals through a stringent mechanism of selection to carryout audits.

5. National Informatics Centre (NIC), providing services to Ministries/Departments is continuously strengthening the security of the network operated by them and its services by enforcing security policies, conducting regular security audits and deploying various technologies at different levels of the network to defend against the newer techniques being adopted by the hackers from time to time.

6. The Information Technology Act, 2000 as amended by the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 has been enforced on 27.10.2009. The Act provides legal framework to address the issues connected with hacking and security breaches of information technology infrastructure.

Section 70 of the Act provides to declare any computer resource which directly or indirectly affects the facility of Critical Information Infrastructure, to be a protected system.

Further, Section 70B has empowered Indian Computer Emergency Response Team to serve as national nodal agency in the area of cyber security.

7 The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) scans the Indian Cyber Space to detect traces of any untoward incident that poses a threat to the cyber space. CERT-In performs both proactive and reactive roles in computer security incidents prevention, identification of solution to security problems, analyzing product vulnerabilities, malicious codes, web defacements, open proxy servers and in carrying out relevant research and development.

Sectoral CERTs have been functioning in the areas of defence and Finance for catering critical domains. They are equipped to handle and respond to domain specific threats emerging from the cyber systems.

CERT-In has published several Security Guidelines for safeguarding computer systems from hacking and these have been widely circulated. All Government Departments/ Ministries, their subordinate offices and public sector undertakings have been advised to implement these guidelines to secure their computer systems and information technology infrastructure. CERT-In issues security alerts, advisories to prevent occurrence of cyber incidents and also conducts security workshops and training programs on regular basis to enhance user awareness.

(c): Yes, Sir. Ministry of External Affairs has issued a comprehensive set of IT security instructions for all users of MEA and periodically updates them on vulnerabilities. The Indian Missions abroad have been regularly sending information on safe computing practices. All personnel posted to Indian Missions and Posts abroad are being imparted IT security training.

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QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGH WAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4447 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.05.2010

TARGET FOR BUILDING KMS. HIGHWAY IN A DAY.

4447. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGH WAYS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether his Ministry has fixed a target for building 20 Km. highway in a day;
- (b) if so, whether the target has been achieved anywhere in the country; and
- (c) the hurdles in achieving the target?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI R. P. N. SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) Since highway projects have a gestation period of 4 to 5 years from inception, the rate of construction is to be progressively increased to achieve the target of 20 km road per day being imparted IT security training.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4376 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.05.2010
LEGISLATION TO AVOID CUSTODIAL DEATHS.
4376. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of custodial deaths reported during the last three years;
- (b) the State-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any plans to introduce new legislation to avoid custodial deaths; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a): The number of custodial deaths reported to the National Human Rights Commission during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Custodial deaths
2007-2008	2267
2008-2009	1943
2009-2010	1794

(b): The State-wise details is at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): A Bill titled "The Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010" has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 26/4/2010. The Bill, inter alia, provides for punishment to those involved in the incident of torture and specifies the time limit for taking cognizance of the offence of torture. The bill would act as a deterrent for Public Servants from indulging in custodial deaths and abuse of power by police authorities.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4373 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.05.2010

CRPF ENGAGED WITH DEFENCE DUTIES.

4373. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the CRPF personnel's have been engaged with the defence duties;

(b) if so, whether they are treated as the defence personnel's for the benefits; and

(c) how many CRPF personnel's are killed while discharging the duties for the defence department?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a): No, Sir.

(b) & (c): Do not arise.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: SHIPPING

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4303 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.05.2010

SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR IMPROVING COASTAL SHIPPING.

4303. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has any special package for reviving and improving the coastal shipping;
- (b) if so, what steps have been taken to improve the coastal shipping; and
- (c) whether the State Government of Kerala had been allocated any funds for the improvement of the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING

(SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a) to (c): In order to promote coastal shipping, one non-major port from each Maritime State, including Azhikkal in Kerala, was identified for development under the National Maritime Development Programme and the following two schemes had been proposed in the working group report on 11th Five Year Plan document of Ministry of Shipping -

- (i) Coastal Shipping Development Fund for soft lending for the purpose of acquisition of coastal vessels.
- (ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of coastal shipping infrastructure.

The budgetary support required in the 11th Five Year Plan for the above two schemes was Rs.500 crore each. But since no fund could be allotted for the purpose in the 11th Five Year Plan, the schemes could not be implemented.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4065 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.05.2010

AMENDMENT IN PRASAR BHARATI ACT.

4065. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: -

- (a) whether the Ministry has any plan to amend the Prasar Bharati Act; and
- (b) the reasons for delay to constitute the Parliamentary Committee of Prasar Bharati, according to the mandatory provisions of the existing Act?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

(SHRI C. M. J ATUA)

- (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to amend Section 11 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GOM) dated 05.10.2007 and 26.9.2008.
- (b) The issue whether a Parliamentary Committee is to be constituted as per Section 13 of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 or Section 13 of the Act is to be deleted has been referred to the GOM, which has been reconstituted on 10.2.2010 for taking a view.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 4057 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.05.2010
CENTRAL ASSISTANCE FOR FPI IN KERALA.
4057. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

- (a) whether Kerala Government has submitted any proposal for Central Assistance for food processing industries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps in this regard? ANSWER

Answer

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI)

- (a) to (c): No, Sir. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has not received any

proposals directly from State Governments including that of Kerala for financial assistance for setting up of food processing units on its own. However, MFPI under its Plan Scheme for Technology Upgradation, Establishment and Modernization of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance to the proposals received from eligible agencies for setting up of food processing units as per guidelines of scheme. MFPI schemes are project specific, not State specific.

To promote food processing in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas. In order to ensure speedy disbursement of financial assistance, the Ministry has decentralized the disbursement procedure through banks/ financial institutions under the scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries w.e.f. 01.04.2007. Under the decentralized procedure, the applications are received directly by the Banks/FIs. During last three years, Ministry has approved 112 proposals for which an amount of Rs. 1985.70 lakh has been released under the Scheme to the various units in the State of Kerala.

In order to ensure speedy disbursement of financial assistance, the Ministry has decentralized the disbursement procedure through banks via an e-portal under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries with effect from 01.04.2007.

Ministry has also formulated and is implementing several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for the establishment and modernization of Food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support of R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. Moreover, the Government has taken several steps like tax reduction, waiver/reduction of excise duty, reduction of custom duty on specific food items with a view to encourage the growth of Food Processing Industries and make them more competitive. Further, the Ministry under its Plan Scheme of establishing Food Testing Labs, Implementation of Quality Systems such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP), Promotion of Research and Development, Capacity Building and Human Resources Development provide assistance to food processing industries to enable them to compete in the international market.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3989 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.04.2010
CONSTRUCTION OF RAIL COACH FACTORY AT PALAKKAD IN KERALA.
3989. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

- (a) the steps taken by Government to establish a coach factory at Palakkad;
- (b) whether the proposed coach factory would be operated on a public-private partnership model; and
- (c) if so, whether Government of Kerala would also be given a stake in running the project?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Ministry of Railways is engaged in obtaining requisite approval of the Government for establishing a coach factory at Palakkad. Planning Commission has accorded in principle approval and appraised the project. Expanded Board for Railways has also endorsed the project.

(b) & (c) Decision about the structure of the entity would be taken after the final approval of the project.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3986 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.04.2010

VACANCIES IN RAILWAYS.

3986. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of vacancies reported in Railways during the last three years; and
- (b) the steps taken so far to fill up the existing vacancies?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) The vacancy position of zonal railways during last three years is as under:- Year 01.04.07
01.04.08 01.04.09 Total Vacancies 165589 169996 169813.

(b) Streamlining of the working of Railway Recruitment Boards has been undertaken. Under the new methodology, examination for a particular post will be held on the same date simultaneously by all the Railway Recruitment Boards and in addition to Hindi, Urdu and

English, question papers shall be set in local languages. Open Notification have been issued to fill up vacancies.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

DEPARTMENT OF: FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3901 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.04.2010

EXPORT OF SUGAR.

3901. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that one and half years ago his Ministry had given sanction to export sugar at a rate of Rs. 12.5 per kg. to other countries;
- (b) if so, whether Government had given subsidy to the exporters; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a)to(c): No, Sir. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has not given sanction for export of sugar at a rate of Rs. 12.5 per kg. to other countries. However, the Central Government, with a view to improve liquidity of sugar mills to pay cane price including cane price arrears to sugarcane farmers, has extended assistance on export of sugar from 19.04.2007 to 30.09.2008 at the rate of Rs.1350 per ton for coastal states and Rs.1450 per ton for non-coastal states subject to actuals in case of export to neighboring countries.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3782 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.04.2010

PLASMA TECHNOLOGY.

3782. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether his Ministry has developed Plasma Technology to incinerate bio-medical waste;
- (b) if so, whether Government has conducted any study for the implementation of Plasma Technology in health care institutions; and
- (c) whether Government has made any impact assessment of the introduction of this new technology to tackle the problem of bio-medical waste?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (c): Yes Sir. The Department of Science and Technology has supported the development of Plasma Technology to incinerate bio-medical waste. It has, through a Facilitation Centre for Industrial Plasma Technologies (FCIPT), Institute of Plasma Research, Gandhinagar, facilitated installation of five demonstration systems of Plasma Technology in healthcare institutions at Goa, Hyderabad, Agartala, Gurgaon and Ahmedabad. The scientific data on exhaustive emissions measurements gathered so far have been submitted to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to seek their approval for this technology.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: EARTH SCIENCES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3735 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.04.2010

NATIONAL MISSION ON MONSOON.

