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Environment in the Indian Parliament

(Rajya Sabha 2000-2004)

A Graphical & Statistical Representation



Prepared by
ENVIS Centre-07
Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre
World Wide Fund for Nature-India



सत्यमेव जयते

Supported by
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Government of India

October, 2005

Profile of the Centre

Realizing the importance of Environmental Information, the Government of India, in December 1982, established Environmental Information System (ENVIS) as a plan program. The ENVIS Center 07 was established in 1984 in WWF-India under this program of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India. The Centre was assigned the responsibility for being the focal point for information on:

- NGOs and the Environment
- Parliament and the Environment
- Media and the Environment

ENVIS focal point ensures integration of national efforts in environmental information collection, collation, storage, retrieval, and dissemination to all concerned. Over the past 21 years, the Centre has been very active and has come to be recognized by users (NGOs, administrators, specialized agencies, researchers, school and college students, and media professionals), both within the country and overseas as a reliable and responsive source of environmental information in India.

The Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre (IGCMC) was established in May 1994 to provide scientific and management database support for biodiversity conservation in India. The mission of the Centre is 'to support biodiversity and natural resources conservation in India through collecting, managing, disseminating and making accessible relevant data and knowledge, and by providing appropriate technical, analytical and networking services'. As part of the Sustainable Development Networking Programme of MoEF, the ENVIS Node was established in Feb. 2002 and is responsible for online dissemination of data on the subject allocated to the ENVIS Centre.

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Project Team

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Acknowledgements

The preparation and the compilation of the report on 'Environment in the Indian Parliament - A Statistical and Graphical Representation' is an important task in terms of enhancing the information on environment related issues and problems and their possible solutions.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the following persons without whom the conception and formation of such an informative document would not have been possible.

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I take the opportunity to thank the Parliament of India - Secretariat, for providing the centre with the vital data comprising of all the questions and answers discussed in the Indian Parliament-2000-04.

Last but not the least, I thank the entire ENVIS staff of WWF-India, which to me is not less than my own family. The coordination, understanding and pain, the staff carried during the whole process, is beyond any words in which I could estimate their salutation.

Further, any errors or omissions remain my own responsibility.

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Introduction

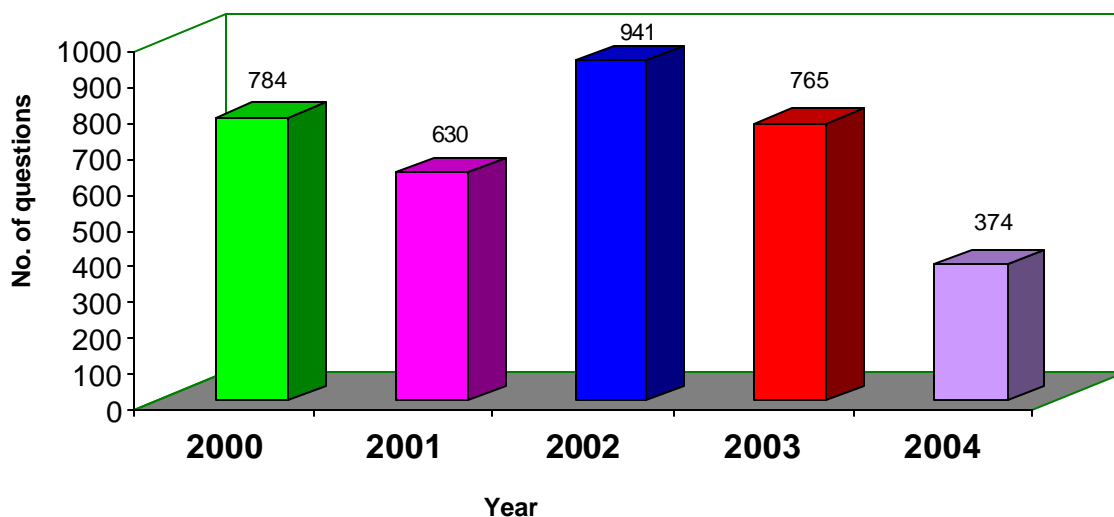
In perusal of the policy framework of globalization, the Government of India is constantly addressing the environmental issues and its multifarious dimensions as they affect every sector of the Indian Economy and a larger socio-cultural milieu. Each question-answer has been classified under selected subject heads, the list of which has been provided in the report. This report contains Graphical Representation as well as the Statistical Data of the Questions addressed in Rajya Sabha from the years 2000 to 2004 covering all the three Sessions.

These Graphs would be useful in analyzing the trend of environment-related questions raised in the House during these five years. This report also throws light on the important environmental issues raised by various ministries.

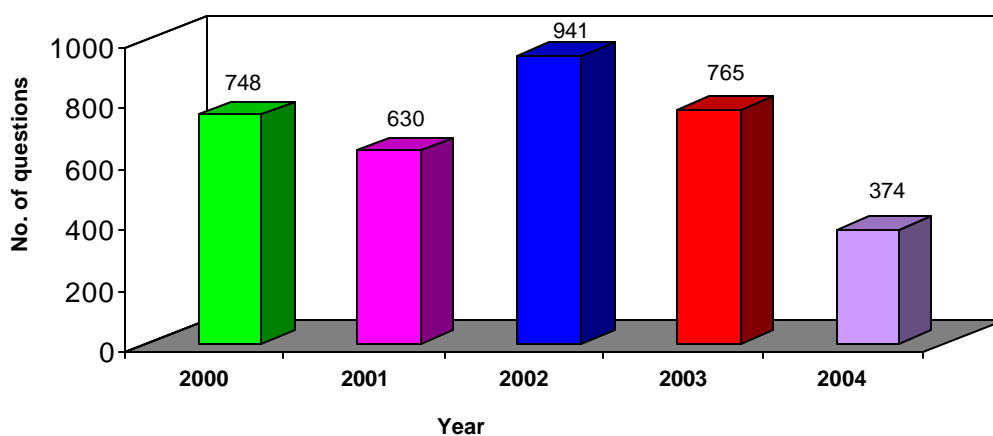
The ENVIS Centre has divided the environmental issues into 27 (twenty-five) subjects. Each subject is having its own area of coverage. The questions put in the Parliament are categorized according to these subjects. The prepared list (showing the subjects) is given below:

Subject	Area of Coverage
Agriculture	Agricultural impacts on environment, Agriculture related R & D and Related Funds
Animal Rights	Animal Rights/Welfare
Alternative Technologies	Eco-friendly Techniques, , Non-Conventional Energy, Application of Remote Sensing & GIS, R&D and Funds
Bio safety	Gene Revolution, Genetically Modified Foods, Biohazards.
Climate Change	Global Warming , Pacts, Treaties and Protocols
Conservation	Biodiversity Conservation, Soil Conservation, Wildlife Conservation, Energy Conservation, Community Conservation and Funds
Disaster Management	Natural And Man-Made Hazards, Management and Funds
Ecology	Degradation of Freshwater, Marine, Terrestrial ecology & Wetlands
Environment Education	Awareness campaigns, School events on environment education, Publicity of Environment Consciousness and Funds
EIA	Project Clearance & Grants
Environmental Law	Litigation, Legislation, Policy, Committees, Bureaus, Boards.
Eco-Development	Landscapes Developments, Related Projects and Respective Funds
Forestry	Forest Cover, Social Forestry and Degradation and its impact
Health	Hygiene, Sanitation, Occupational health hazards
Medicinal Plants	Ethno-Plants, Medicinal Use.
Mining	Impacts on Environment
NGOs	Funds to and Contributions by NGOs and UN bodies
Pollution	Air, Water, Land pollution, oil spills, toxic chemical pollution, radiation, acid rain, their Impacts and Control measures
Population	Plant Population, Animal Population And Human Population.
Rural Development	Government Schemes, Role Of Panchyat And Gram Sabha and Financial Assistance
Socio- Economic Issues	Resettlements /Rehabilitation, Social Responsibility Of Industry/Corporates and Funds
Sustainable Development	Environmental Sustainability Issues
Tribal Studies	Indigenous Knowledge, Tribe Conservation and Related Funds.
Waste Management	Solid, Land use/Landfill, Recycling, Chemical Hazardous Waste and Funds.
Water Management	Water Management/Monitoring, River Linking, Water Harvesting and Funds
Wildlife Trade	Legal Trade, Poaching, Illegal Forestry and Penalties.
Miscellaneous	WTO/GATT, Intellectual Property Rights/Patent and Other Issues

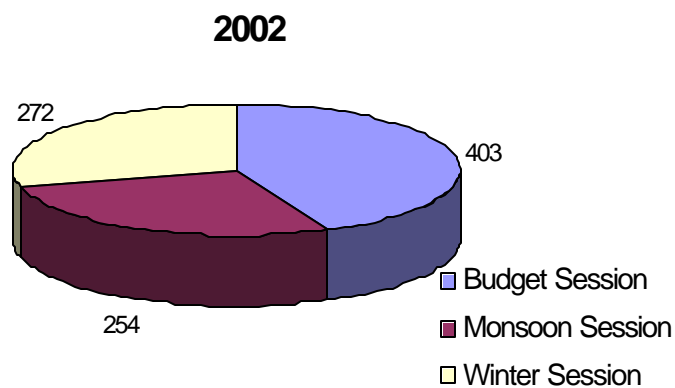
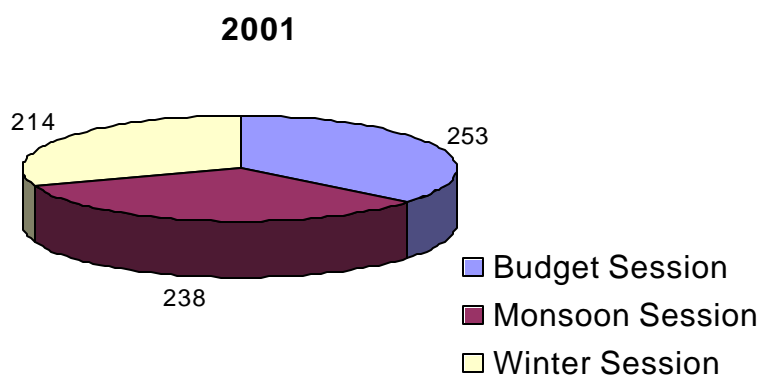
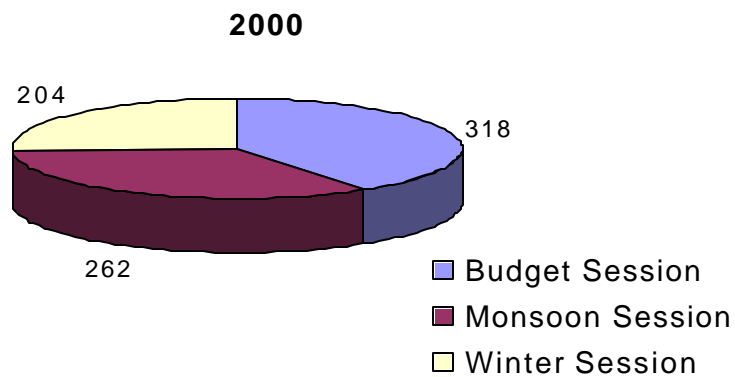
Total number of Environmental Questions addressed in the Parliament: Rajya Sabha 2000-2004



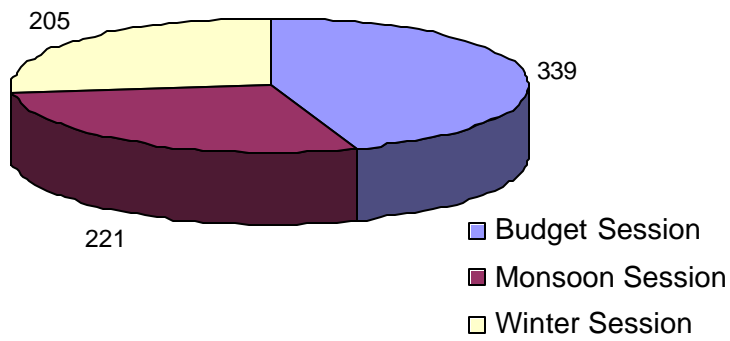
Total number of Environmental questions addressed in the Parliament: Rajya Sabha 2000-2004 Classified according to the Subject List



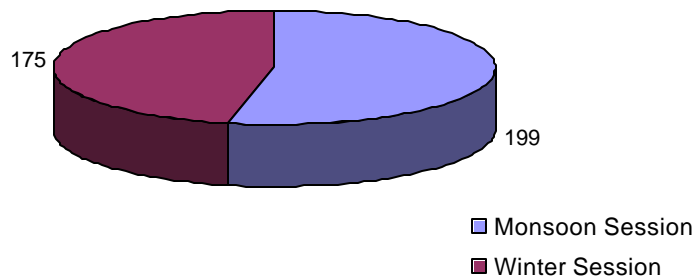
Year wise total no. of Environmental Questions addressed in the Parliament: Rajya Sabha 2000-2004



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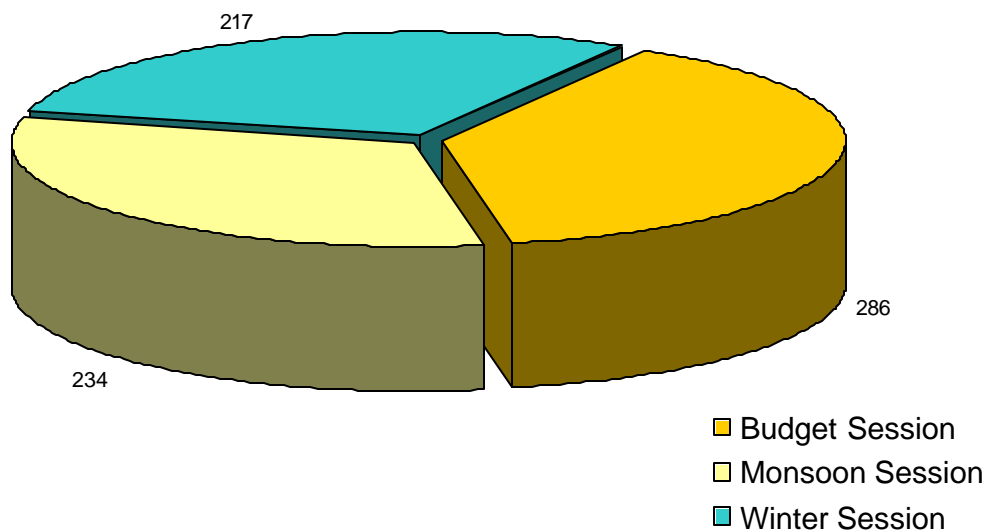


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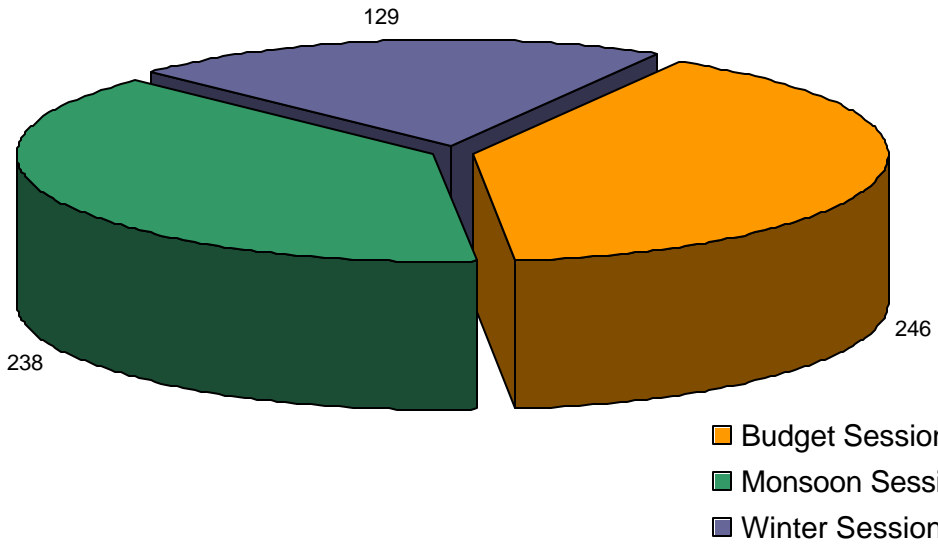