3735. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:-

- (a) the steps that had been taken by his Ministry to set up the National Mission on Monsoon;
- (b) whether Government has made any study about the failure of the current models which were hitherto followed for forecasting the monsoon; and

(c) if so, whether with the establishment of National Mission on Monsoon, the handicap of the current model could be overcome?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has proposed National Mission on Monsoon to develop most representative and advanced dynamic model framework for India for forecasting monsoon rainfall and its variability in various space and time scales.

On 16th January 2010, National level consultation meeting was organized with experts working in the atmospheric and oceanic modeling. Experts from the MoES units, viz. India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) etc., also participated in the meeting to finalise the scope, identification/shortlisting of suite of models, activity schedule, roles of various participating groups, time frame, etc. for the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) alongwith implementation mechanism.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The accomplishment of accurate medium and long range prediction of the monsoon rainfall along with associated variability (interannual and intraseasonal) is a highly challenging task scientifically. At present no dynamic model, globally, has a proven track record of accurately predicting the summer monsoon rainfall and its variability. The National Mission on Monsoon envisages developing India specific dynamical model framework that would outperform the existing suite of models available today.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3573 TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.04.2010

STATUS OF CASES UNDER NIA.

3573. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: -

(a) whether it is a common practice that cases in which the chargesheet have been filed by the

State concerned, State investigation agencies would disentitle and National Investigation Agency (NIA) to take up the investigation in those cases; and

(b) what is the present status of those cases which had been taken by the NIA for investigation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) & (b): No, sir, it is not a common practice that cases in which chargesheets have been filed by the State Police are taken over by the National investigation agency (NIA).

The National Investigation Agency has been directed to conduct investigations in 15 cases. Chargesheets have been filed in two cases.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: DEFENCE

DEPARTMENT OF: DEFENCE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3558 TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.04.2010

HANDING OVER ROAD TO NAD TO KALAMASSERY MUNICIPALITY.

3558. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Ministry has received any memorandum from Government of Kerala to hand over the existing road to Naval Armament Depot (NAD), under the control of Ministry, to Kalamassery Municipality for public use;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry has taken any steps in resolving this issue?

Answer

(SHRI A.K. ANTONY) MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(a) to (c): No such memorandum has been received from Government of Kerala. However, a request from Government of Kerala was received in Ministry of Defence way back in 1995 to hand over NAD road to Kalamassery Municipality. This Ministry agreed for transfer of NAD road to Kalamassery Municipality provided the Municipality chalk out a time frame and take effective steps for widening, strengthening and conversion of road into a two lane traffic in

consultation with NAD authorities.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: PANCHAYAT RAJ

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3488 TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.04.2010

PROBLEM FACED BY SC ST PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS.

3488. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of PANCHAYAT RAJ be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that in certain Panchayats of some of the States in the country the Panchayat Presidents belonging to SC/ST community have not been allowed to function by some upper caste groups;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to resolve this issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(Dr. C. P. JOSHI)

(a) to (c): The requisite information has been called from the States/UTs and will be laid down on the Table of the Sabha

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: FINANCE

DEPARTMENT OF: REVENUE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3402 TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.04.2010

MONEY LAUNDERING CASES.

3402. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) how many cases have been registered pending trial and decided by Courts in India on the offences under the present money laundering law;

(b) to what extent the present laws has been able to curb black money and tax evasion; and

(c) whether the present law needs any amendments for the proper enforcement?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI S.S. PALANI MAN IC KAM)

(a): The Directorate of Enforcement as on 28-2-2010 had registered 914 cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA). Out of these, 09 cases are pending trial in the Competent Courts. No case has so far been decided by the Courts.

(b) & (c) : Under the provisions of the Income Tax Act, the Income Tax Department takes several steps to unearth unaccounted money and detect tax evasion. These include scrutiny of returns, surveys, search and seizure action, imposition of penalty and launching of prosecution in appropriate cases. Tax Information Network (TIN) has been set up as a depository of important tax related information which can be accessed by the Department. The basic components of TIN are information relating to Tax Deduction at Source (TDS), payment of taxes and high value transactions reported in Annual Information Returns (AIR). The information collected from various sources is collected electronically to create a 360 degrees profile of the high net worth assesseees so as to detect unaccounted income/assets. Information as regards suspicious transactions and large cash transactions is also investigated by the Income Tax Department. Appropriate action under the provisions of Direct Tax Laws is taken in cases where tax evasion is detected. The efforts made by the Department have resulted in substantial increase in Direct Tax revenue collections in past few years indicating success of the Department in curbing black money and tax evasion. Presently, there is no specific proposal for any change in the Income-tax Act, 1961 in this regard.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: FINANCE

DEPARTMENT OF: REVENUE

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO 449 TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.04.2010

SPECIAL TAX ON INDIGENOUSLY PRODUCED OIL AND GAS

449. SHRI P. RAJEEV

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: -

(a) whether any special tax is imposed on crude oil explored and produced in the country which is same as the customs duty on imported crude oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how the introduction of 5 per cent customs duty has been reflected in the price of petrol and diesel in the retail outlets?

Answer

MINISTER OF FINANCE

(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 449 RAISED BY SHRI P.RAJEEVE FOR 27TH APRIL, 2010 REGARDING TAX ON INDIGENOUSLY PRODUCED CRUDE OIL [POSITION NO.9]

Part(a) No Sir. No special tax has been imposed on crude oil explored and produced in the country which is the same as the customs duty on imported crude oil.

Part(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to (a) above.

Part(c) Introduction of 5% customs duty on crude petroleum does not reflect in the price of petrol and diesel in the retail outlets as the prices of petrol and diesel are determined based on the trade parity price of petrol and diesel and not crude petroleum.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: LAW & JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF: LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3312 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.04.2010

AMENDMENT IN CPC CRPC AND EVIDENCE ACT.

3312. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of LAW & JUSTICE be pleased to state: -

(a) whether Government has any plans to make amendments in CPC, CrPC and Evidence Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any study about certain provisions existing in these laws which has contributed a major role in the delay of rendering justice; and

(d) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to resolve this?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (d): The Law Commission of India, from time to time, examines various laws including procedural laws such as the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to make suggestions for their amendments. On the basis of the 163rd Report of the Law Commission of India, the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 was last amended vide the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment), 2002 (22 of 2002) for cutting short delays at various levels. Similarly, on the basis of 154 and 177th Report of the Commission, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 was last amended vide the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2008 (5 of 2009) to ensure fair and speedy justice and to tone with the criminal justice system. The Law Commission of India vide its 185 Report on 'Review of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872' and 221' report on 'Need for Speedy Justice - Some Suggestions', has inter alia made certain recommendation for amendments in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. As the subject matter of the said Report falls under List III - Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, they have been circulated to the State Governments and the Union territories for seeking their views/comments thereon.

[Verbatim Debates \(189th Session onwards\)](#)
[\(Year 2000 onwards\)](#)

[Official Debates](#)

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: LAW & JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF: JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3300 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.04.2010

E FILING OF CASES.

3300. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of LAW & JUSTICE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government has made any study on the introduction of e- filings in some of the litigating areas for more efficient functioning of the Judicial System in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3197 TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.04.2010

KOCHI DELHI DURONTO EXPRESS.

3197. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether time taken by Duronto Express from Kochi to Delhi is more than that of Rajdhani Express;
- (b) if so, whether it is same as the other Duronto Express and Rajdhani Express in the country; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for the more time taken by Kochi-Delhi Duronto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a): There is presently no Duronto Express train between Kochi and Delhi. However, 2283/2284 Duronto (weekly) service runs between Nizamuddin and Ernakulam and is taking more time than 2431/2432 Thiruvananthapuram-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express running between the two cities.

(b) & (c): Presently, all Rajdhani trains are running on end-on-generation type of coaching stock while some Duronto trains are running with end-on-generation type of coaching stock and some with self generating type of coaching stock. The trains running with end-on-generation are fully AC and are run at 130 kmph or sectional speed. The trains running with self generating type of coaches are consisting of both AC type and non-AC type of coaches and are run at 110 kmph or sectional speed. The Duronto trains like 2283/2284 between Ernakulam and Nizamuddin running at 110 kmph are, therefore, taking more transit time than the Rajdhani Express running on the same route.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF: HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3143 TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.04.2010

IMPLEMENTATION OF UGC PAY REVISION.
3143. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

- (a) the number of States which have implemented new UGC pay revision;
- (b) the details thereof; and
- (c) whether there is any uniformity in the retirement age of the university teachers across the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b): According to available information, the State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal have issued orders on revision of pay structure of their eligible teachers and equivalent cadres in universities, where applicable, and colleges (some with certain modifications) based on the scheme of revision of pay of teachers and equivalent cadres in universities and colleges following the revision of pay scales of Central Government employees on the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission, issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 31.12.2008.

(c): No, Sir. There is no uniformity in the age of superannuation of teachers and it varies from State to State. However, the age of superannuation of teachers in centrally funded institutions in higher and technical education under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development was raised from 62 years to 65 years, and Central assistance of 80% of the arrears of the revision of pay for the period between 1.1.2006 and 31.3.2010 is admissible only to States adopting the entire package, including age of superannuation, announced by the Central Government.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3008 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.04.2010

BASIC AMENITIES FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED CITIZENS.

3008. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) the steps that are being taken by the Government of India to provide certain basic amenities for the differently-abled citizens and senior citizens in public institutions; and

(b) the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI D. NAPOLEON)

(a) & (b) A Statement indicating various steps taken in this regard is annexed.