**Year wise total no. of Environmental Questions
(Subject wise) addressed in the Parliament: Rajya
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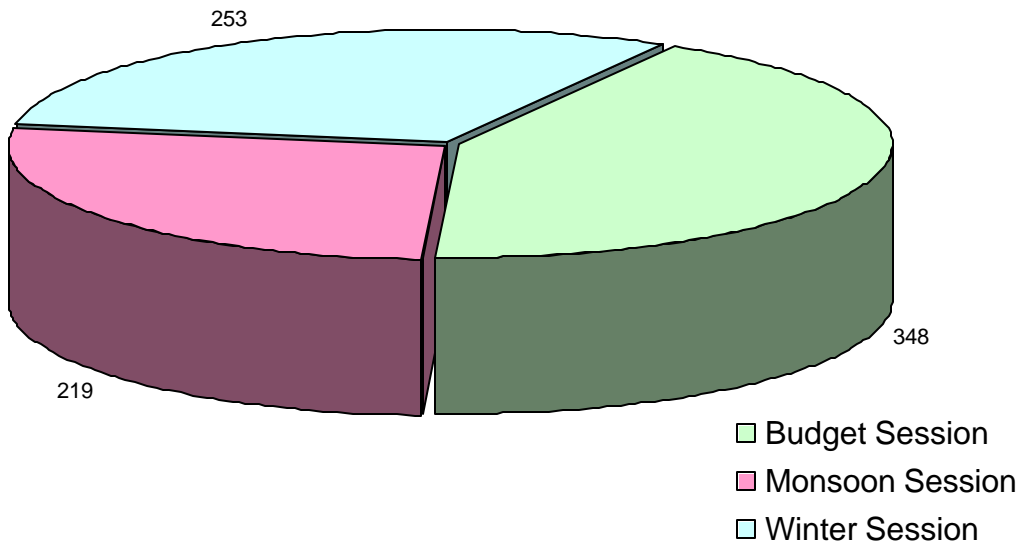
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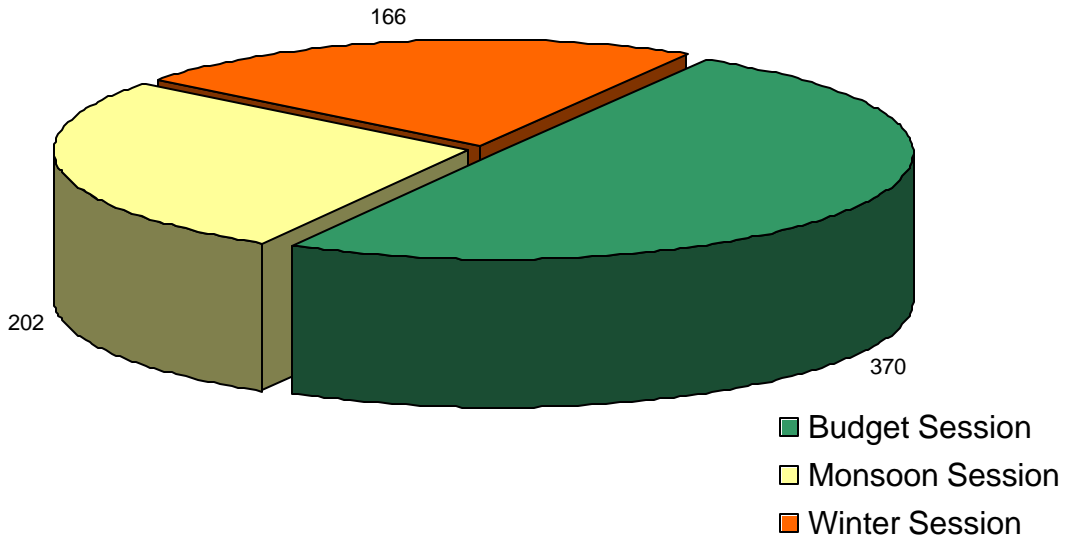
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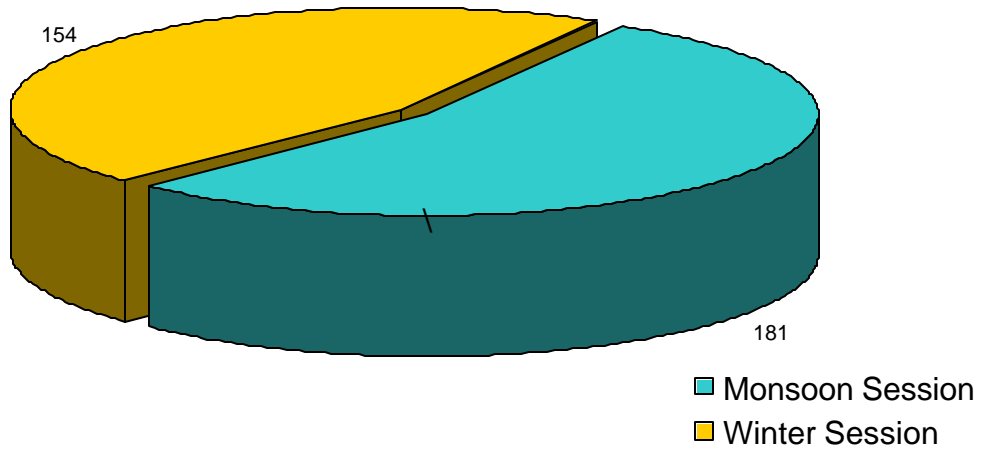
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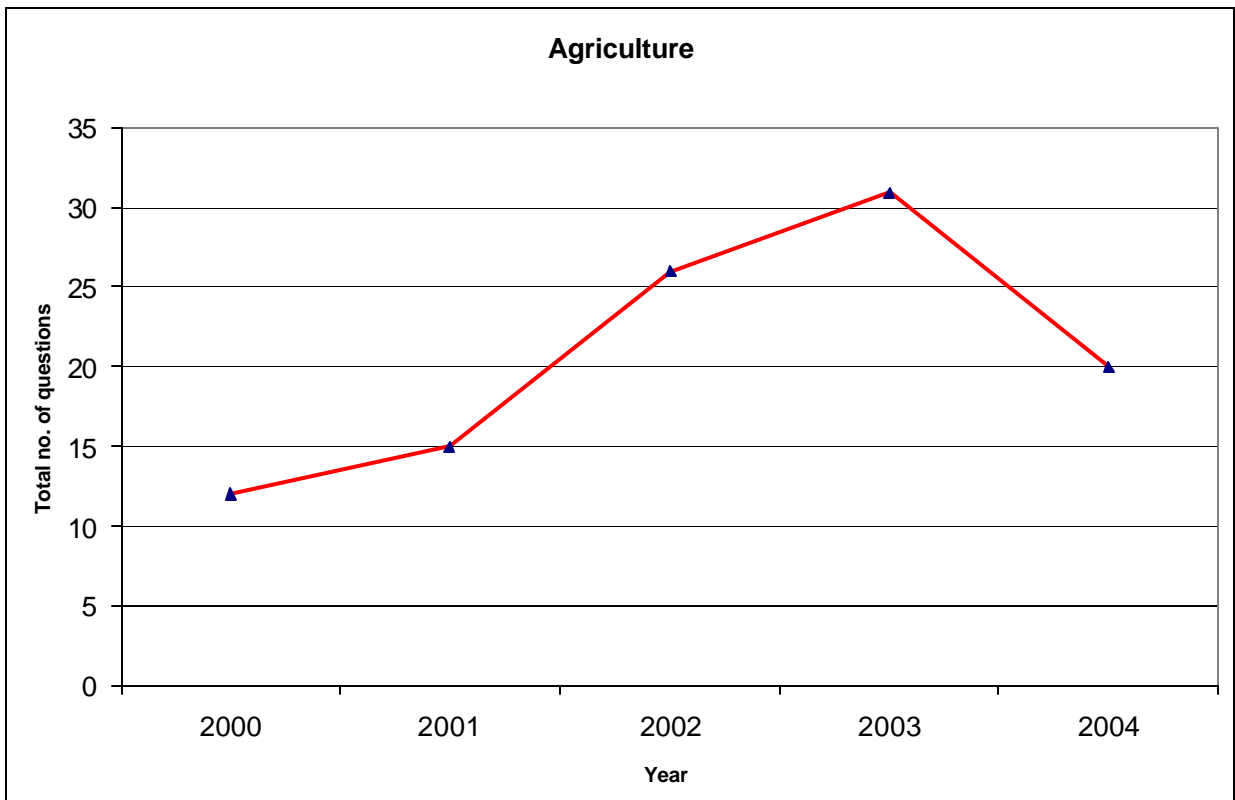
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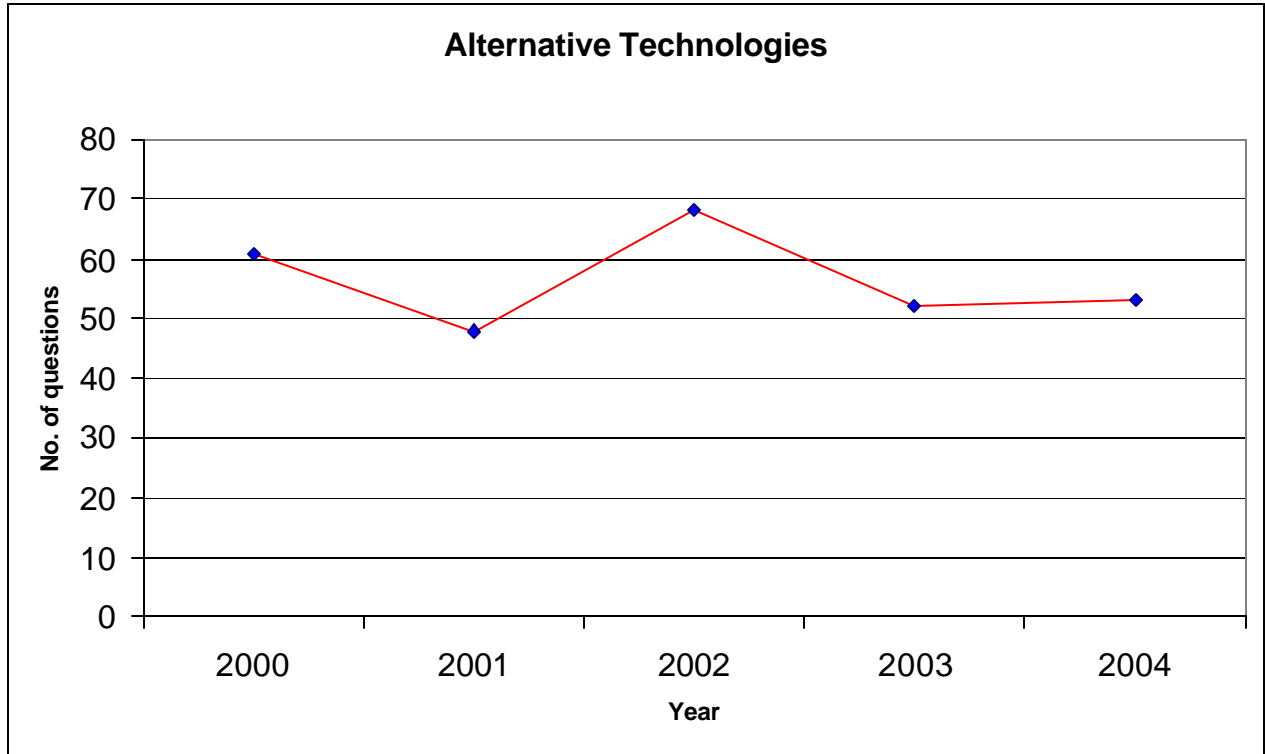
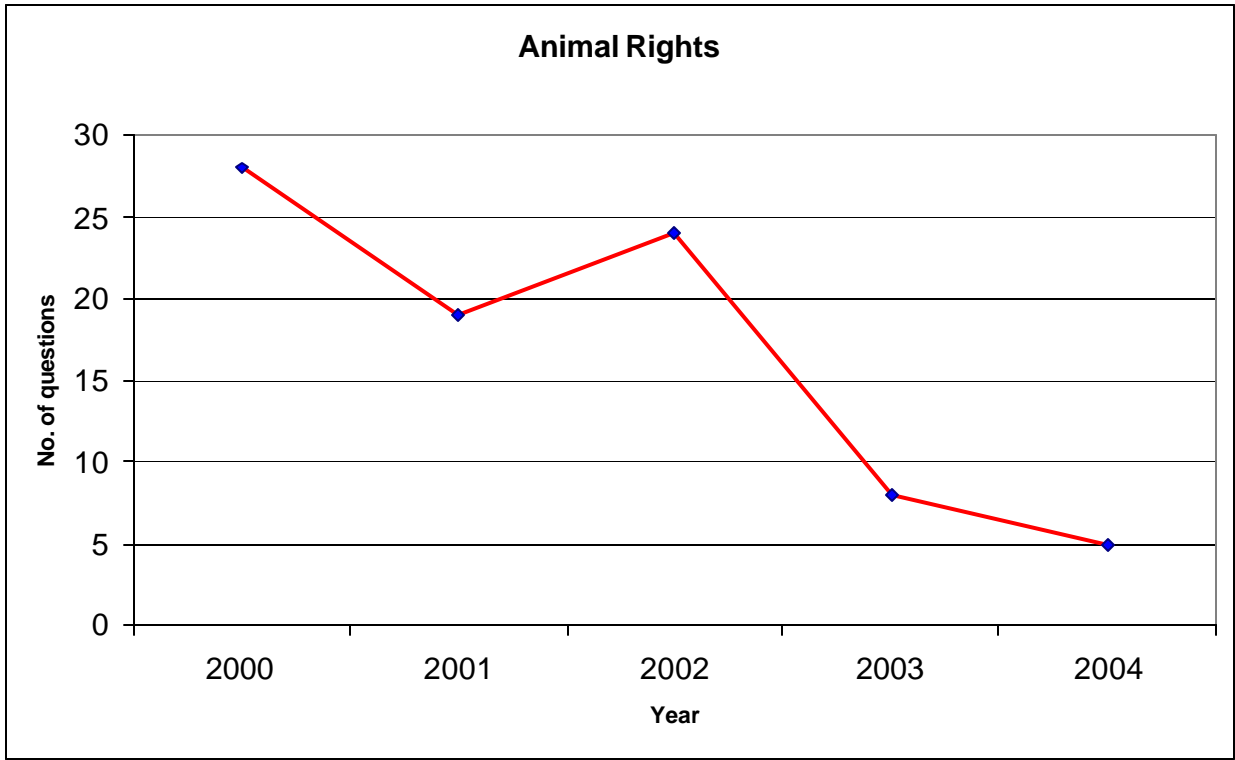


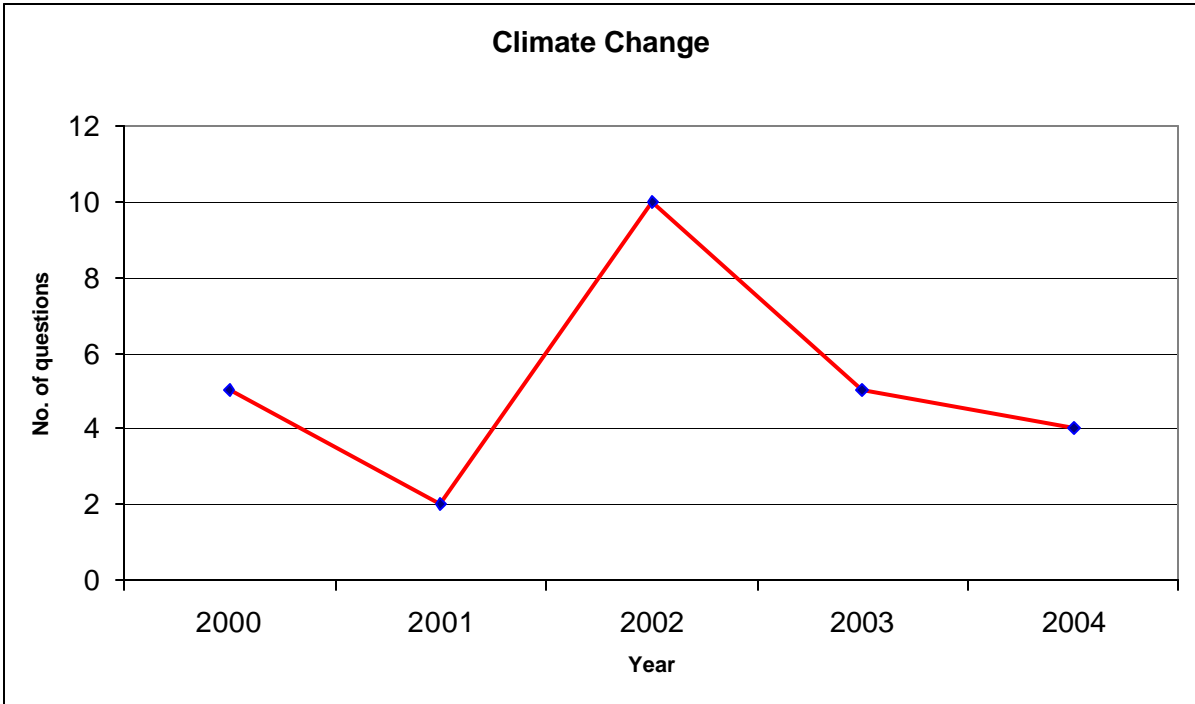
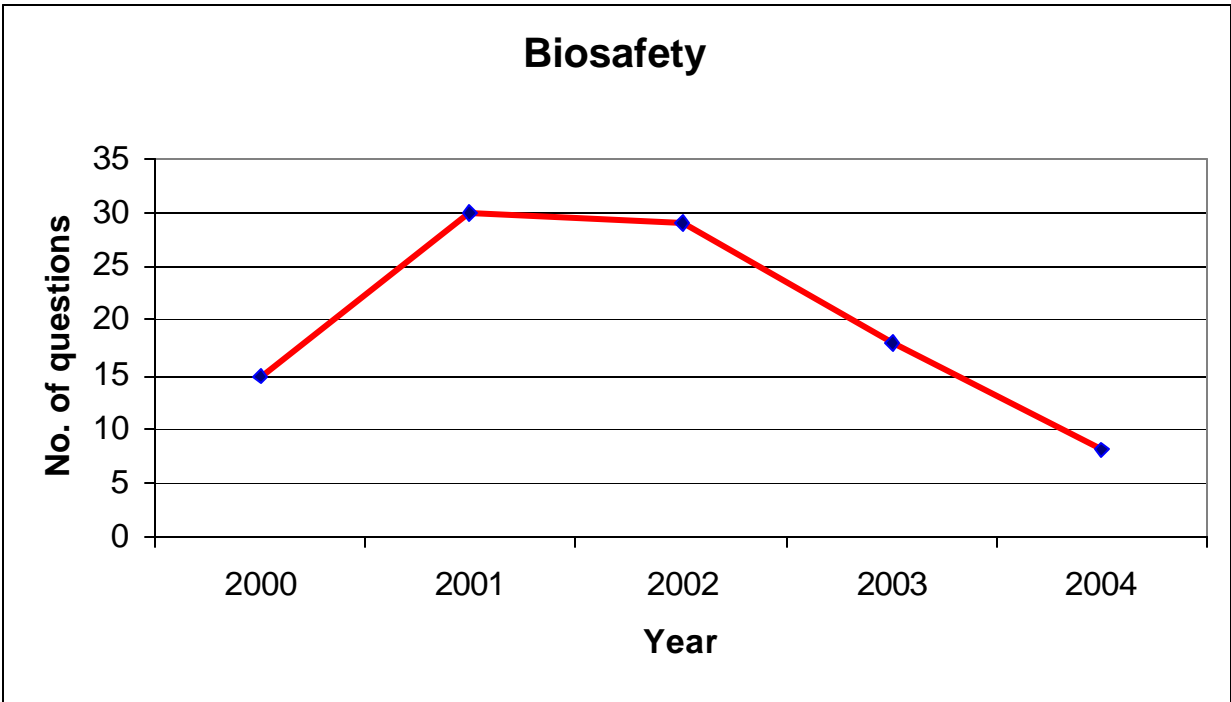
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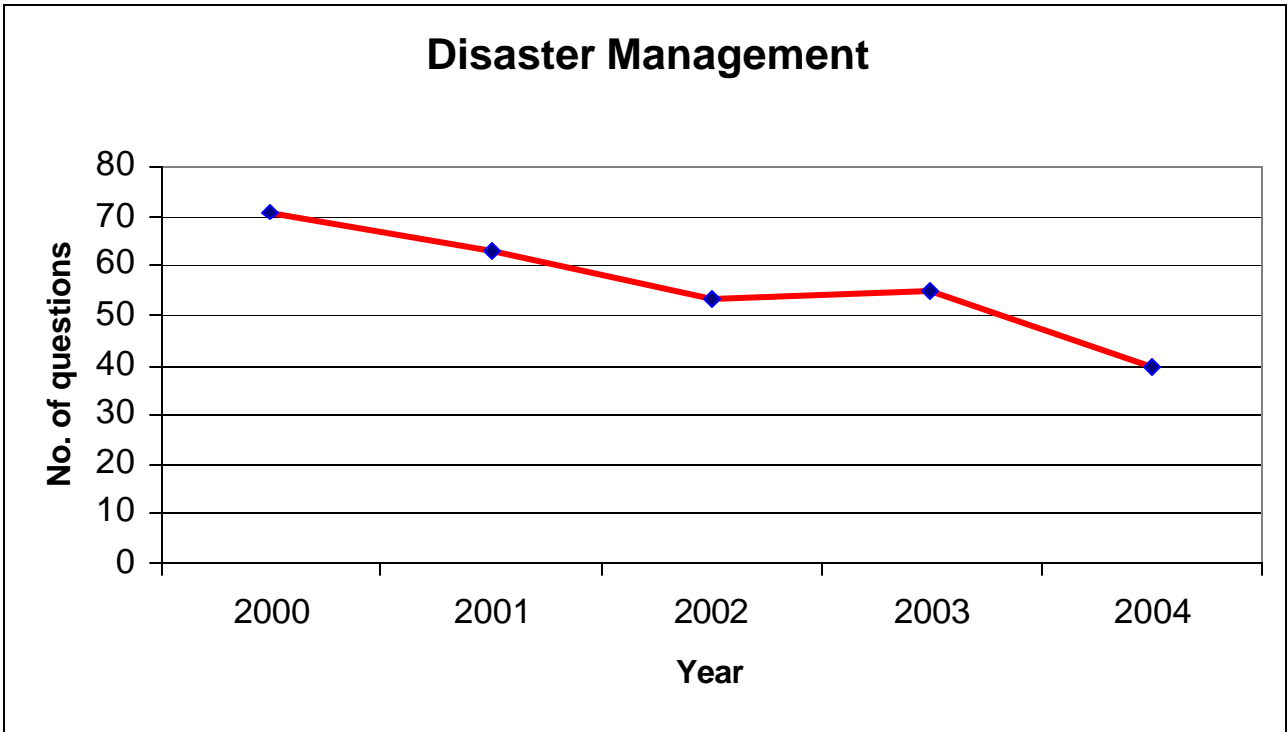
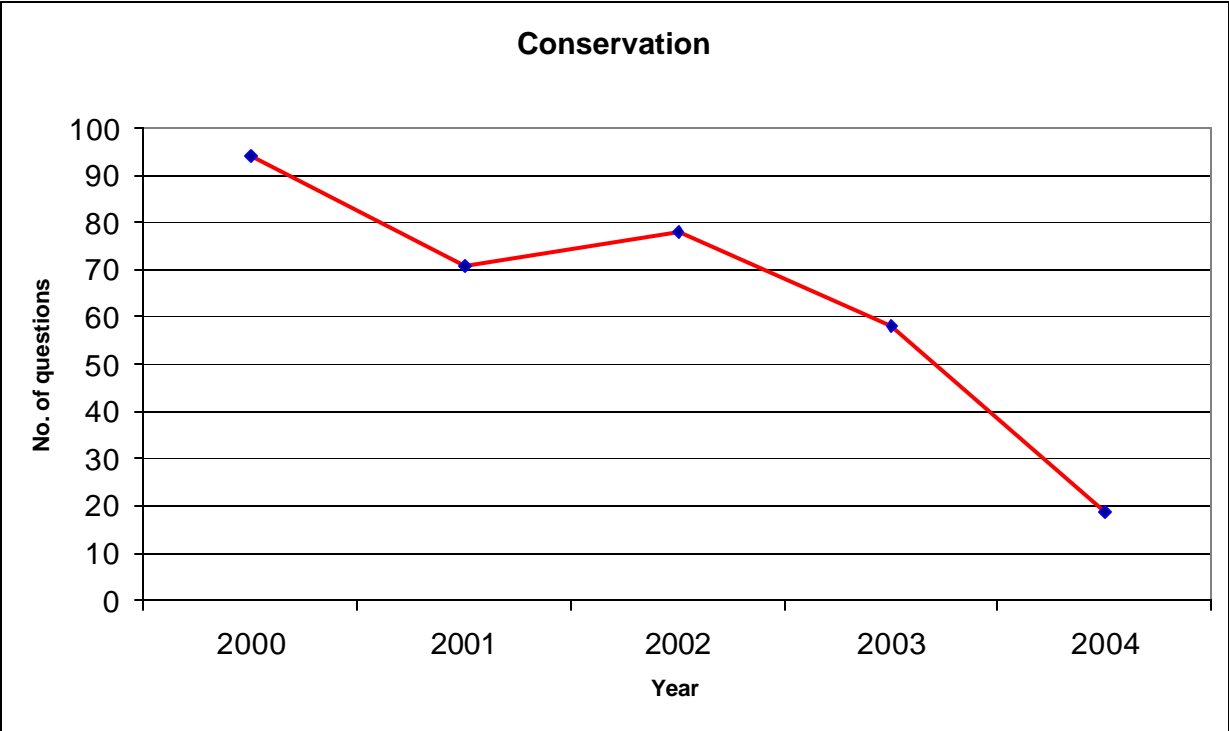


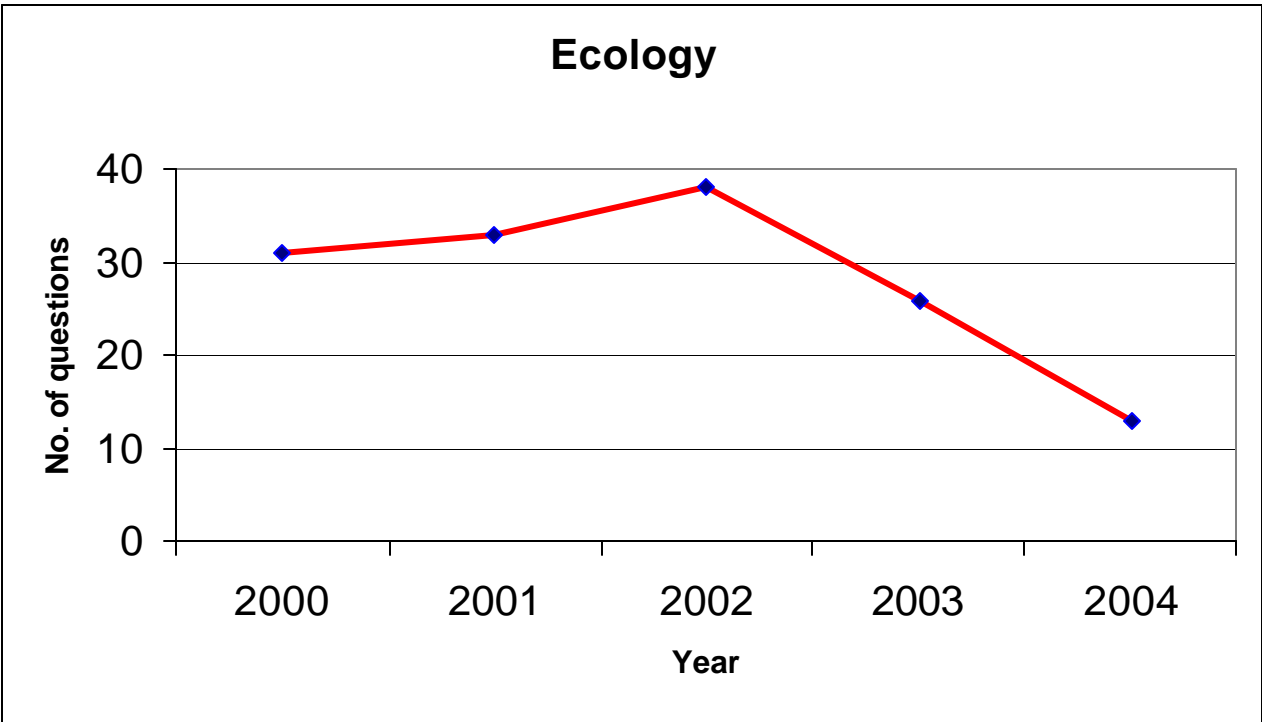
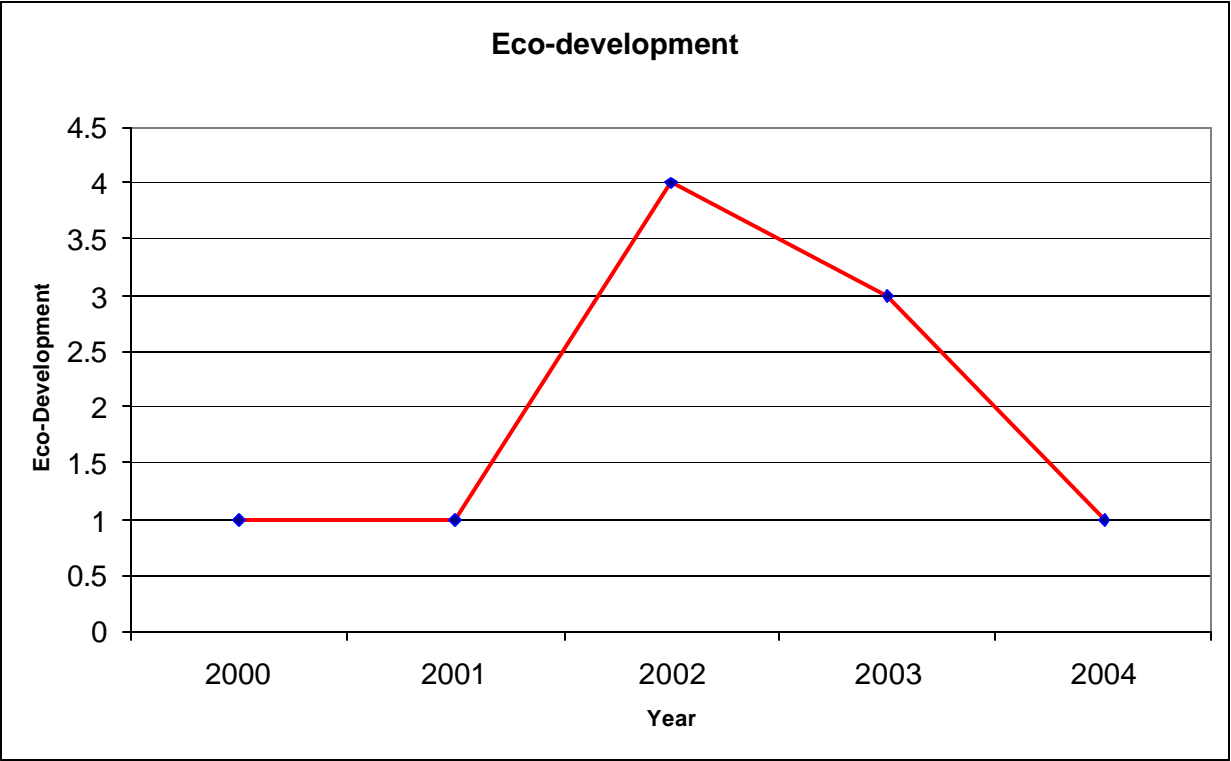
Subject wise total no. of Environmental Questions addressed in the Parliament: Rajya Sabha 2000-2004