ANNEXURE Statement referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.3008 for 22.04.2010 tabled by Shri P. Rajeeve, MP regarding Basic amenities for differently-abled citizens

Government of India has taken various steps to facilitate provision of basic amenities for differently-abled citizens and senior citizens which, inter-alia, include the following:-

- (i) Assistive devices are given to persons with disabilities under Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids/ Appliances (ADIP) Scheme.
- (ii) Funds are released to the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) for taking up ADIP activity, in conjunction with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), for covering school children with disabilities. National Institutes under the Ministry and capable NGOs are also released funds for providing services under ADIP Scheme at their Head Quarters/Centres.
- (iii) Assistance is provided under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) to NGOs for various projects covering services such as special education, pre-school programme, early intervention, vocational training etc.
- (iv) 20 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) have been established in the country with a view to provide vocational rehabilitation assistance to persons with disabilities (PwDs). Four barrier free building for VRCs have been constructed at Delhi, Kanpur, Bhubaneswar & Kolkata for easy access of PwDs.
- (v) At present, 43 Special Employment Exchanges and 38 Special Cells have been set up for providing placement services to PwDs.
- (vi) The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was enacted in December 2007 under which maintenance of parents/ senior citizens by children/ relatives has been made obligatory and justiciable. The Act also provides inter-alia, for revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of negligence by relatives, and penal provision for abandonment of senior citizens.
- (vii) Under the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP), financial assistance is provided to non-governmental organizations for running and maintenance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units, Respite Care Homes and Continuous Care Homes, Day Care Centres for Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia Patients, Physiotherapy

Clinics for older persons, Help-lines and Counseling Centres etc.

(viii) Ministry of Railway provides separate ticket counters for senior citizens (60+) at railway reservation centres, and 30% and 50 % concession in rail fare for male and female senior citizens (60+), respectively.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2969 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.04.2010

STATISTICS OF URBAN POVERTY NO.

2969. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has any statistics about the urban poverty in our country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to tackle this issue?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI SAUGATA ROY)

(a)&(b): Planning Commission releases estimates of urban poor from time to time based on the national sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per the latest such estimates of NSSO (61st Round) for the year 2004-2005, based on the Uniform Recall Period (URP) method, the estimated number of urban poor is 80.8 million which is 25.7% of the urban population of the country. Number and percentage of population below poverty line (2004-2005), based on the Uniform Recall Period (URP), State-wise as well as all India, are at Annexure.

(c): With a view to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation Centrally sponsored scheme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis, with effect from 1.12.1997. The scheme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under employed poor, through encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures by the urban poor living below the poverty line, and also through providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) has been comprehensively revamped with effect from 2009-2010. The revamped SJSRY has following components:

(i). Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) - targets individual urban poor for setting up of micro-enterprises,

(ii). Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP) - targets urban poor women self-help groups for setting up of group-enterprises and providing them assistance through a revolving fund for thrift & credit activities.

(iii). Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP)- targets urban poor for imparting quality training so as to enhance their employability for self-employment or better salaried employment.

(iv). Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP)- seeks to assist urban poor by utilizing their labour for the construction of socially and economically useful public assets, in towns having population less than 5 lakhs as per 1991 census, and.

(v). Urban Community Development Network (UCDN) - seeks to assist the urban poor in organizing themselves in self-managed community structures so as to gain collective strength to address the issues of poverty facing them and participate in the effective implementation of urban poverty alleviation programmes.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGH WAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2900 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.04.2010

COMPLAINT REGARDING ALIGNMENT FOR NH IN KERALA.

2900. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGH WAYS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government has received any complaints regarding the alignment for highway development in Kollam, Allapuzha districts in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government on these complaints?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI R. P. N. SINGH)

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. A number of complaints/requests related to change in alignment,

restriction of ROW to 30m etc have been received from various districts in Kerala including Kollam and Allapuzha districts for Cherthala-Ochira and Ochira-Trivandrum projects proposed under NHDP Phase-III on NH-47 in Kerala. Representations were also received for changing the alignment of NH-220 passing through Kollam-Kottakkam-Chengannur-Kottayam-Kumily to Kollam-Kundara-East Kallada-Bharanaikkavu-Sooranadu-Thamarakullam-Charummoodu-Chunakkara-Chengannur-Kottayam-Kumily.

(c) Government of India referred the complaints to the District Level Committees headed by District Collectors with State Governments, PWDs, NHAI and Revenue Officers as Members. As regards NH-220, keeping in view very high cost of land in Kerala, the State Government has been asked to share the cost of land acquisition for the new alignment.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2858 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.04.2010

WELFARE OF MIGRANT WORKERS.

2858. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government has any project for the welfare of the migrant workers in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any statistics regarding the number of migrant workers in different States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): A Statement is annexed at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): As per Census 2001, the total number of migrant workers in the country is 14,26,82,456. A Statement showing the number of migrant workers, state-wise is annexed at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE -I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2858 FOR 21.04.2010 BY SHRI P. RAJEEVE REGARDING WELFARE OF MIGRANT WORKERS

(a) & (b): There is no project specifically for welfare of migrant workers. However, for the welfare of inter-state migrant workers, the Government has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 (ISMW). The Act regulates the employment of inter-state migrant workmen and provides for their conditions of service and for matter connected therewith. As per ISMW Act the contractor who recruits any person in a state for the purpose of employing in establishment situated in another state, a license needs to be obtained from the Licensing Officer who has jurisdiction in relation to that area wherein the recruitment is made. The contractor also needs to take a licence from the Licensing Officer who has the jurisdiction where the establishment is situated. Such migrant workers as are below poverty line and those that are building and other construction workers can also get health and maternity benefits under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

DEPARTMENT OF: INDUSTRIAL POLICY & PROMOTION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2764 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.04.2010

. NEW MANUFACTURING ZONES FOR ATTRACTING FDI.

2764. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether his Ministry has any plans to start new manufacturing zones for attracting more FDI to this sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b): The Government has prepared a discussion paper on a National Manufacturing Policy. The concept of National Manufacturing & Investment Zones is part of the discussion paper. The concept is still at a very initial stage of discussion

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

DEPARTMENT OF: FAMILY WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2659 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.04.2010

INCIDENTS OF DEATHS IN IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMMES.

2659. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

(a) whether Government had conducted an inquiry into the deaths and other health hazards reported during immunization programmes ; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by his Ministry to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) Whenever an Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) occurs; such incidence is investigated by local health authorities. In cases where it is considered necessary, a team of experts is deputed by the Central Government for investigation of such AEFIs.

(b) To prevent the recurrence of such incidents, necessary guidelines have been issued to Programme Officers of States/Union Territories. Further, officials involved in the immunization programme are also regularly trained to follow the guidelines.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: CIVIL AVIATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2609 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.04.2010

SECURITY CHECK OF EMPLOYEES AT AIRPORTS.

2609. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there exists any legal mechanism to check the antecedents and links of employees, both permanent and contractual employed at airports in India;

(b) if so, whether his ministry had formulated any guideline for periodic review of the same due to constant terror threats;

(c) whether the comprehensive document on civil aviation requirement is constantly revised for meeting such emergencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) are issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in line with the standards and Recommended Practices contained in the various Annexures of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

[Verbatim Debates \(189th Session onwards\)](#)
[\(Year 2000 onwards\)](#)

[Official Debates](#)

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: LAW & JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF: JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2521 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.04.2010

PENDING CASES.

2521. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of LAW & JUSTICE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that huge number of cases is pending in various High Courts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on January, 2010, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to address this genuine issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(Dr. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) & (b): A statement indicating the number of cases pending in the High Courts as on 31.12.2009 is enclosed.

(c): Time taken in disposal of pending cases is exclusively within the domain of the Judiciary. However, Government has taken following concrete steps to address this issue:

(1) Increasing strength of Judges in the High Courts;

(2) Modernization of the judicial infrastructure which includes upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure;

(3) Various High Courts have set up Mediation Cells at District Level Courts and also in the High Courts. National Legal Services Authority and the International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) are promoting ADR. Training programmes are also organized for training of Arbitrators Conciliators and Mediators; and

(4) Lok Adalats are also organised to dispose of pending cases.

[Verbatim Debates \(189th Session onwards\)](#)
[\(Year 2000 onwards\)](#)

[Official Debates](#)

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2512 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.04.2010

WAGES OF AIR REPORTERS.

2512. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the reporters of AIR who are working on contract basis, are drawing very meagre amount as monthly wages; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to change the pathetic condition of these workers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SH.C.M. JATUA)

(a)&(b) All India Radio takes services from part-time reporters for supplementing news

reports of its own regular correspondents. These reporters work full-time in some other professions/ jobs and only provide part-time services to Prasar Bharati. They are not regular employees of Prasar Bharati. The monthly remuneration for Part-Time Correspondents has been revised from time to time from Rs.500/- in the year 1992 to Rs.1500/- in 2002. Prasar Bharati is seized of the issue and the Board of Prasar Bharati is competent to decide such issues.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2414 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.04.2010

WOES OF RAIL COMMUTERS DUE TO DOUBLING OF LINE NEAR ERNAKULAM.

2414. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

(a) the steps taken by Government to prevent the woes of rail commuters due to train delay as a result of doubling of rail line in the Mulanthuruthy area near Ernakulam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) To minimize public inconvenience, wide publicity was given through press, including vernacular media, electronic media, station notice boards and public address system regarding the diversion/cancellation/regulation of trains due to rail doubling works between Ernakulam-Mulanturutti in the Trivandrum division of Southern Railway from 15.3.10 to 27.3.2010.

[Verbatim Debates \(189th Session onwards\)](#)
[\(Year 2000 onwards\)](#)

[Official Debates](#)

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF: POSTS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2148 TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.04.2010

PENSION SCHEME FOR ED EMPLOYEES.

2148. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

(a) whether Government has finalized the pension scheme for the Extra Departmental (ED) employees working in Postal Department;

(b) If so, the details of the pension scheme; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not implementing the pension scheme to these employees?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) Gramin Dak Sevaks are deployed for limited hours ranging from 3 to maximum 5 hrs per day and they are held as holders of civil posts but outside the regular civil service. They are not covered by Fundamental Rules, Supplementary Rules, and CCS (Pension) Rules 1972. They are paid Ex-gratia gratuity and Severance amount on discharge. The Ex-gratia gratuity is paid at the rate of half month's Time Related Continuity Allowance for each completed year of service subject to a maximum of Rs. 60,000/-. The Gramin Dak Sevaks are also paid severance amount @ Rs. 1500/- for every completed year of service subject to a maximum of Rs. 60,000/-.