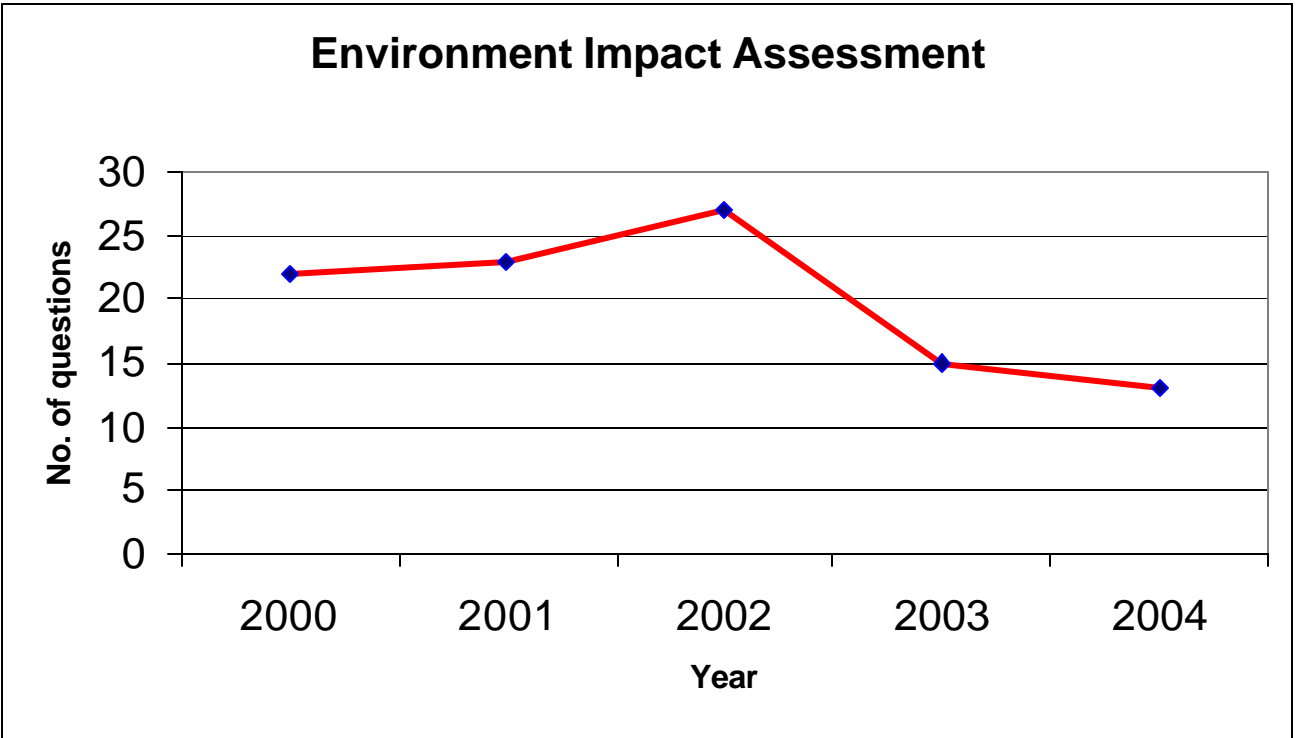
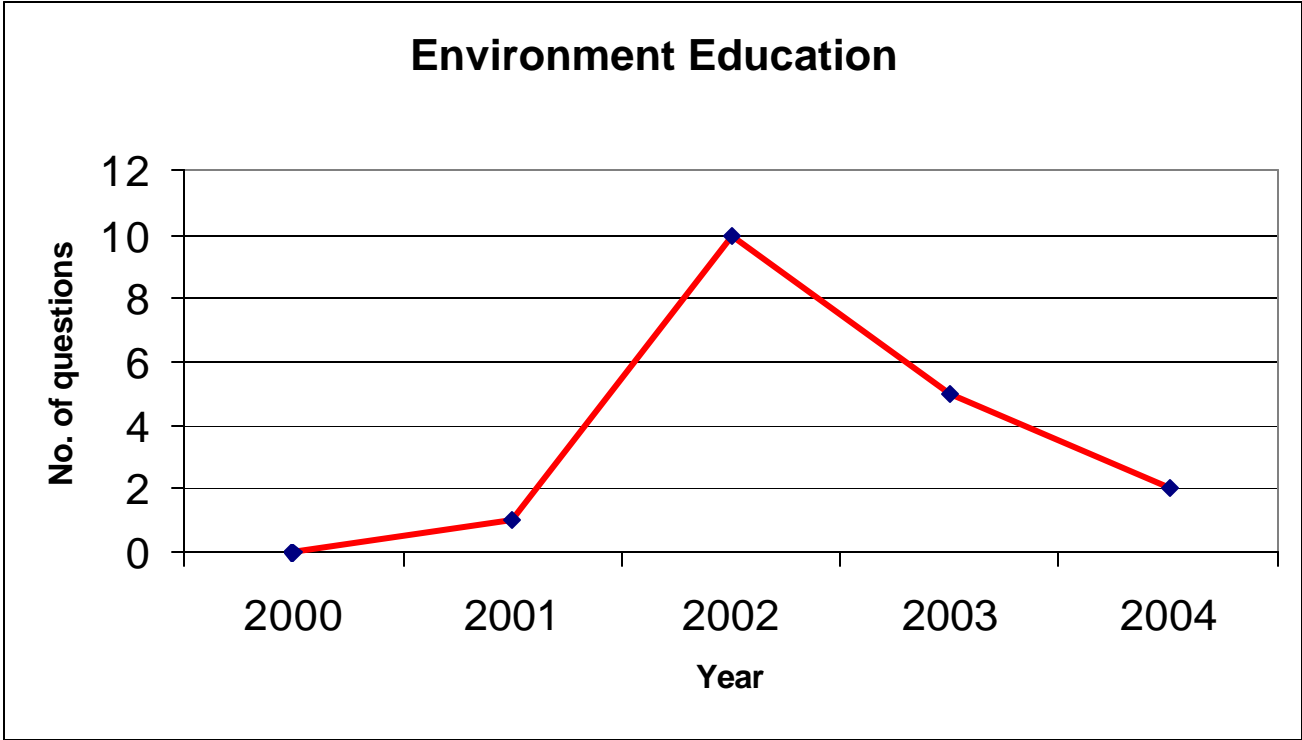


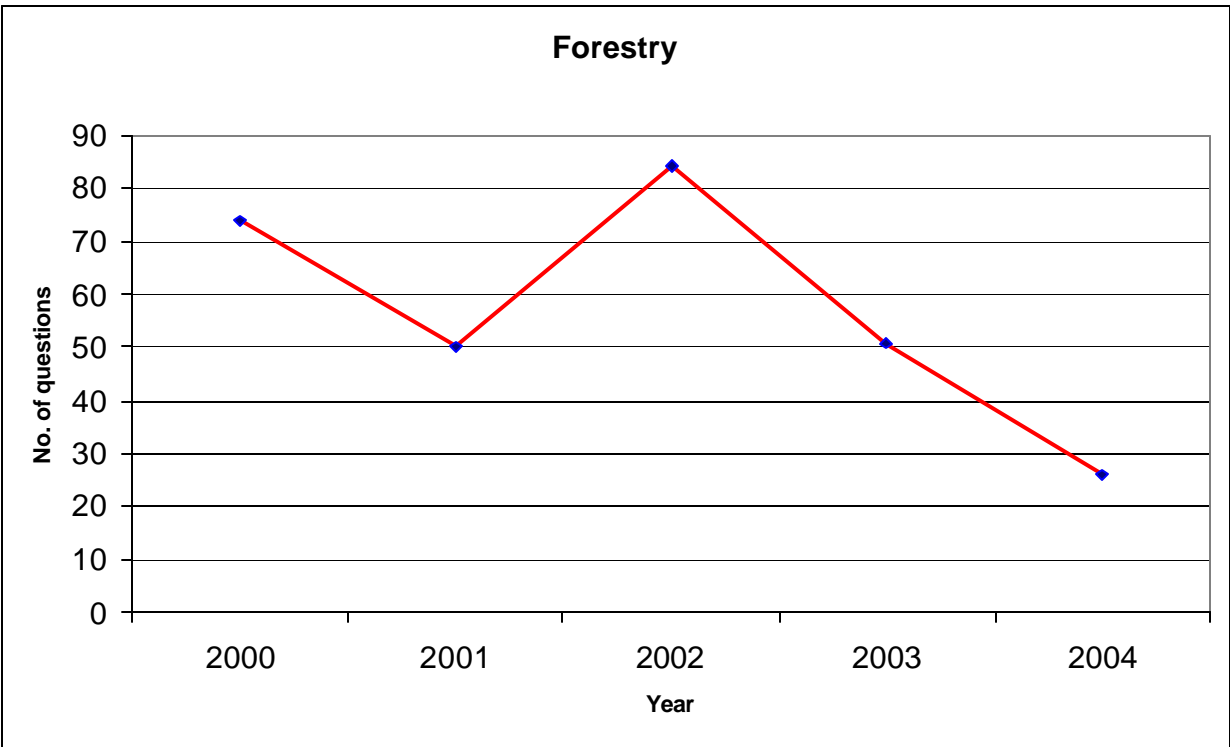
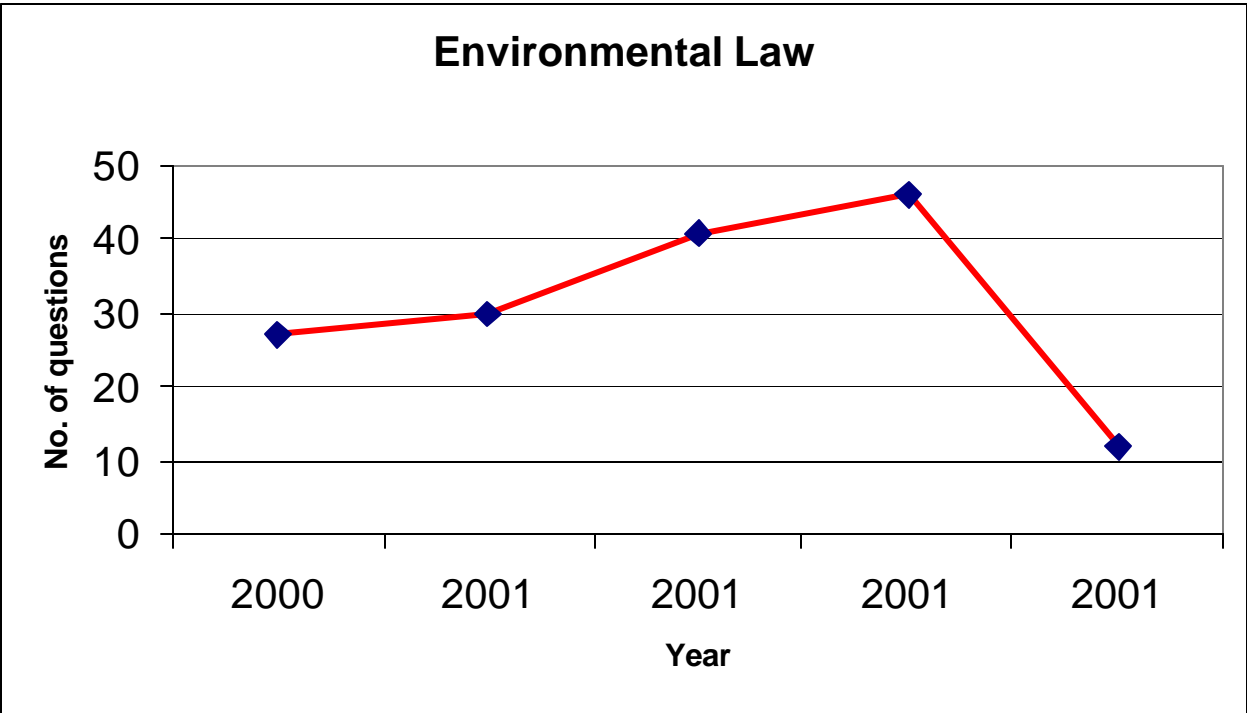


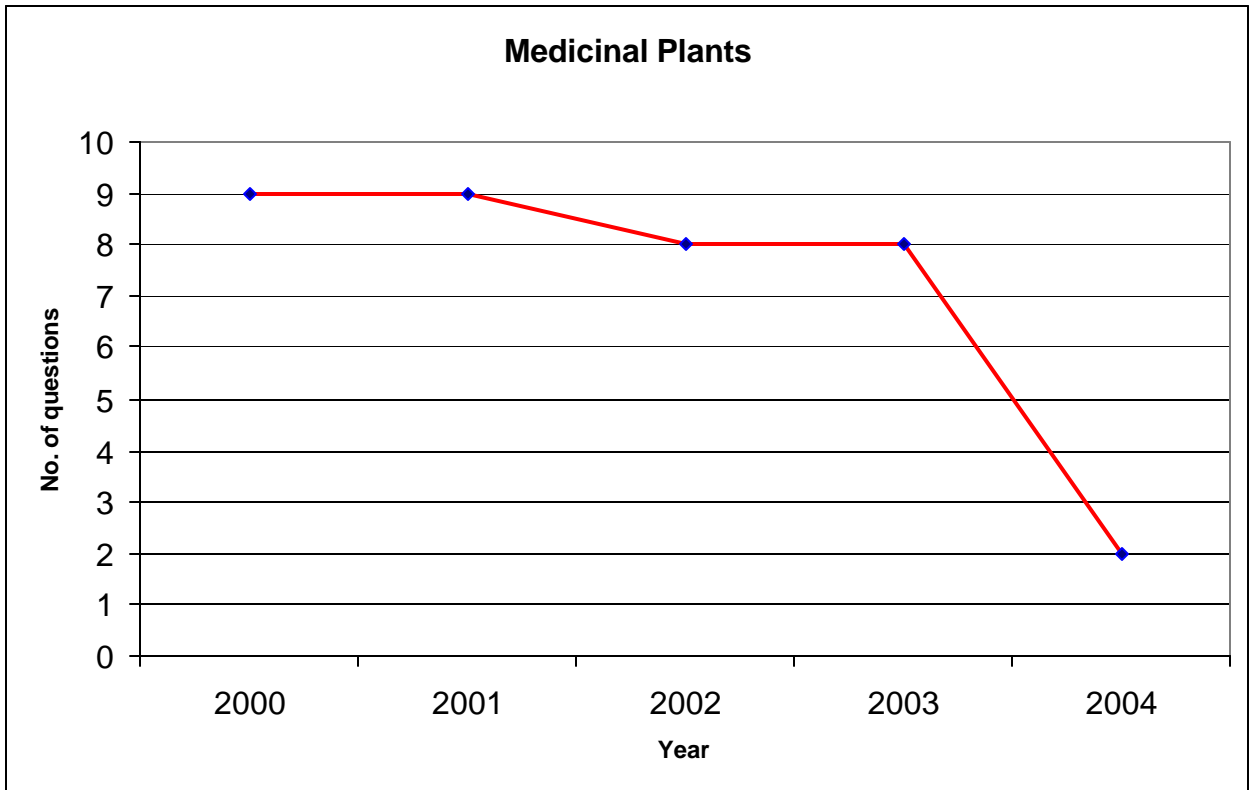
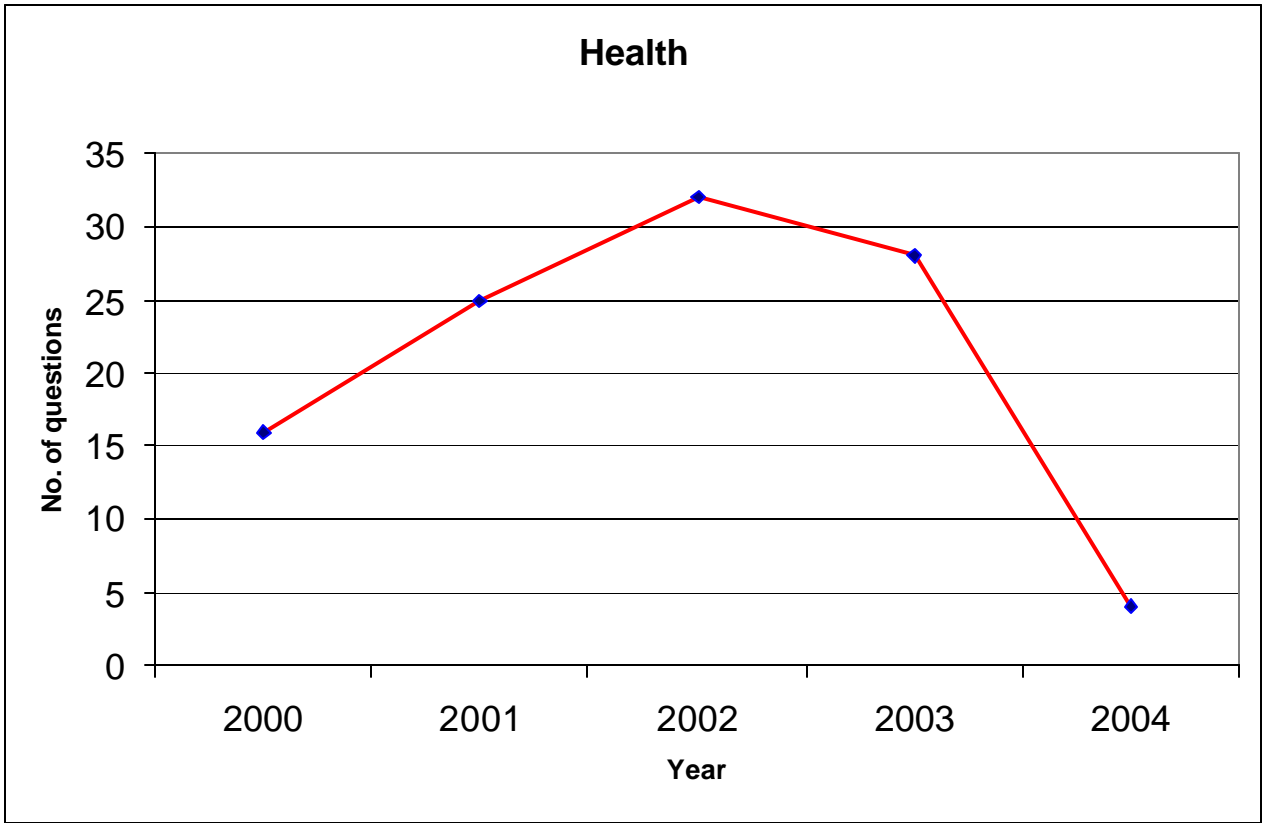


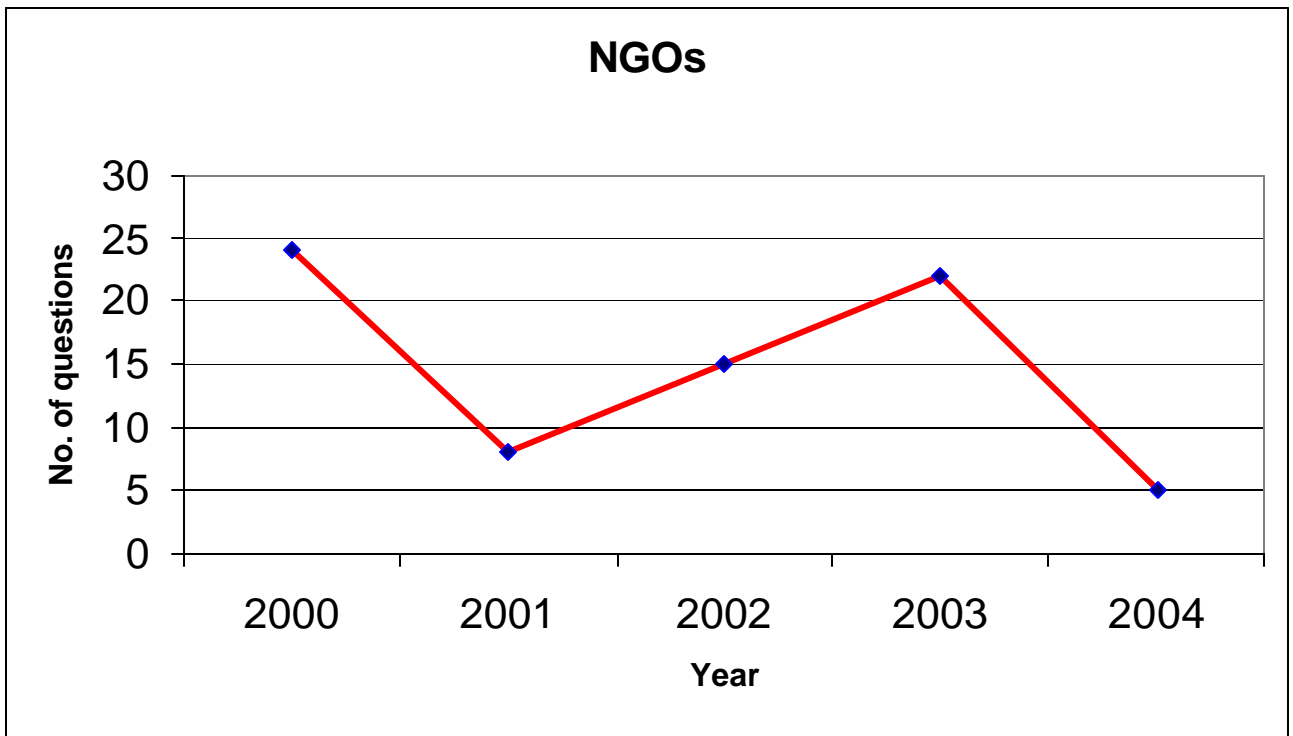
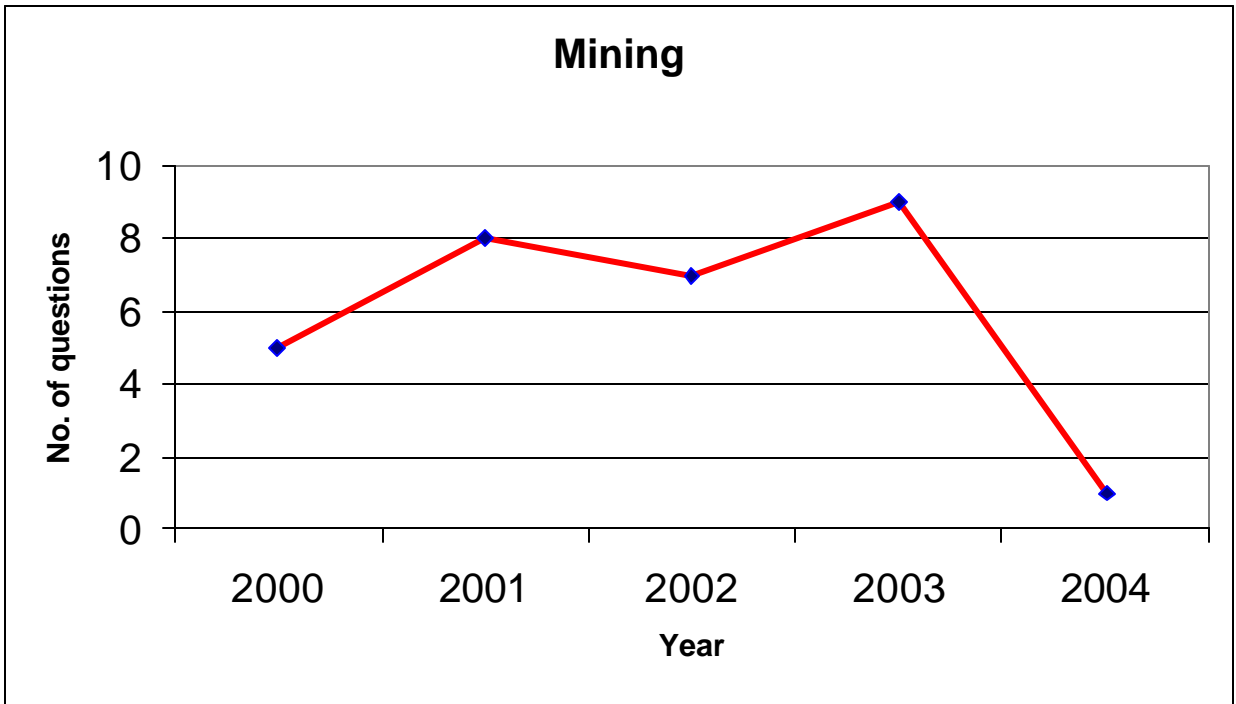


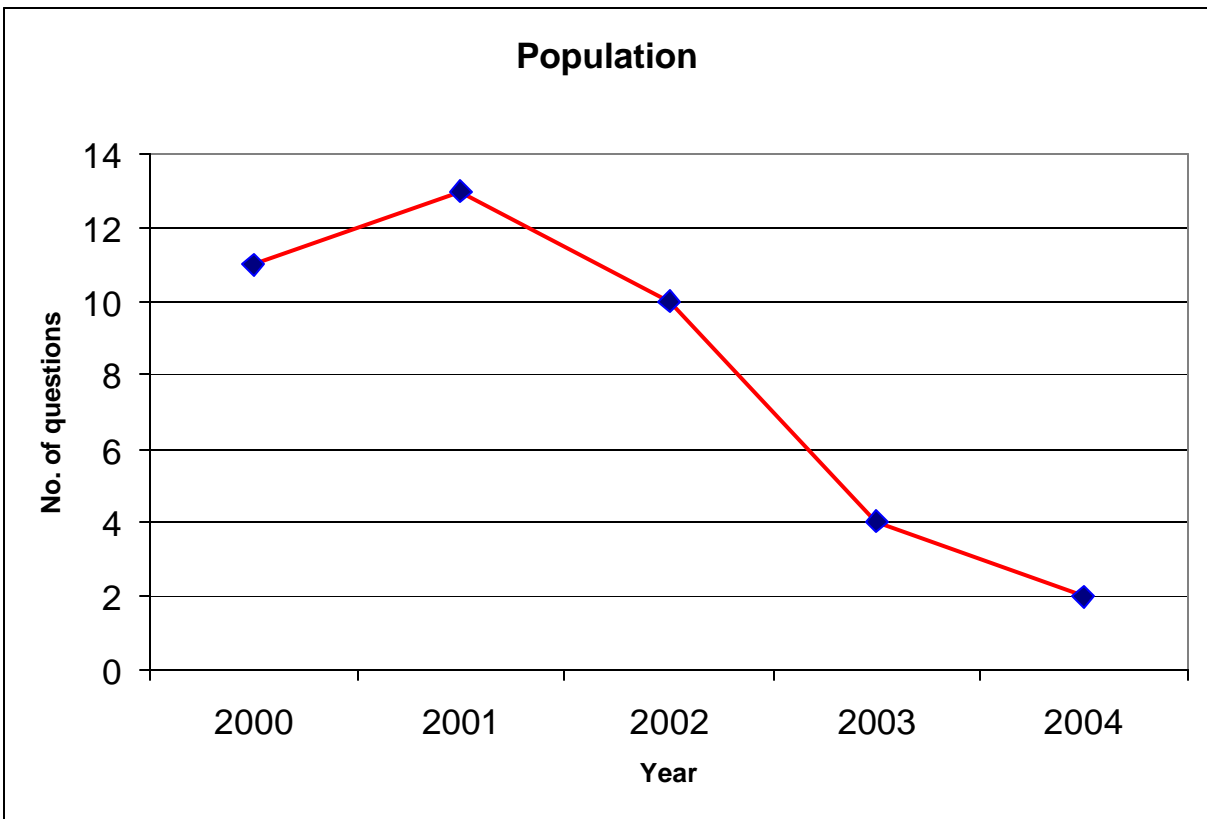
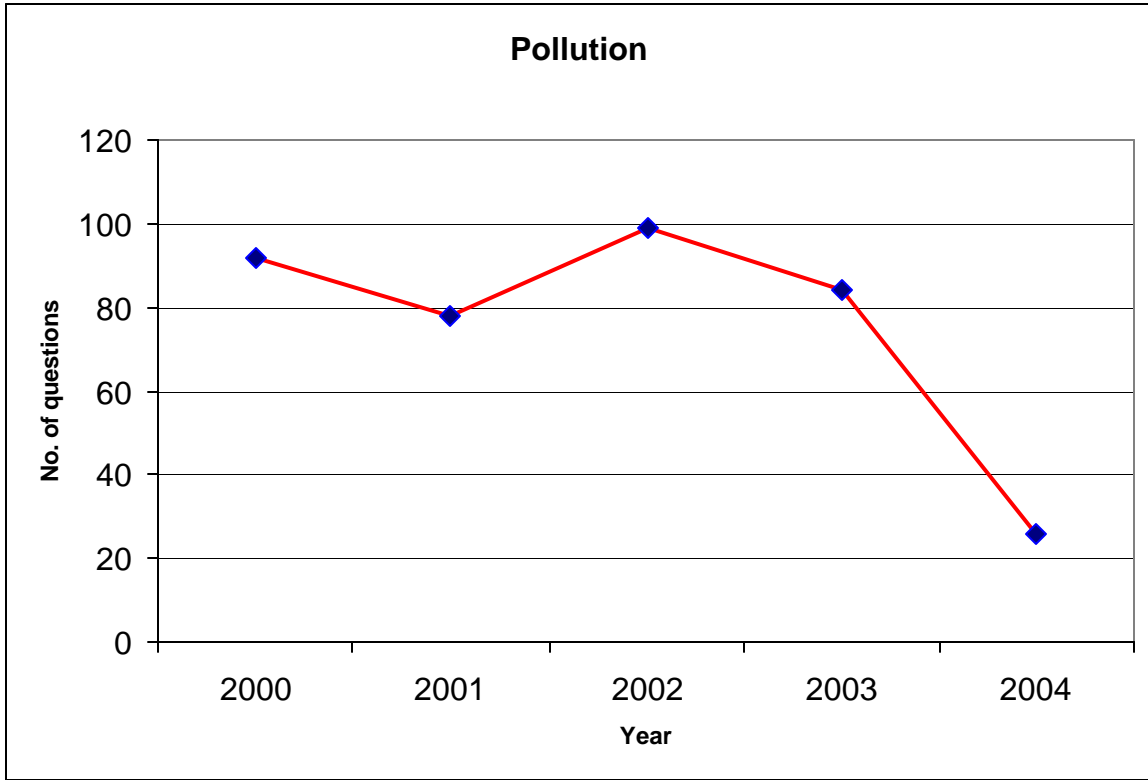