There is no proposal, for providing pension to Extra-Departmental employees. However, Gramin Dak Sevaks Committee constituted by the Government for examining the wage structure, service conditions etc. of Gramin Dak Sevaks has recommended for introduction of Service Discharge Benefit scheme, by contribution by the Government through Annuity scheme to be managed by pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority.

The proposed scheme provides for contribution of Rs. 200/- per month by the Government for each Gramin Dak Sevak in lieu of existing Severance amount of Rs. 1500/- per annum for each completed year of service subject to a maximum of Rs. 60,000. There will be no matching contribution from Gramin Dak Sevaks. The monthly contributions are to be managed through Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority to get adequate secured returns. The Department has taken the approval of Government for processing this recommendation of Gramin Dak Sevak committee in consultation with the Nodal Department.

The implementation of the recommendation is subject to Approval by the Nodal Department.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: ATOMIC ENERGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2139 TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.04.2010

LIABILITY IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS.

2139. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether India is a signatory to any International Agreements which has got an obligation to limit the liability of the reactor companies in case of accidents;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether there is any specific condition to limit the liabilities of the reactor companies in case of accidents under the existing contractual arrangements made by India with other countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.

(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) to (c) The following bilateral agreements which have entered into force have provisions related to liability for nuclear damage:

1) Article -13.1 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Construction of Additional Nuclear Power Plant Units at Kudankulam site as well as in the Construction of Russian designed Nuclear Power Plants at New Sites in the Republic of India signed on 05 December 2008 states that the Indian Side and its authorized organization at any time and at all stages of the construction and operation of the NPP power units to be constructed under the present Agreement shall be the Operator of power units of the NPP at Kudankulam Site and be fully responsible for any damage both within and outside the territory of the Republic of India caused to any person and property as a result of a nuclear incident occurring at NPP and also in relation with a nuclear incident during the transportation, handling or storage outside the NPPs of nuclear fuel and any contaminated materials or any part of NPP equipment both within and outside the territory of the Republic of India.

2) Article VIII (2) of the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic on the Development of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy signed on 30 September 2008 states that the Parties agree that, for the purpose of compensating for damage caused by a nuclear incident involving material, nuclear material, equipment, facilities and technology referred to in Article IX, each party shall create

a civil nuclear liability regime based upon established international principles.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2110 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2010

CHANGE IN WAGE PATTERN OF NREGS.

2110. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has got any proposal from Kerala for increasing the wages under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);
- (b) whether Government has any plans to change the wage pattern in NREGS; and
- (c) whether Government has decided to include the plantation works under the NREGS?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

- (a) No, Sir. After notification of wage rate by the Central Government under Section 6(1) of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA on 1.1.2009 in respect of all States/Union Territories in the country, the Ministry has not received any proposal from Kerala for increasing the wage under the Act.
- (b) A new wage policy in the light of the announcement made by Hon`ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech, 2009-10 has been implemented.
- (c) Drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation) is a permissible activity under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

DEPARTMENT OF: PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2070 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2010

PROFIT LOSS OF CPSU

2070. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has any data regarding the profit/loss earned by various public sector establishments during the last three years in the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) how much money has been contributed by the Central Public Sector Units (CPSUs) to Government exchequer in the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) and (b): The details of Profit/Loss of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) for the last three years is available in Statement - 3 (page No. S-3 to S-9) of Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey 2008-09, which was laid in the Parliament on 25.2.2010.

(c) Contribution of CPSEs to the Central Exchequer by way of dividend payment, interest on Government loans and payment of taxes and duties to the Government for the last three years is mentioned below:

(Rs. in crore)

Years	Contribution of CPSEs to Central Exchequer (Govt.of India)
2008-09	151728.04
2007-08	165993.77
2006-07	148783.26

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: FINANCE

DEPARTMENT OF: REVENUE

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO 269 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2010

DECLINE IN TAX GDP RATIO.

269. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Tax-GDP ratio of the country has decreased in the last financial year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (c) whether the concessions to the big corporates have led to this decrease in tax revenue?

Answer

FINANCE MINISTER

(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 269 for answer on 16 March, 2010

(a): Yes, Sir. The following statistical table may be referred to in this regard:

TAX REVENUE AS PROPORTION OF GDP

(in pet cent)

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (BE)	2008-09 (Prov.)	2009-10 (BE)
Direct Tax	4.1	4.3	5.1	6.0	6.9	6.1	6.0

(a) Income Tax	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.6	2.2	1.8
(b) Corporate Tax	2.6	2.7	3.4	3.9	4.3	3.8	4.2
Indirect Tax	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.6	6.1	4.8	4.4
(a) Customs	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.6
(b) Excise	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.0	1.7
(C) Service Tax	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1
Gross Tax Revenue	9.4	9.9	11.1	12.0	13.0	10.9	10.4

Source of data: Economic Survey 2009-10

(b) & (c): The decline in tax-GDP ratio can be broadly attributed to the following factors: (1) global economic melt-down; (2) remedial steps taken by the government to protect the Indian economy and industry from the impact of global economic meltdown;

(3) several tax cuts announced since the year 2008-09, as 'fiscal stimulus packages' to boost the aggregate demand, revive the Indian economy and place it on the path of high growth.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1795 TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2010

FORMATION OF A PENINSULAR RAILWAY ZONE.

1795. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there is any proposal under active consideration of Railways for formation of a Peninsular Railway Zone with headquarters in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether any steps would be initiated in the coming financial year itself to form this railway zone; and

(c) whether there is any comprehensive plan with Railways to solve problems faced by passengers in Kerala?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a): No, Sir

(b): Does not arise.

(c): Railways frame policies/plans for provision of various facilities at Railway stations in the overall interest of the traveling public. This is done across the Indian Railways, including in the State of Kerala.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF: SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1602 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2010

FIRST HUMAN GENOME SEQUENCING IN INDIA.

1602. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the sequencing of first human genome in India achieved by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has put India at par in scientific research with advanced nations;

(b) whether the Indian human genome sequencing was achieved with indigenous technology;

(c) whether the CSIR has developed indigenously the necessary instruments and reagents to carry out human genome sequencing;

(d) whether the costs of human genome sequencing technology developed by CSIR are less than that in other countries; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefore ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND EARTH SCIENCES

(PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) Yes Sir. The sequencing of first human genome in India by Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi, a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has helped our country join the league of select countries

undertaking advanced research in the area of genomics.

(b)&(c) =The sequencing of human genome requires high computational capability and technological know-how in handling sophisticated machines and analyzing huge volumes of data. CSIR generated the human genome sequence data using commercially available reagents and next generation sequencing instruments. The assembly and mapping of the human genome was indigenously accomplished by effectively integrating complex computational and bioinformatics tools with high throughput analytical capabilities using super computers at CSIR-IGIB. The computational and bioinformatics know-how have been developed at CSIR over the last decade.

(d) The cost of human genome sequencing done at CSIR-IGIB is comparable with similar recent efforts world over.

(e) Does not arise.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1536 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2010

IT INDUSTRY SECTOR

1536. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

:-

(a) whether the IT industry sector in the country had fully recovered from the economic recession;

(b) whether there is any study conducted by his Ministry to evaluate the loss of job to engineering graduates in the IT Industry sector; and

(c) the current status and scope of new openings in the IT Industry in the coming financial year ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a): As per the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the IT industry sector has not fully recovered from the economic recession. In the Financial Year 2009- 10, the IT-ITES exports growth rate is estimated to be around

5.5%, down from 16.6% in the Financial Year 2008-09. However, with signs of global economic recovery, healthier growth rates are expected in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

(b): The year 2009-10 was a challenging year for the industry as the global recession forced clients to defer plans as well as capacity additions. As per NASSCOM, the first half of the year witnessed freeze on hiring, but gradually as the economic conditions improved, the industry is back to a hiring mode and will remain a net hirer in 2009-10. The Department of Information Technology, Government of India has not conducted any such study.

(c): As per NASSCOM, during the Financial Year 2009-10, the direct employment in this sector is estimated to reach nearly 2.29 million from 2.20 million in the previous year. For Financial Year 2010-11, NASSCOM has indicated that the job additions are likely to be higher than in Financial Year 2009-10.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGH WAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1493 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2010

PER CAPITA HIGHWAY FACILITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

1493. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGH WAYS be pleased to state:-

- (a) what is the State-wise details of per capita highway facility in the country; and
- (b) which State has the highest rank in per capita highway facility in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI R.P.N.SINGH)

(a) and (b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). The State-wise details of the length of NHs per lakh population are annexed. The State of Arunachal Pradesh ranks highest in terms of length of NHs per lakh population.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1410 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2010

INTELLIGENCE WARNING REGARDING PUNE BLAST.

1410. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether there was any intelligence warning from any of the Intelligence Agency regarding the Pune Bomb blast;
- (b) if so, what are the details of security measures that had been taken to prevent these bomb blasts and also after the Mumbai terrorist attack;
- (c) if so, how many amount of rupees has been spent to implement the Multy Agency Centre (MAC) to prevent the terrorist attack during the period from last terrorist attack in Mumbai to the recent Pune bomb blast; and
- (d) the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(b) to (d): The Government has been, on a continuing basis, reviewing the security arrangements in the light of the emerging challenges, and a number of important decisions and measures have been taken. These measures, inter-alia, include augmenting the strength of Central Para-Military Forces; amendment of the CISF Act to enable deployment of CISF in joint venture and private industrial undertakings; establishment of NSG hubs at Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai; empowerment of DG, NSG to requisition aircraft for movement of NSG personnel in the event of any emergency; strengthening and re-organizing of Multi-Agency Centre to enable it to function on 24x7 basis for real time collation and sharing of intelligence with other intelligence and security agencies; tighter immigration control, and effective border management through border fencing, flood lighting, deployment of surveillance equipment and coastal security. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 has been amended and notified in 2008 to strengthen the punitive measures to combat terrorism. The National Investigation Agency has been constituted under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 to investigate and prosecute offences under the Acts specified in the Schedule. Suitable steps have been initiated to establish the proposed National Counter Terrorism Centre. As part of steps to counter terrorists' threats, the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) is also envisaged. An expenditure of an amount of Rs. 33.17 Crore has been incurred on strengthening the Multi Agency Centre.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

DEPARTMENT OF: COMMERCE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1375 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2010

IMPLEMENTATION OF TH PAY COMMISSION IN CECI.

1375. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission has been implemented for the employees of Cashew Export Council of India under the Commerce Ministry;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has any plan to implement the recommendations of the Pay Commission in a time bound manner?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

a) No, Sir.

b) The Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI) is a company registered with the Registrar of Companies under Section 26 of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 and is governed as per the Memorandum & Articles of Association of the Council. The CEPCI has not implemented the 6th Pay Commission Recommendations to its employees due to budgetary constraints as they are managing their administrative expenses on their own resources. In this regard, this Ministry is not providing any budgetary support.

c) Does not arise.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO 197 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2010
INVESTIGATION INTO MUMBAI BLAST BY NIA.
197. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Mumbai blast case has been taken over for investigation by the National Investigation Agency (NIA);

(b) if not, the reasons for the same; and

(c) whether the investigation carried by the State police is satisfactory?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 197 FOR 10.3.2010 REGARDING “INVESTIGATION INTO
MUMBAI BLAST BY NIA.”

(a) to (c): The investigation into the Mumbai terrorist incidents which occurred on 26.11.2008 was conducted by the Crime Branch, Mumbai Police. As per available information, the consolidated charge sheet in this case was submitted on 25.2.2009 and the case was committed to Sessions Court on 09.03.2009. The trial is underway. Therefore, the question of the National Investigation Agency taking over the investigation does not arise.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

DEPARTMENT OF: AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROTUROPATHY UNANI, SIDDHA
AND

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1294 TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2010

AYURVEDA COLLEGE AS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE.

1294. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration for Vaidyarathnam P.S. Varier Ayurveda College, Kottakkal, as Centre of Excellence; and

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

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b) There is no proposal under consideration for Vaidyarathnam P.S. Varier Ayurveda College, Kottakkal, as Centre of Excellence. However, proposal received from this college under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme Development of AYUSH Institutions during the year 2008-09 was considered and a sum of Rs 300.00 lakh was released for the same.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1005 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.03.2010

*SETTING UP OF A WAGON FACTORY AT ALAPPUZHA IN KERALA.

1005. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL

M.P. ACHUTHAN P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that an MoU has been signed between Railway Board and Autocast Ltd. and a public purpose vehicle (joint ventur

(e) has also been constituted for setting up a wagon factory at Alappuzha in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the project is expected to be started?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. No MOU has been signed between Railway Board and Autocast Ltd. However, an MOU had been signed between Ministry of Railways and Government of Kerala for formation of a Joint Venture for undertaking manufacture of Railway coach and wagon components. Process for the constitution of the JV has been initiated.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1160 TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2010
UTILISATION OF BIO DIESEL AND BIO ETHANOL.

1160. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) the current status of utilization of bio-diesel and bio-ethanol in the country;
- (b) whether there is any plan to use these fuels in a phased manner to reduce the utilization of fossil fuel; and
- (c) whether there is any policy for cultivation of fuel crops in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

(Dr. FAROOQ ADBULLAH)

(a): The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been directed to sell five per cent ethanol blended petrol in entire country except North-Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep. So far, 58.7 crore litres of ethanol has been supplied by the sugar mills / ethanol manufacturers for blending as against the contracted quantity of 146.0 crore litres. Bio-diesel is currently not being marketed commercially for blending with diesel as the biodiesel industry is still at nascent stage of development.

(b) : In the National Policy on Biofuels, an indicative target of 20 per cent blending of biofuels with petro-fuels by 2017 has been proposed. However, the blending levels of bio-ethanol and bio-diesel will be reviewed and moderated periodically as per their availability.

(c) : As per National Policy on Biofuels, plantation of trees bearing non-edible oilseeds is to be taken up on Government/community wastelands, degraded or fallow land in forest and non-forest areas for production of bio-diesel. Ethanol is mainly being produced in the country at present from molasses, which is a by-product of sugar industry. In order to augment availability of ethanol and reduce over supply of sugar, the sugar industry has also been permitted to produce ethanol directly from sugarcane juice.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

DEPARTMENT OF: FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 958 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.03.2010
SHORTAGE OF SUGAR.

958. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

- (a) the actual cause of hike of sugar price in our country;
- (b) the stock of sugar in the country at present, State-wise;
- (c) whether there is a shortage of sugar at fair price shop under the Public Distribution System and in the open market; and
- (d) the remedial measures taken by Government to meet this shortage?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): The shortfall between domestic production and demand of sugar in the last 2008-09 sugar season and the current 2009-10 sugar season is the actual cause of hike in sugar prices in the country.

(b): The Central Government does not maintain stocks of sugar. Sugar stocks in the country consist of stocks with mills, wholesalers & retailers and importers of sugar in various States. As such, it is not possible to precisely estimate the stocks of sugar in the country, much less state-wise.

(c)&(d): There is adequate supply of sugar in the Public Distribution System as well as in the open market. The Central Government has already raised levy obligation on sugar factories from 10% to 20% with effect from 01.10.2009 for 2009-10 sugar season. Further, the Central Government has taken a slew of measures to augment domestic stocks of non-levy sugar and to check rise in sugar prices which, inter-alia, include permitting duty-free import of raw and white/refined sugar upto 31.12.2010.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF: AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 919 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.03.2010

INVESTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR.

919. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the over-all production of foodgrains particularly rice and wheat for the last three years, year- wise;
- (b) the productivity per hectare, Statewise;
- (c) the reasons for disparity in productivity;
- (d) whether Government has taken/ proposes to take measures to increase investment in the infrastructure development in the agricultural sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the funds earmarked for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI K.V. THOMAS)

(a): The estimated production of rice, wheat and food grains in the country during the last three years, i.e., 2006-07 to 2008-09 is given in the table below:

(Million tonnes) Crops	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Rice	93.35	96.69	99.18	Wheat	75.81	78.57
80.68	Food grains	217.28	230.78	234.47						

(b): The State-wise productivity of food grains during the last three years, i.e., 2006-07 to 2008-09 is given in Annexure.

(c): The productivity of different crops depends on the soil fertility, use of fertilizers, rainfall pattern, weather conditions, quality/variety of seeds etc. As such, fluctuating trends in the productivity have been observed in the crops grown in the different areas/States depending upon the existence of the above factors. Further, potential of production technology appropriate to different agro-climatic conditions has not been fully utilized resulting in disparity in productivity of crops across States/Districts.

(d) & (e): Government has taken a number of measures to increase investment in infrastructure development in the agriculture sector. Some of the major schemes being implemented by the Government include Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojna (RKVY), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) etc. Broad activities identified for focused attention and investment under these schemes include Integrated Development of Food Crops, Agriculture Mechanization, Soil Health and productivity, Development of Rainfed Farming System, Integrated Pest management, Market Infrastructure, Horticulture, Watershed Development Programme etc.

As a result of the efforts made by the Government, investment in terms of Gross Capital

Formation (GCF) in agriculture and allied sectors has increased from Rs. 78848 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 138597 crore in 2008-09.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 794 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.03.2010

SING RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME IN KERALA

794. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government has any plan to allow fund of Rs.100 crores as Grant or Grant and Loan under JNNURM for the implementation of 'M.N. One Lakh Housing Reconstruction Scheme' to the State of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

(KUMARI SELJA)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. There is no such plan under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in the State of Kerala. However, seven projects with total project cost Rs. 343.67 Crore under the Sub-Mission Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and 37 projects with total project cost Rs. 192.20 Crore under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of the JNNURM have been approved for construction/up-gradation of 23,577 and 18,691 houses respectively in the State of Kerala. The details are annexed.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: CULTURE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 772 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.03.2010

DIGITALISATION OF KERALA SAHITYA AKADEMY.

772. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has received any project proposal from the Government of Kerala to set up an online Digital Library in the Kerala Sahitya Akademy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/to be taken by Government in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal aims at :-

(i) setting up a full fledged online digital library at Kerala Sahitya Akademy, Thrissur;

(ii) digitizing the existing heritage archives of books, manuscripts, ancient pictures and paintings, bound volumes of journals and publishing them in the form of e-books; and

(iii) developing a web portal to provide and share all library resources by permitting registration of similar rural libraries.

The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3.44 crores.

(c) and (d) The proposal has been projected to the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi for such technical and financial support as they may be able to provide.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 701 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.03.2010

SETTING UP OF HOSPITALS IN KERALA.

701. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the Insured Persons (IP) strength in Kerala was nearly 4 lakhs in

2005 and now the IP strength is nearly 10 lakhs and the numbers of ESI hospitals are only 13;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration for issuing a State wide notification of ESI Scheme in Kerala;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to sanction for the construction of more hospitals and emergency centres in the State for IP medical needs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): The number of Insured Persons (IPs) covered under the ESI Scheme as on 31.03.2005 was 3,59,850 and as on 31.03.2009, the same was 5,97,540. The number of ESI Hospitals in Kerala is 13, out of which, 2 hospitals namely – ESI Model Hospital, Asramam and ESI Hospital, Udyogmandal are run by the ESI Corporation directly.