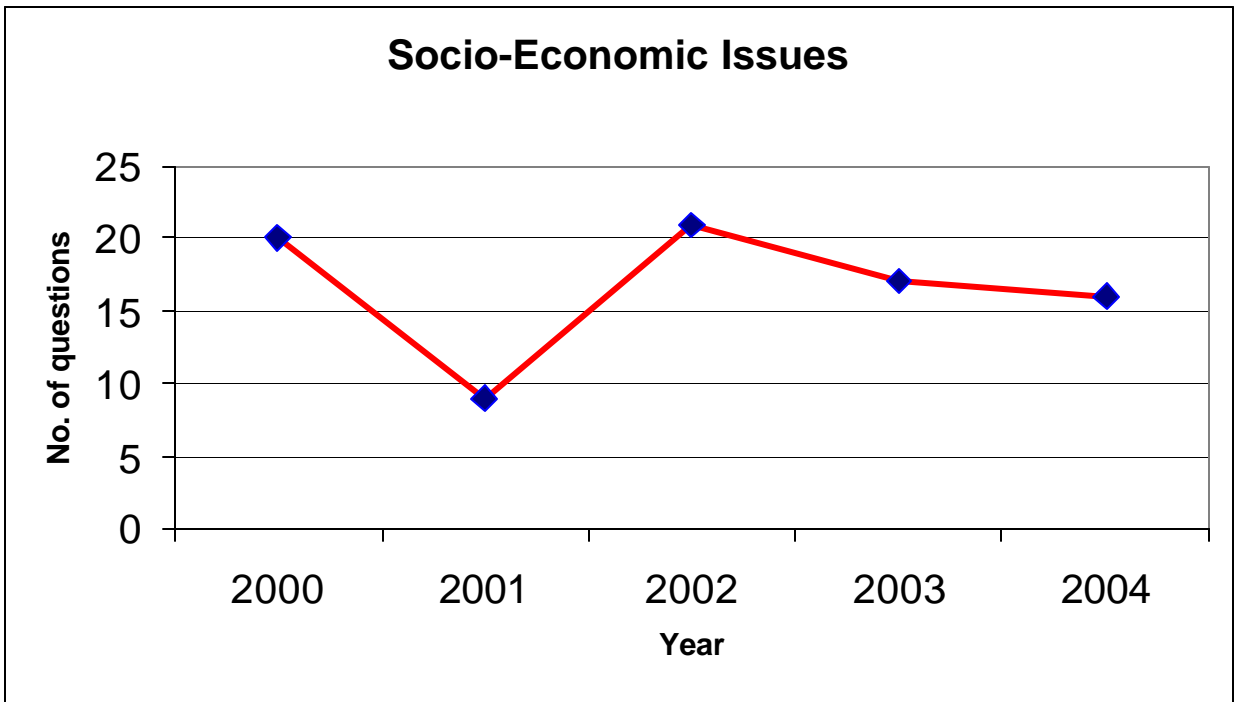
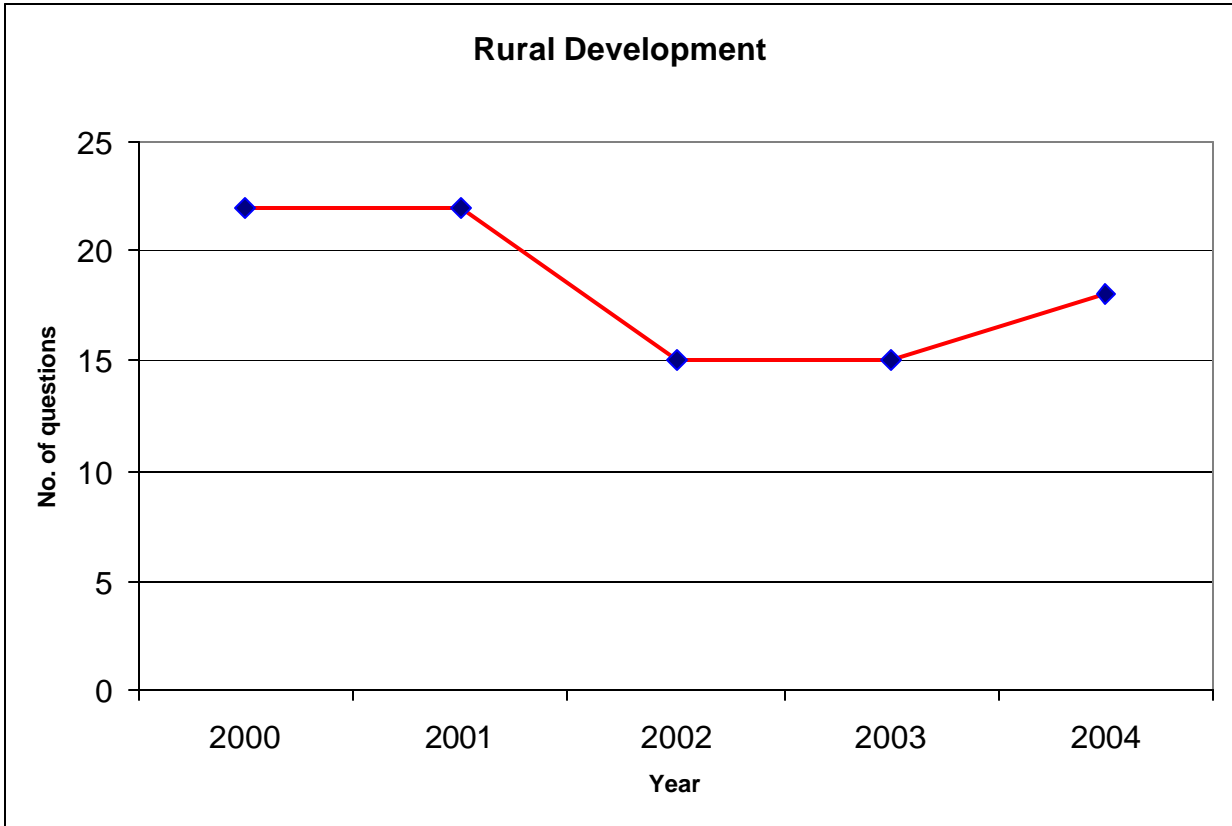


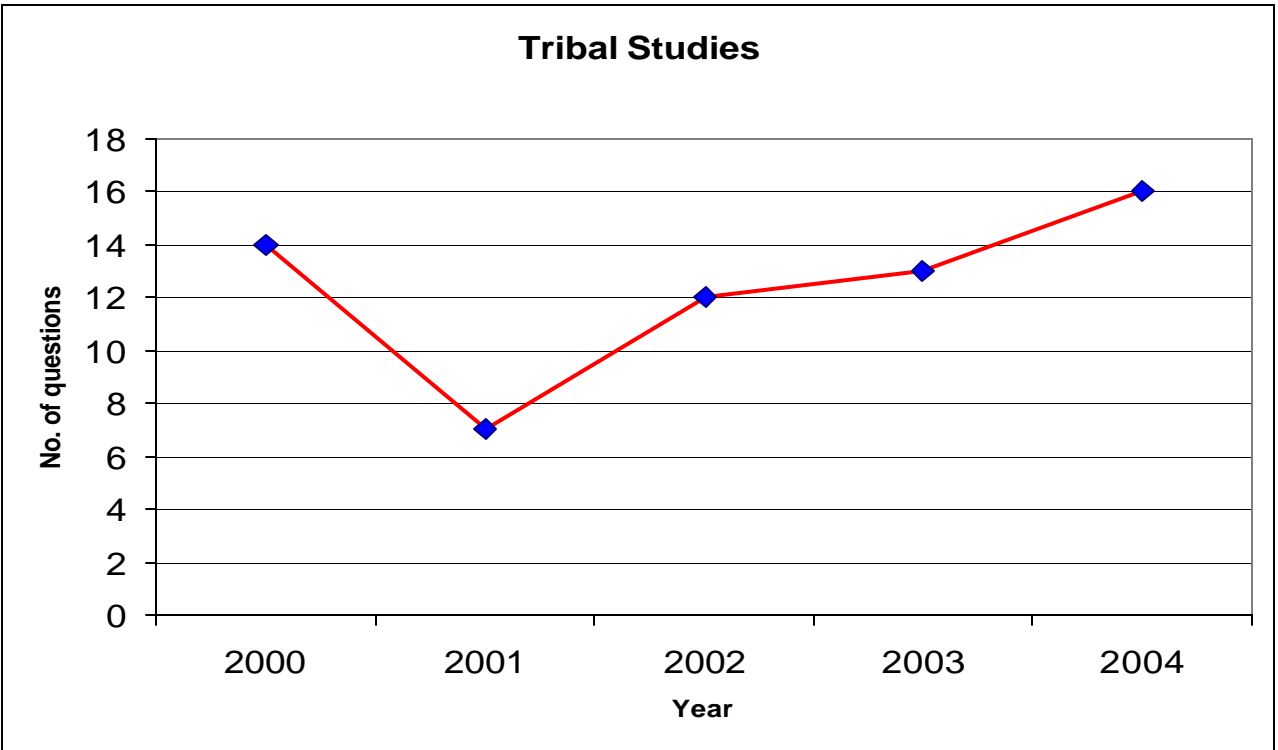
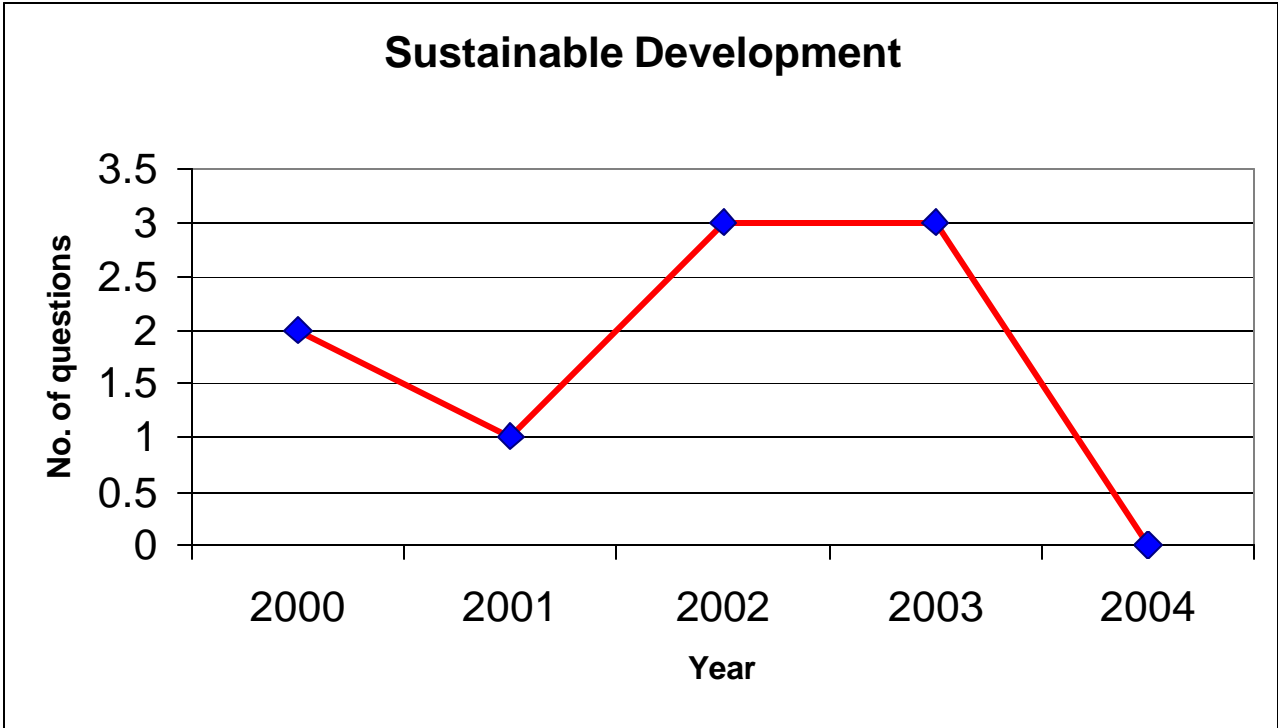


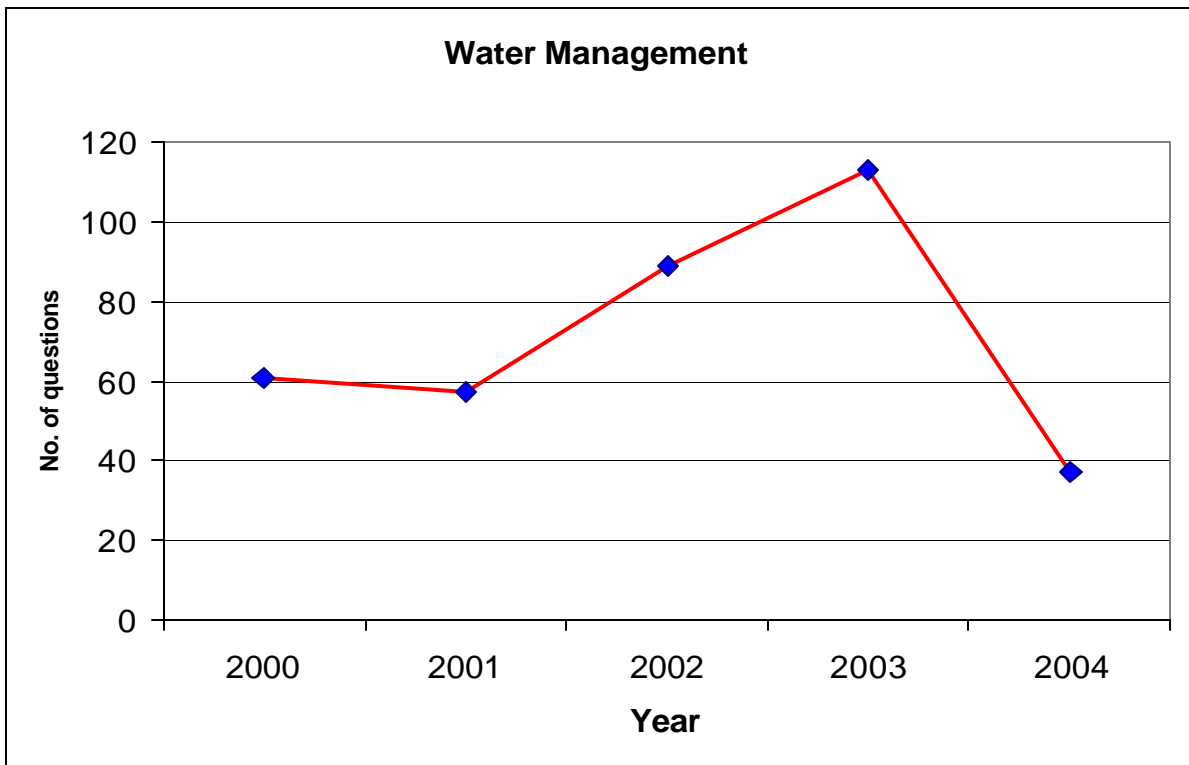
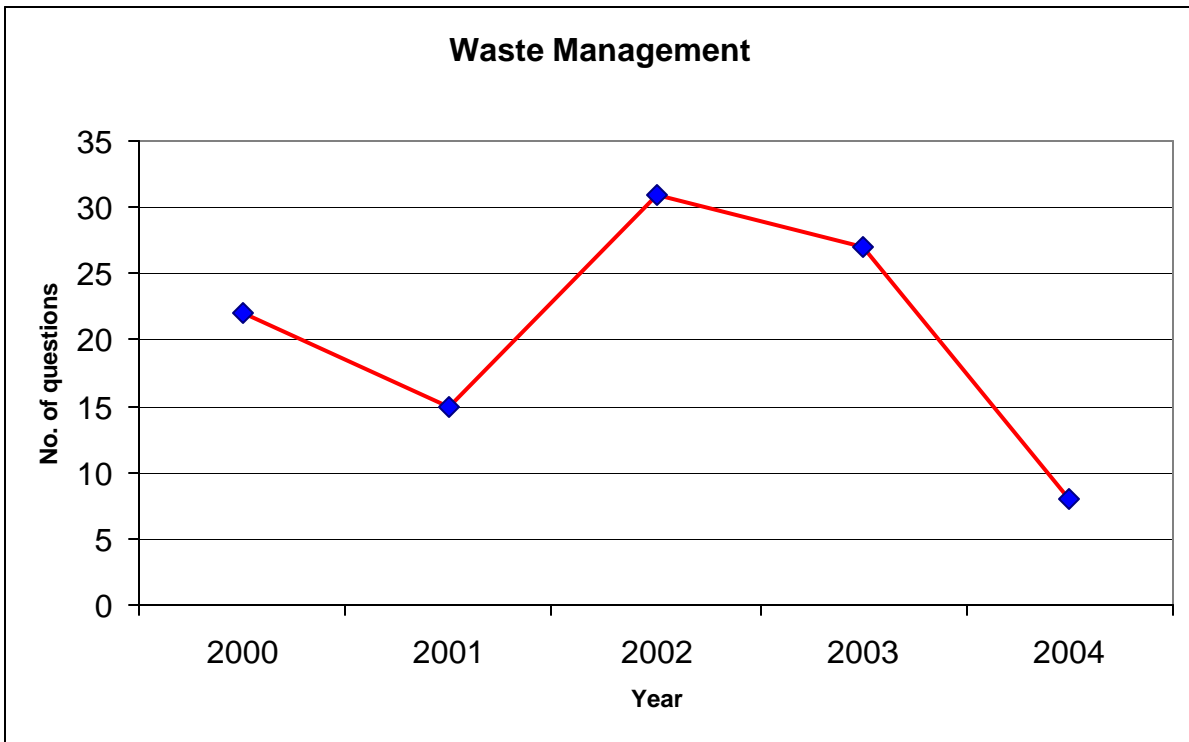


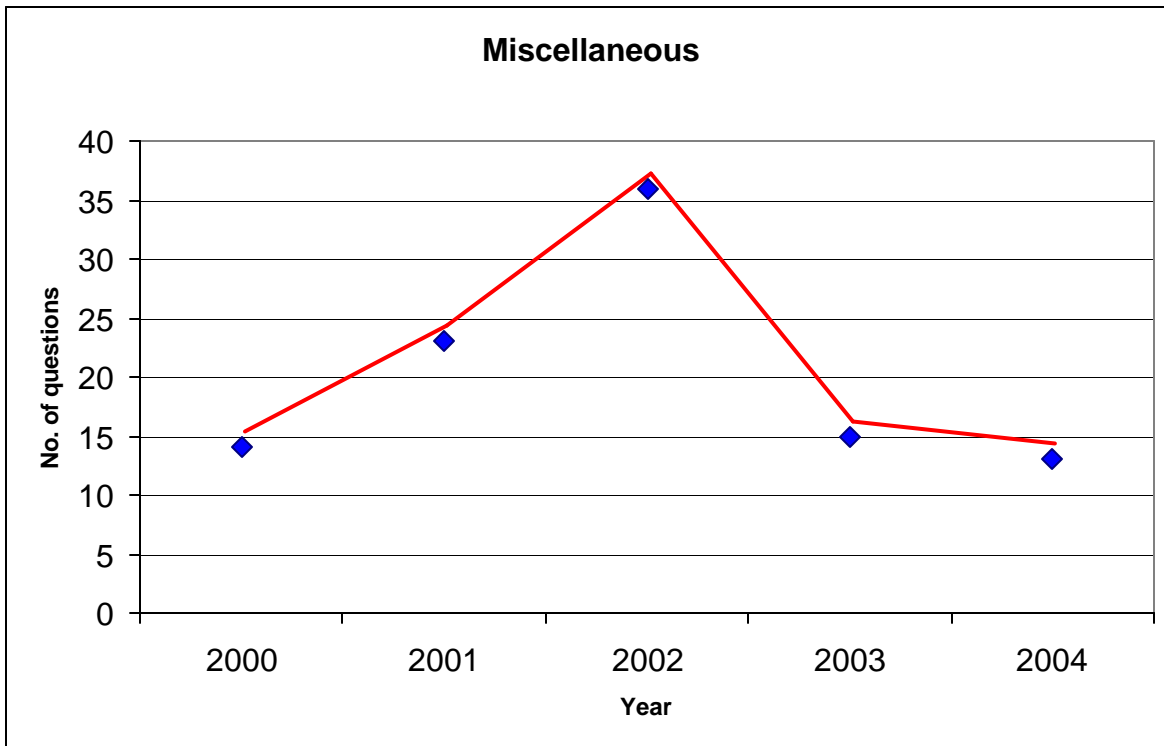
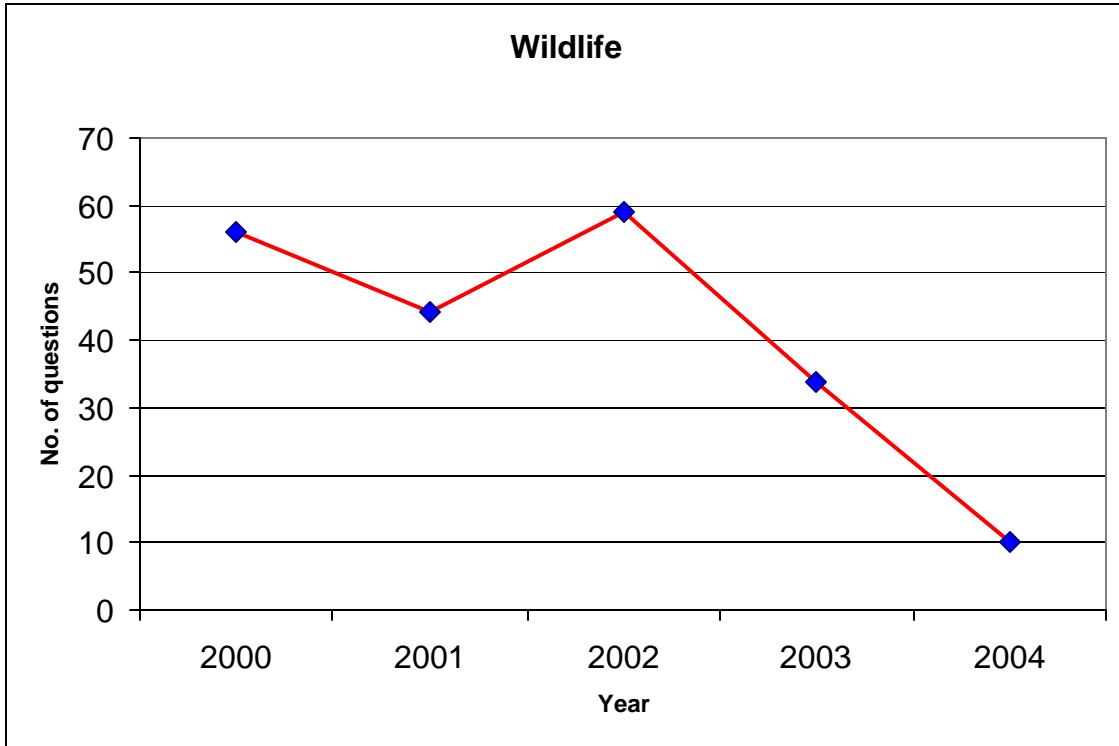






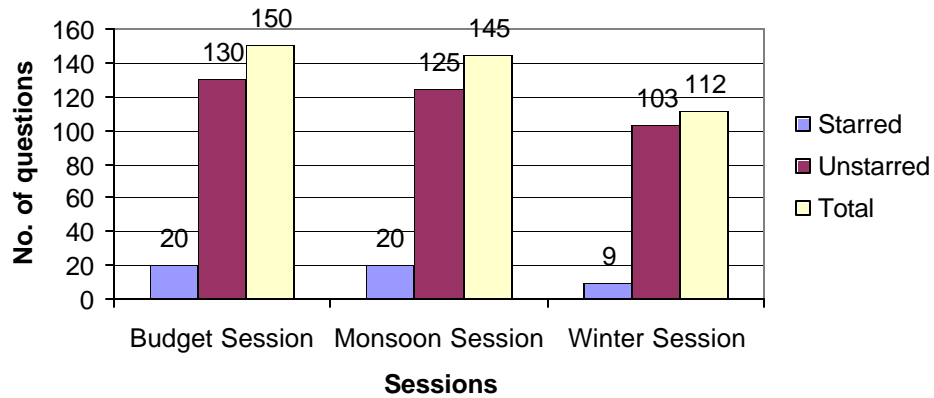




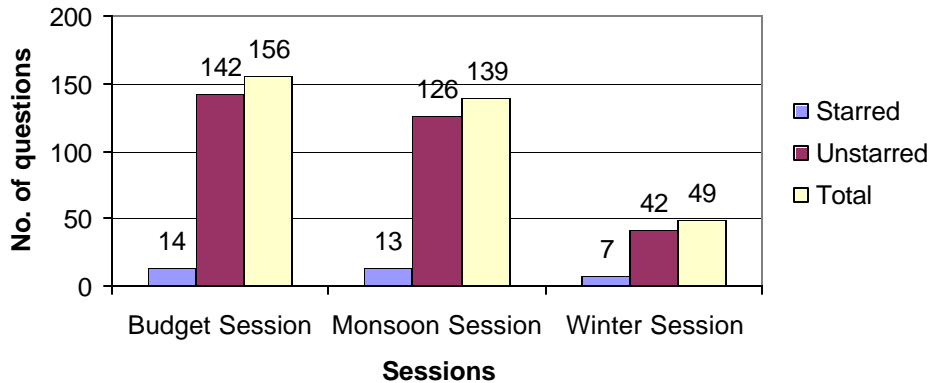


Year wise total no. of Environmental Questions replied by Ministry of Environment & Forests in the Parliament: Rajya Sabha 2000-2004

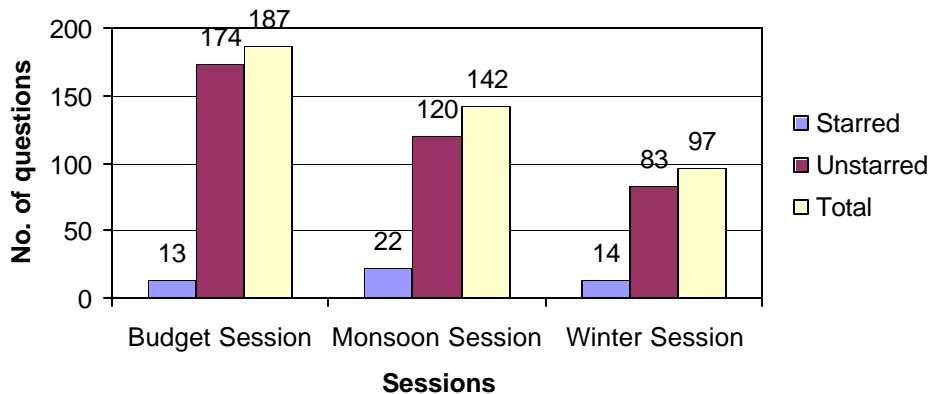
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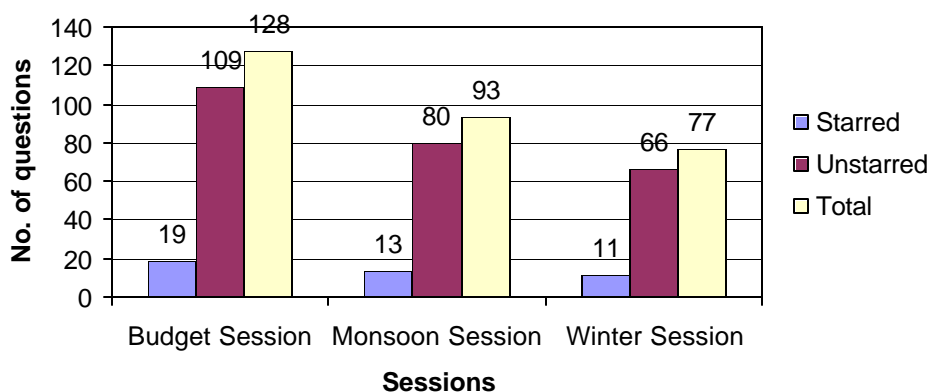
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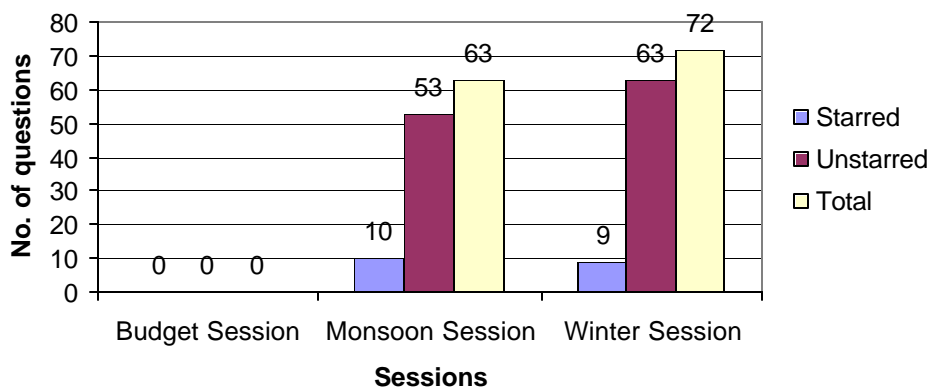
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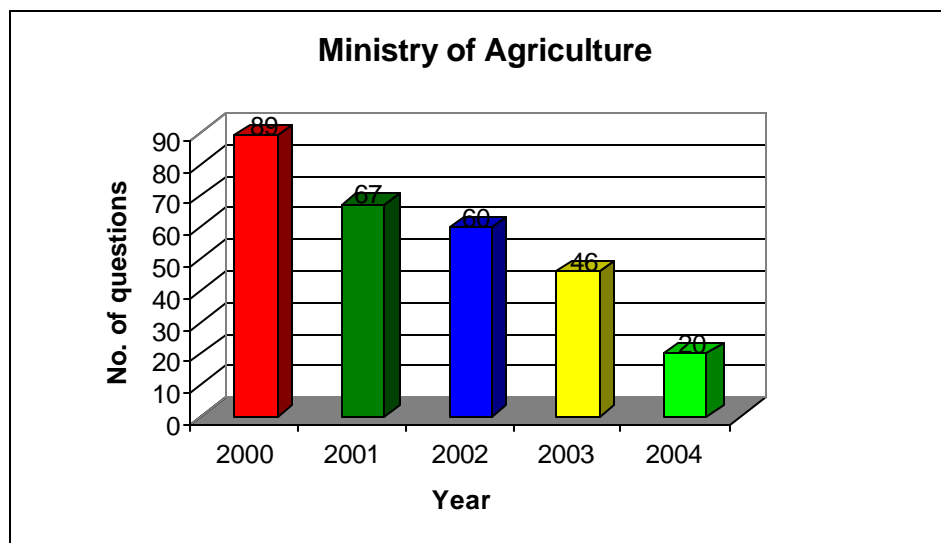
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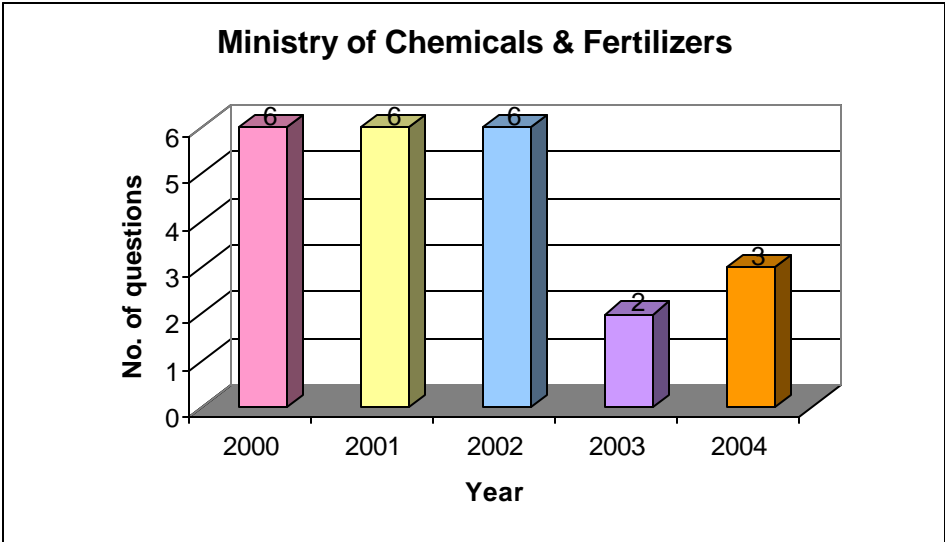
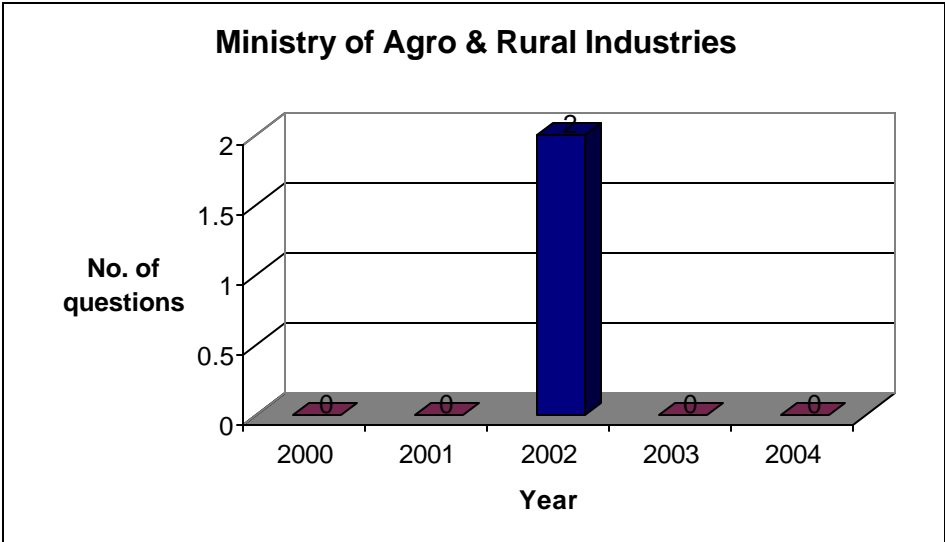
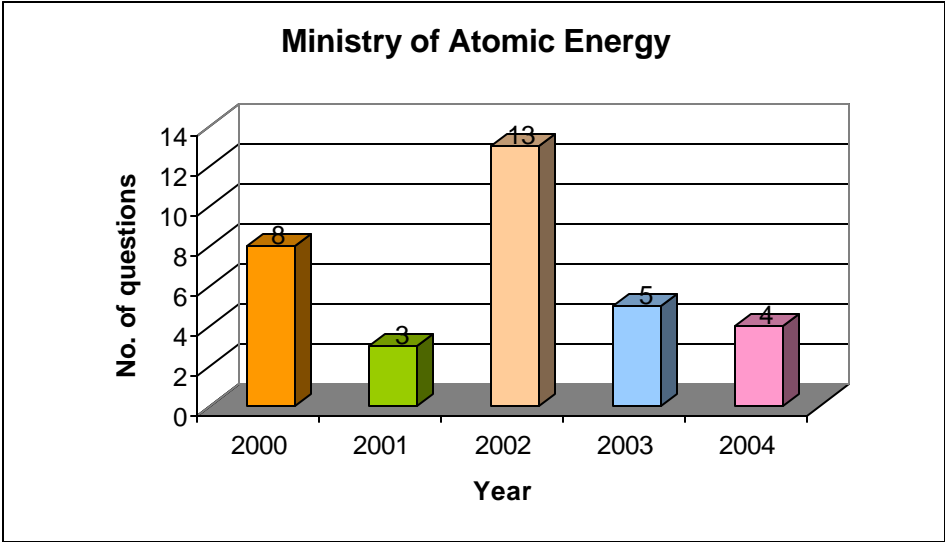