(b): Notifications for implementing the scheme are issued by the Government, centre-wise, depending upon arrangements made by the State Government for providing medical care to coverable employees of the centre.

(c) & (d): The ESI Corporation is upgrading the existing 100-bedded hospital at Peripally, Kollam, Kerala to 300 bedded Hospital and it is also planned to start a Medical College at that place after which the hospital bed capacity would be further extended to 500 beds.

[Verbatim Debates \(189th Session onwards\)](#)
(Year 2000 onwards)

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QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 679 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.03.2010

AGRICULTURISTS HONoured BY PADMA AWARDS.

679. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

(a) how many agriculturists in India have been honoured by Padma Awards since its introduction;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government could give the year-wise details of the holders of Padma Awards in different fields such as culture, science, industry etc. for the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (b): In terms of extant policy and procedure regulating Padma awards, the awards are given in ten broad fields/ disciplines, namely, Art, Social Work, Public Affairs, Science & Engineering, Trade & Industry, Medicine, Literature & Education, Civil service, Sports and Others. Agriculturists are covered under the aforesaid broad fields. Eminent agriculturists like Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and Dr. Norman E. Borlaug have been conferred Padma Awards in past. However, it is not the practice to maintain record of sub-field.

(c) An year-wise list of persons conferred with Padma Awards in different fields of activities during the last three (2007, 2008 & 2009) is annexed.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 590 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.03.2010
SETTING UP OF INSTRUCTOR TRAINING WING AT ITI MALAMPUZHA
PALAKKAD .
590. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:-

(a). Whether there is any proposal under consideration for setting up of Instructor Training Wing at ITI Malampuzha, Palakkad; and

(b). if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b). Yes, Sir. The Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) is implementing World Bank assisted Vocational Training Improvement Project (VTIP). The

project inter-alia envisages setting up of Instructor Training Wing (ITW) within identified ITI to enhance the capacity of Crafts Instructor Training. The State Government of Kerala has submitted proposal for setting up of ITW in ITI Malampuzha, Palakkad.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 547 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.03.2010

CNG DRIVEN BUSES IN KERALA.

547. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether any request is pending with his Ministry from the State Government of Kerala to provide technical assistance through an appropriate Government agency to conduct a detailed study on the action to be taken for effecting of the State transport buses into CNG transport; and

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

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

(SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) & (b): No such proposal has been received in this Ministry. However, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between GAIL & Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) for promoting usage of natural gas, including inter alia Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), in the State of Kerala. However, the supply of natural gas would be taken up only after the Kochi-Kanjirakkod-Mangalore/Bangalore pipeline of GAIL on the LNG plant at Kochi are commissioned and necessary authorization for City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects is obtained from Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

DEPARTMENT OF: HEALTH

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 518 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.03.2010

*DEVELOPMENT OF MALABAR CANCER CENTRE.

518. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN

P. RAJEEVE

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

(a) whether the competent authority of Kerala had submitted during July, 2007 for the requirement of adequate infrastructure facilities at Malabar Cancer Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether steps would be taken in affirmative to provide financial support for the development of Malabar Cancer Centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (e): State Govt. of Kerala forwarded a proposal for sanctioning of Rs. 30.00 crore to Malabar Cancer Centre during July, 2009 for purchase of medical equipments. However, at present there is no scheme under which grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 30.00 crore can be released to this institute. As per the existing guidelines, total grant-in-aid amount of Rs. 3.00 crore can be released to the institute under the scheme 'Development of Oncology Wing' of the National Cancer Control Programme. An amount of Rs. 1.50 crore has been released in 2004-05 to the Malabar Cancer Centre under the scheme.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

DEPARTMENT OF: HEAVY INDUSTRIES

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO 67 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.03.2010

PROBLEMS WITH HNL KOTTAYAM.

67. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. (HNL), Kottayam, Kerala is encountering serious problems due to indiscriminate dumping of newsprint from foreign market;

(b) if so, the total amount of import of newsprint into the country and from which countries

the newsprint was mainly imported;

(c) the tax levied on imports and if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether there is any proposal to re-instate 2:1 ratio for import of newsprint; and

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

Answer

MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

(SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 67 for answer on 2nd March 2010 regarding 'Problems with HNL, Kottayam' raised by Shri P Rajeeve.

(a) Hindustan Newsprint Limited (HNL) has been encountering serious problems due to cheap import of newsprint from foreign market especially from the third quarter of Financial Year (FY) 2008-09.

The flow of imported newsprint has increased considerably after the complete abolition of Customs Duty (CD) in February, 2009 after reduction from 5% to 3% in April, 2008. The reduction and eventual elimination of CD was done in the context of high prices of newsprint rising up to US\$ 900 per metric tonne during January to September, 2008. The situation has completely reversed with the transaction price plummeting to historically lowest levels hovering around US \$ 450 to \$ 500 per metric tonne. Subsequently prices of imported newsprint were reduced by the overseas suppliers. With the imports surged, there has been considerable reduction in sale of news paper in the domestic market. As a result, HNL has been suffering heavy losses since April, 2009 and the situation continues.

(b) The total amount of newsprint imported during last four years is as follows:
Year Quantity (T/A) 2008-09 8,98,925 2007-08 8,89,100 2006-07 7,90,311 2005-06 6,91,260
The major countries from where imports and the quantity of imports during the year 2008-09 is as given below:
Sl No. Country from where imported Quantity(MT) 1. Canada 1,73,060 2. Korea 1,65,612 3. Russia 1,62,638 4. China 1,56,797
Imports from Canada, China, Korea and Russia account for 68% of the total import.

(c) At present imports of Newsprint are fully exempted from payment of customs duty. This has been necessitated by the Government's endeavor to promote literacy and to facilitate greater penetration of print media i.e. both the vernacular newspaper as well as English newspapers. Import of newsprint has also been necessitated due to quality reasons as the raw material available indigenously does not give newsprint with proper runnability properties on high speed newspaper publishing machines. Currently, annual demand for newsprint in India is approximately 1.8 million tones. Domestic Industry, through indigenous production, caters

to about 43% of the demand and the remaining 57% of the demand i.e. almost 1 million tonnes has to be met through imports.

(d) & (e) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to reinstate 2:1 ratio for import of newsprint.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3466 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2009

SELECTION OF FILMS FOR IFFI.

3466. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government has received any complaints regarding the selection of films for Indian Panorama of the last International Film Festival of India at Goa;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any initiative to enquire it and the outcome of this; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the four films produced by Reliance had got entry to the Panorama?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING [SHRI C.M. JATUA]

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The complaints have been looked into and duly replied; and

(c): Among others, the four films produced by Reliance Big Pictures were selected unanimously by the Feature Films Jury consisting of eminent film personalities, for Indian Panorama-2009.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2998 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2009

MEASURES TO CHECK FAKE VISA SEEKERS.

2998. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government has taken any measures to check fake visa seekers and passport holders in view of frequent visits of terror suspects to India;
- (b) whether the foreign embassies engaged in providing visa take due precautionary security measures while granting visas; and
- (c) whether any mistakes has been founded with regard to visa granted to Hussain Rana?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): No foreigner is allowed to enter into the country unless he/she is in possession of valid travel documents including a valid visa. Visas are granted by Mission/Posts to foreigners after establishing the authenticity of the applicant and scrutiny against negative lists.

(c): As per the extant instruction, Heads of Indian Mission and Posts in USA have the discretion to grant visas to US and Canadian citizens of Pakistani origin. The entire process of issuance of visa to Hussain Rana is being enquired into by the Ministry of External Affairs.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: ATOMIC ENERGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2307 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2009

AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF ATOMIC ENERGY

2307. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government has entered into any agreement with any country for the purchase of atomic reactors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has given order for atomic reactor from any company from any

country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.

(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) No, Sir. However, an agreement with erstwhile Soviet Union was signed way back in 1988 followed by a supplement agreement with Russian Federation in 1998 for setting up two Light Water Reactors at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu based on technical co-operation. These reactors are in advanced stage of completion.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1545 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2009

GRANT IN AID TO INFOPARK CHERTHALA

1545. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

(a) whether Government had taken any measures to provide grant- in-aid to Infopark, Cherthala to setup a working women hostel and day care centre; and

(b) if so, the steps that had been initiated in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) and (b): Department of Information Technology have no proposal to provide grant-in-aid

to Infopark, Cherthala to set up a Working Women Hostel and day care centre. However, as per the information from the State Government of Kerala, the proposal for providing Grant-in-aid of Rs.500 lakhs was forwarded to the Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development for placing before the project Sanctioning Committee for financial assistance vide letter No.10503/83/09/SWD dated 20.11.2009.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF: HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 978 TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2009

RESTRUCTURING OF JEE.

978. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

- (a) whether Government has any plan to restructure the Joint Entrance Examination criteria;
- (b) whether Government has taken any action to check the mushrooming of JEE coaching industry; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (c): Joint Admission Board (JAB), which consists of representatives from all the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad and Institute of Technology - Banaras Hindu University (IT- BHU) as well as a representative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, make recommendations in respect of matters relating to the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). A Review Committee has been set up by the JAB to give its recommendations regarding factoring in of class XII results on a percentile basis while deciding admissions into IITs. Integrating of class XII results with JEE results, would help reduce the dependence on coaching. Variation in the results of various Boards would be taken care of by following the cut-off marks on percentile basis.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 325 TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.11.2009

INTRODUCTION OF BT. BRINJAL

325. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

(a) whether Government had made any scientific studies on introduction of Bt. Brinjal's into Indian market;

(b) if so, whether the expert committee made effective consultation with the scientists, agricultural experts, farmer's organizations, consumer groups and NGOs; and

(c) whether the introduction of Bt. Brinjal would affect the local farmers and traders?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Bt brinjal event EE-1 has been developed in compliance with the prevailing regulatory procedures and biosafety guidelines which conform to the international norms. The environmental safety assessment studies have been carried out on pollen escape out- crossing, aggressiveness and weediness, effect of the gene on non-target organisms, presence of the protein in soil and its effect on soil micro-flora, confirmation of the absence of Terminator Gene and baseline susceptibility studies. The food and feed safety assessment studies carried out include composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies, and feeding studies on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes.

(b) In accordance with the prescribed terms of reference, the Expert Committee reviewed the findings of the data generated during large scale trials, biosafety data of Bt brinjal provided by the developer, studies conducted by various institutions, published literature, reports from international/national groups and representations from NGOs, farmers, consumers and other stakeholders.

(c) The cumulative results of more than 50 field trials conducted to assess the safety, efficacy and agronomic performance of Bt brinjal demonstrate that Cry1Ac protein in Bt brinjal provides effective protection from the Fruit and Shoot Borer, a major pest in brinjal crop; resulting in enhanced economic benefits to the farmers and traders accrued from higher marketable yield and lower usage of pesticide sprays.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3564 TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2009
MALPRACTICES BY RECRUITMENT AGENCIES.
3564. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether there is any official mechanism to prevent malpractices by recruitment agencies;
- (b) the number of registered recruitment agencies functioning in Kerala; and
- (c) whether any legal proceeding have been taken by the Central Government against the recruitment agencies which were doing malpractices?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS

(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (c) Complaints regarding fraudulent offers of overseas employment and cheating of job seekers against registered recruiting agents, unauthorized intermediaries as well as some foreign employers are received by the Ministry from time to time. Such complaints include fraudulent advertisements regarding job vacancies overseas, recruitment on behalf of dubious employers and offers of exaggerated benefits to lure job seekers. On receipt of such complaints this Ministry initiates action against such elements.

The number of registered recruitment agencies functioning in Kerala is 263 as on April, 2009.

In the case of Registered Recruiting Agents (RA), on receipt of a complaint, a show cause notice is issued to the RA and comments of concerned office of Protector of Emigrants are obtained. If the RA fails to redress the grievance of the complainant, action is taken to suspend/cancel his registration and forfeit his Bank Guarantee. During the last five years, the number of complaints received in case of Registered Recruiting Agents were 41 during 2005, 167 during 2006, 98 during 2007, 118 during 2008 and 81 during 2009 (upto June).

During the last five years the number of registration certificates suspended/cancelled were 24 during 2005, 65 during 2006, 22 during 2007, 45 during 2008 and 23 during 2009 (upto June,2009).

Complaints against Unregistered/ Unauthorized agents are referred to the concerned state police authorities for investigation and action under the law. Concerned Protector of Emigrants (POEs) also is instructed to initiate due action. During the last five years, the number of complaints received in case of Illegal/Unauthorized Recruiting Agencies were 53 during 2005, 78 during 2006, 40 during 2007, 93 during 2008 and 63 during 2009 (upto June). During 2008 and 2009(upto June), 56 and 09 prosecution sanctions were issued respectively.

The Foreign Employers (FEs) who are found to be harassing the Indian Workers are placed in the Prior Approval Category. As on today, 355 FEs are placed under Prior Approval Category

List.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2918 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2009

DECISION OF G SUMMIT.

2918. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Government is aware about the decision of G-8 Summit regarding enrichment and reprocessing technology;
- (b) if so, the impact of this decision on Indian nuclear programme; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any precaution to pressurize the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) before formulating new guidelines regarding enrichment and reprocessing?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

- (a) Yes. Government has seen the G-8 L'Aquila Statement on Non-Proliferation.
- (b) & (c) India has developed indigenous technology which can support the domestic nuclear energy programme. The issue of further strengthening of NSG guidelines with regard to ENR exports has been under discussion at the NSG. As envisaged in the NSG decision of 6th September 2008 granting a clean waiver for India to engage in civil nuclear cooperation with members of the NSG, Government is in consultation with the NSG on all aspects related to civil nuclear cooperation.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: RAILWAYS

DEPARTMENT OF: RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2398 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2009

DEPARTURE TIME OF KERALA BOUND TRAINS.

2398. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that all Kerala bound trains from Delhi are departing during morning/day time only;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether the proposed new non-stop train would be scheduled for a departure in the evening; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The departure timings are based on operational and terminals constraints.

(c) & (d): Scheduling of trains is done taking into account various factors including terminal and operational constraints, path availability, traffic demands, etc.

[Verbatim Debates \(189th Session onwards\)](#)
(Year 2000 onwards)

[Official Debates](#)

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1749 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2009

SUPPLY OF GAS CYLINDERS AT DOOR STEPS.

1749. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether gas agencies are supposed to supply gas cylinders at the door-steps of consumers so that they could get satisfied of any damage/leakage of cylinders and the weight of the cylinders;
- (b) if so, what is the rule prevailing in that regard ;
- (c) whether some gas agencies in Kerala, are not following the rules and consumers are forced to take cylinders with their own conveyance and, many a times, the cylinders do not have proper weight ; and

(d) if so, what action would be taken against those errant agencies ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (d) : Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have given instructions to their LPG distributors to ensure that their delivery men carry with them a spring balance and the weight of the cylinder is shown to the customer while supplying the LPG cylinder. OMCs have also given instructions to their LPG distributors to connect the filled cylinders to the LPG installation and check for leakage in the presence of the customer. If during inspection any deviation is found or any instances of any distributor forcing the consumers to take delivery at the godown brought to the notice of the OMCs, suitable action would be taken against the LPG distributors in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced free of charge by the OMCs.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF: SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1123 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.07.2009

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VOCATIONAL COURSES.

1123. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

(a) whether there is any programme undertaken by his Ministry to give financial assistance for vocational courses in catering technology ;

(b) if so, the guidelines for the financial assistance;

(c) how many States have received such assistance;

(d) whether any proposal for financial assistance from the State Government of Kerala has been received; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to implement the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (e): The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, envisaged financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for offering various vocational courses in their schools at higher secondary stage including courses on Hotel Management and Catering Technology. However, no assistance has been given to any State/UT since 2007-08. No proposal for financial assistance has been received from the State Government of Kerala during 2008-09.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 609 TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.07.2009

PENDING APPLICATION FOR PASSPORTS.

609. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether a large number of passport applications are pending for more than three months in the Passport Offices located in the State of Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to issue passports to the applicants expeditiously?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI SHASHI THAROOR)

- (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) The Government has taken several steps from time to time including:
 - (i) special drives to eliminate pendencies,
 - (ii) expediting police verification process by coordinating with Police authorities,
 - (iii) renewal of passports without police verification of those applicants who have clear police reports in respect of existing passports and nothing adverse against them in passport records,
 - (iv) issue of passports to senior citizens, Government servants and minors without police verification subject to completion of certain formalities, and

(v) holding of Passport Adalats/camps at regular intervals by Passport offices to dispose of old passport cases.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 404 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.07.2009

WORKS UNDER NREGA IN KERALA.

404. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has given any suggestion for modifying the list of works permissible under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) considering the peculiar condition in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken on these suggestions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. State Government of Kerala has given suggestions to modify the list of works permissible under NREGA. These are under examination of the Government.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO 12 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.07.2009

POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP

12. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) the year in which the scholarship amount under the post matric scholarship scheme was revised;

(b) if not revised in the last couple of years, whether Government has taken any initiative to revise the scholarship amount taking into account the cost of living; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI MUKUL WASNIK)

(a) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing two post-matric scholarship schemes – one for Scheduled Caste students and the other for students belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Scholarship rates under the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for SC students were last revised w.e.f.1.4.2003.

After introduction of the Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for OBC students during 1998-99, it has not been revised so far.

(b) & (c) Revision of scholarship rates, income ceiling and other norms under the two schemes is under consideration.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF: HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 348 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.07.2009

ACADEMIC STANDARDS IN DEEMED UNIVERSITIES.

348. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

(a) whether there is a policy of Government to monitor the academic standards in Deemed Universities after getting the recognition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any statistical data with regard to the number of Deemed Universities in each State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b): As per the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956, the Commission has a mandate for promotion and co-ordination of university education and for determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities, including in Institutions declared as 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' under Section 3 of the said Act. The Commission has, with the approval of the Government, laid down the "Guidelines for Considering Proposals for Declaring an Institution as 'Deemed-to-be-University' Under Section 3 of the UGC Act". Accordingly, the Commission reviews the functioning of the Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' periodically every five years or earlier, if necessary, by constituting committees of experts. Such reviews include academic and financial aspects of Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'.

(c) & (d): As on 30th June 2009, One hundred twenty-eight institutions have been declared by the Central Government, under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956, as Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities. A State-wise list is given at Annexure.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 594 TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.07.2009

NETWORK ENHANCEMENT

594. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

:-

(a) whether there is any proposal made by State Government of Kerala requesting for approval for using the balance amount in the originally sanctioned amount by Central Government for the network enhancement; and

(b) if so, the status of this proposal?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Components of the instant proposal were not within the provisions stipulated in the State Wide Area Network (SWAN) Scheme approved by the Government. Hence, the proposal was not further considered for approval and this was communicated to the Kerala State in

February 2009.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

DEPARTMENT OF: PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1086 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.07.2009

PROFIT MAKING PSUS .

1086. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:-

- (a) how many Central Public Sector Units (CPSUs) in the country are making profit;
- (b) the details of profit making CPSUs by unit base; and
- (c) how much amount has been submitted by the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to the central exchequer as a share of profit during the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

(SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) & (b) As per Public Enterprises Survey, 2007-08, which was laid in the Parliament on 25.02.2009, 160 Central Public Enterprises (CPSEs) made profit during 2007-08. The enterprise-wise details are given in Statement No.5 of Volume –I of Public Enterprises Survey, 2007-08.

(c) During last three years i.e. 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, the CPSEs contributed an amount of Rs.18443.79 crore, Rs.22834.76 crore and Rs.23857.88 crore respectively as a share of profit (dividend tax) to central exchequer.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: RAILWAYS

DEPARTMENT OF: RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1607 TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.07.2009

SEPARATE RAILWAY ZONE FOR KERALA.

1607. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Union Government is empowered to form Railway Zones for different parts of the country;
- (b) if so, what is the criteria for fixation of Railway Zones in the country; and
- (c) what are the reasons for not allowing a separate railway zone for Kerala?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): New zones are set up keeping in view the factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other operating / administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency without any regional considerations.

(c): Some States including Kerala have requested for separate zone. As of now, no decision to form a new zone has been taken.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2372 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2009

REBATE SCHEME IN THE COIR SECTOR.

2372. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:-

- (a) Whether Government has any plan to re-introduce the rebate scheme in the coir sector as was done in the handloom sector;
- (b) if so, what would be the rate of rebate for coir products; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for not extending the rebate to the coir products?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MICRO, SMALL AND

MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

(SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Market Development Assistance Scheme (MDA) has been introduced with effect from 2000-01 in lieu of rebate scheme that was in operation in coir sector from 1984. The MDA scheme is linked with the sales performance of the concerned beneficiary organisations and aims at providing incentives for better performance. Under the scheme, the financial assistance is provided to apex co-operative societies, manufacturing and primary societies, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Sales Depots of Coir Board @ 10% of their annual sales turnover of coir and coir products. The assistance under the scheme can be utilized for varied purposes such as publicity, opening new Showrooms/ Sales Outlets, renovations of existing sales outlets, market study, setting up of market intelligence network/upgradation of design facilities like installation of computer etc. This scheme, therefore, allows more flexibility than the Rebate Scheme for promotion of coir products.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF: TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2894 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2009

EMPLOYEES OF BSNL.

2894. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

(a) whether there is any decrease in the number of employees working in BSNL;

(b) the status of existing employees against the sanctioned strength in BSNL;

(c) whether any out sourcing system is implemented in BSNL;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government has any policy to fill up the existing vacancies in a time bounded programme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. As on 24th July 2009, the working strength of employees is 2,96,695 against the sanction strength 3,90,640

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The outsourcing system is implemented in BSNL for security/watch & ward of major telecom installations, House keeping, Mobile Call Centre services, maintenance of New Technology (NT) exchanges and Base Transceiver Station (BTS) etc.

(e) Creation and filling up of posts are continuous process. Keeping in view the fast changing business as well as technological scenario, need-based recruitments by direct recruitment as well as internal promotions are being done.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: ATOMIC ENERGY

DEPARTMENT OF: ATOMIC ENERGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3507 TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2009

NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR POWER GENERATION

3507. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the first lot of the nuclear material for power generation has reached the country after the Indo-US nuclear deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far the fuel could solve the present day power crisis and which are the States going to benefit from this?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGES), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.

(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 300 Te of natural uranium from France and 90 Te natural uranium pellets from Russian Federation is received.

(c) After manufacture of fuel bundles by Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), these will be used at

Rajasthan Atomic Power Station unit-2 (RAPS-2) in the first instance and RAPS 5&6 and RAPS 3&4 progressively. The beneficiary States are Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu&Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: SPACE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3598 TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2009

CHANDRAYAAN PROJECT.

3598. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the actual cost for the 'Chandrayaan' project;
- (b) whether the reports regarding the failure of Chandrayaan are correct;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (d) if not, the benefits that have occurred to the nation by this project?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS, MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS , MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES

(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

- (a) The total cost of 'Chandrayaan-1' project is Rs.386 crores.
- (b) & (c) No, Sir. The Chandrayaan is still functional. However, due to the failure of a star sensor, an alternate method of orienting satellite has been arrived and Chandrayaan-1 is operating satisfactorily. About 90% of the mission objectives have been achieved.
- (d) Chandrayaan-1 has demonstrated the technology capability of Indian launch vehicle to take satellites to a distance of 400,000 km and precisely place in Moon's orbit. Chandrayaan-1 has collected valuable scientific data from the 11 instruments onboard this spacecraft. The deep space tracking network established as part of the project, is a permanent asset for future planetary missions.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

DEPARTMENT OF: FERTILIZERS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 941 TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2009

TIME FRAME FOR REHABILITATION OF HFCL AND FCIL.

941. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to rehabilitate all closed urea producing units of HFCL and FCIL;
- (b) if so, the exact time frame for such rehabilitation;
- (c) the details of feedstock to be used, cost of rehabilitation of each unit; and
- (d) whether all the plants in the public sector would be rehabilitated?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

(SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) to (d): The Government has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of HFCL and FCIL subject to assured availability of natural gas, to meet the emerging demand production gap of urea in the country. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all financing options for revival of the closed units of FCIL/HFCL and to make suitable recommendations for consideration of the Government. ECOS has already considered various possible financing options for revival of each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendations. The recommendations of ECOS are under

consideration of the Government. For the rehabilitation of the each unit of HFCL and FCIL, coal gas or natural gas is expected to be used as feedstock for revival of each of these units, which is expected to cost approximately Rs. 4000 crore. No firm time frame for the decision on finalization of revival proposal can be indicated at this stage as the same is under consideration of the Government.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1539 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2009

*SPECIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

1539. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL

P. RAJEEVE M.P. ACHUTHAN

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

- (a) whether Government provides financial assistance to the States to set up special data infrastructure;
- (b) if so, whether Government has provided financial assistance to the State of Kerala in this regard; and
- (c) whether any steps had been taken by Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): Government has approved a project for setting up of `State Data Center` for the State of Kerala in March 2008 with a total outlay of Rs.55.68 crores to meet the capital and operational expenses over a period of 5 years. An amount of Rs.11.63 crores has been released so far in this regard.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

DEPARTMENT OF: HEALTH

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2091 TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2009

FOCUS ON ELDERS UNDER NRHM.

2091. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

- (a) whether the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has any specific initiative to address

the health problems of the elders; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b) National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) provides a platform for interventions in the health sector, based on the priorities of the state governments concerned. While there is a National Policy on Elder Persons (1999) and Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007, there is no national programme for the health care of the elderly at present.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF: BIO-TECNOLOGY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1617 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2009

*DNA PROFILING DATA BANK.

1617. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN

K.E. ISMAIL P. RAJEEVE A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Department of Biotechnology to set up DNA profiling Data Bank in the State for its approval and sanction of the necessary funds; and

(b) if so, the details of the project proposal and Government's reaction thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES

(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) & (b) The State Government of Kerala has not submitted any formal proposal to the Department of Biotechnology to set up DNA profiling Data Bank.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF: SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2556 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2009

SCHEMES FOR PROMOTING SCHOOLING OF TRIBAL CHILDREN.

2556. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

(a) the achievements of tribal children at the secondary and higher secondary levels in different States of the country;

(b) whether there is any specific scheme to promote the secondary and higher secondary schooling of tribal children; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. D.PURANDESWARI)

(a) As per Selected Educational Statistics 2006-07 compiled by this Ministry, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of ST students for classes IX-X was 41.75%. GER for ST students in classes XI-XII was 19.18%. The average pass percentages of ST students in the Secondary and Higher Secondary Examination - 2007 conducted by various Examination Boards in the country were 55.40 and 60.44 respectively. State wise details in this regard are at Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

(b) & (c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education" implemented by this Ministry, a sum of Rs.3000 is deposited in the name of all eligible girls belonging to SC/ST, who enroll in class IX in Government, Government-aided or local body schools. The girl would be entitled to withdraw it along with interest thereon on reaching 18 years of age provided she complete 10th class successful and is not married. Under the centrally sponsored scheme "Girls' Hostel", which is meant for girls of secondary and higher secondary schools in educationally backward blocks, 50% of the seats are meant for girls belonging to SC/ST/OBC/minorities. There are also centrally sponsored scheme for construction of ST boys and girls hostels and for establishment of Ashram schools in tribal sub-plan areas which are implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

DEPARTMENT OF: FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3305 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2009

IMPLEMENTATION OF TPDS.

3305. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

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

(a) the actual amount spent by Central Government under the subsidy head for Public Distribution System (PDS) prior to the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);

(b) whether there is any reduction of subsidy amount due to the implementation of TPDS; and

(c) if not, the advantage of the present TPDS?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): The amount of food subsidy released by Central Government in 1995-96 and 1996-97, prior to introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from June, 1997 is as under:

Year	Subsidy released (Rs. in crore)	1995-96	4960	1996-97	5166
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(b): No, Sir. Food subsidy depends on economic cost, Central Issue Price and offtake of foodgrains. The subsidy has been increasing on account of increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) every year while the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains have not been revised since 01.07.2002.

(c): With a view to target poor sections of the population for distribution of foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarsegrains) and sugar, Targeted Public Distribution System was launched in June, 1997. The allocation of foodgrains to the eligible beneficiaries under TPDS is helping in containing the prices of foodgrains in open market.

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF: TEXTILES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 161 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.02.2010

PROPOSAL TO SET UP INDIAN INSTITUTE OF HANDLOOMS AND TEXTILES.

161. SHRI P. RAJEEVE

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Indian Institute of Handlooms and Textiles in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the criteria for setting up of such institutions;

(c) whether upgradation of the Institute of Handlooms and Textiles Technology (IHTT), Kannur, Kerala to the Indian Institute of Handlooms and Textiles (IIHT) is under consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

(SMT. PANABAACA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. However, as per guidelines of Diversified Handloom Development Scheme, there is a provision for setting up an Indian Institute of Handloom Technology under State Sector. No such proposal is under consideration of this office, as on date.

(c): No, Sir

(d): Does not arise