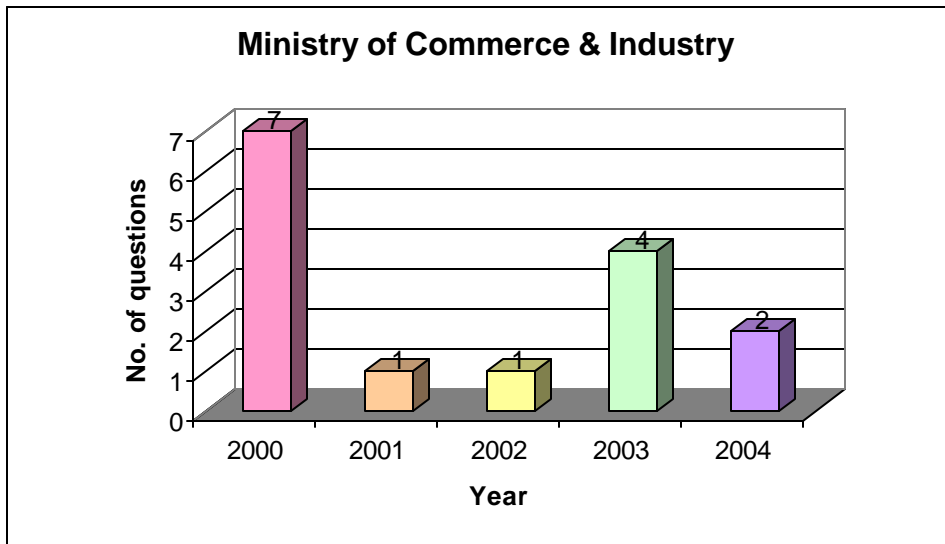
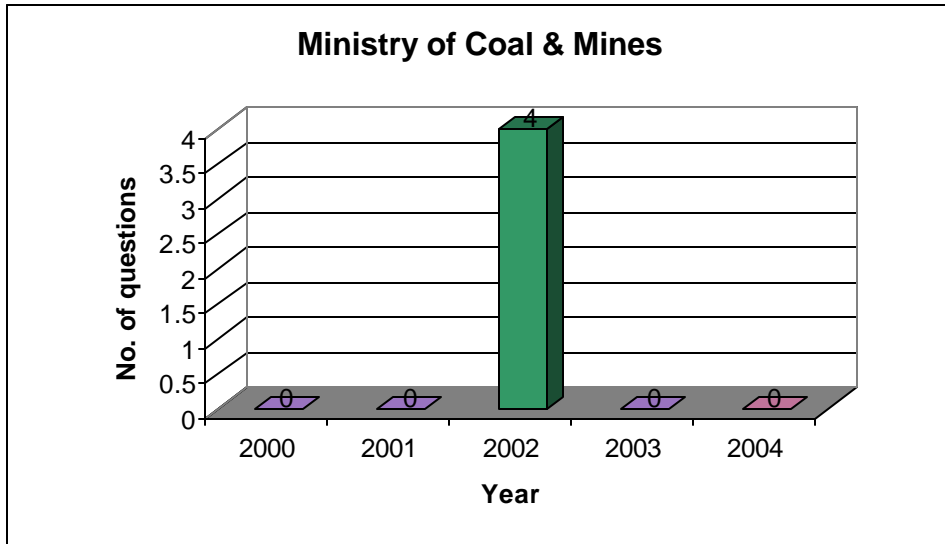
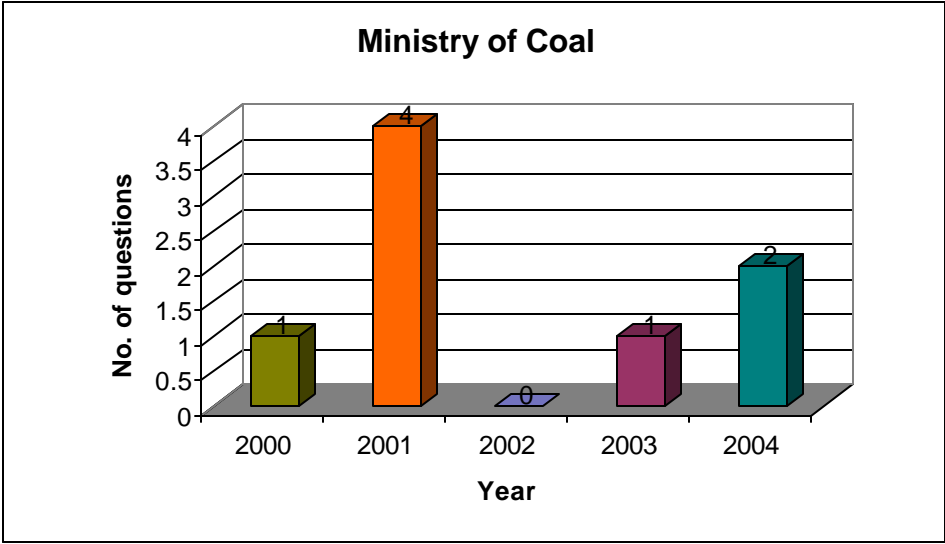
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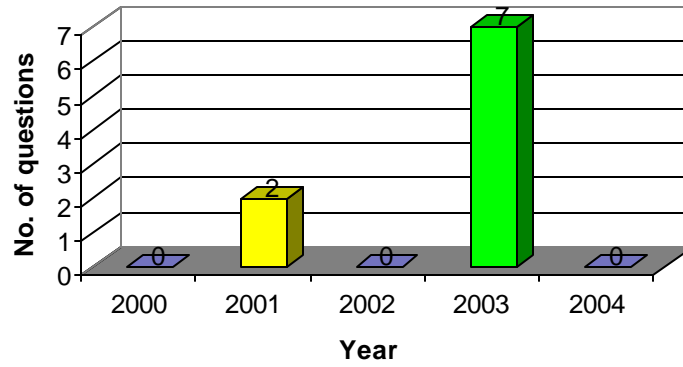
Ministry wise total no. of Environmental Questions addressed in the Parliament: Rajya Sabha 2000-2004



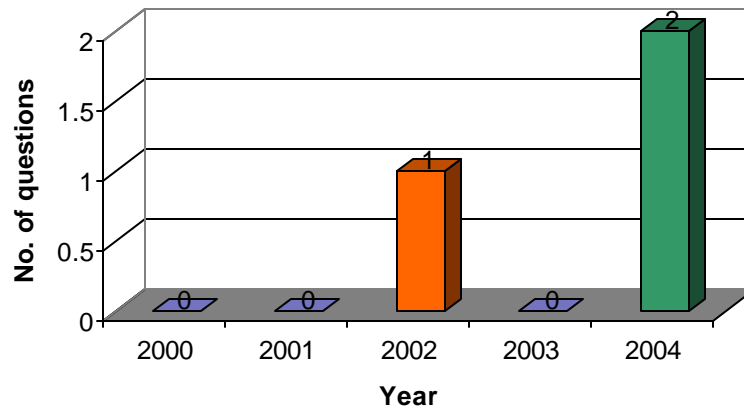




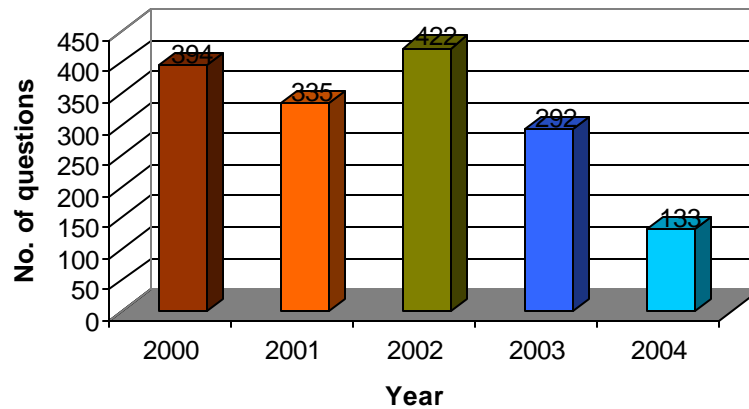
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

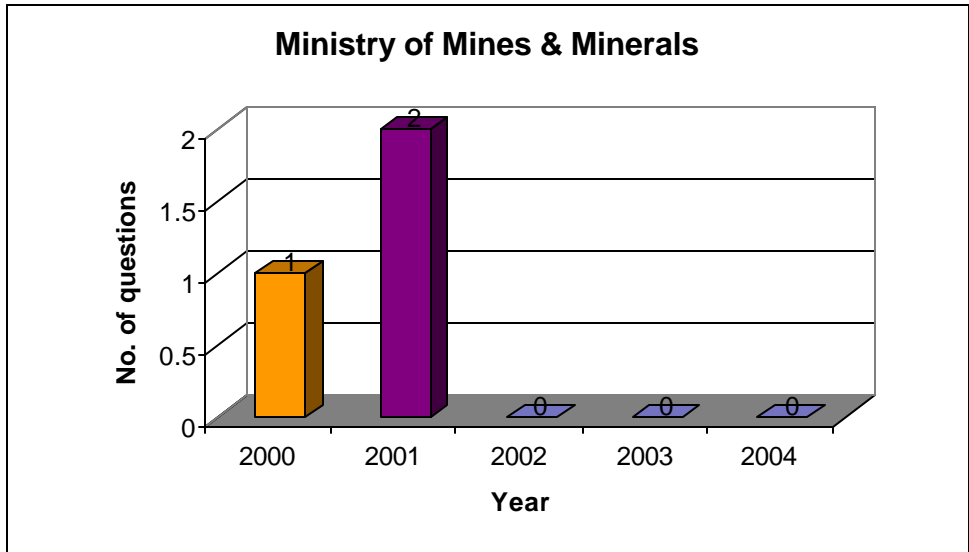
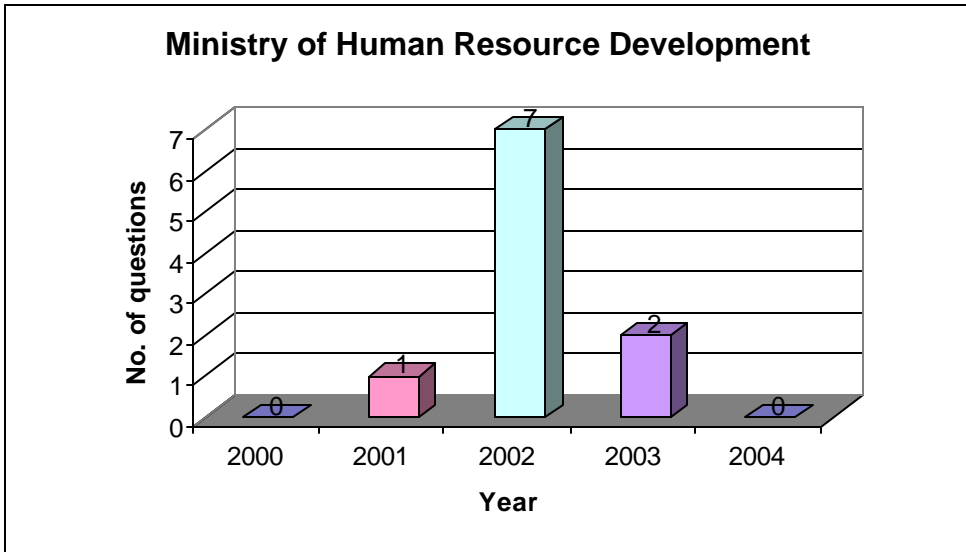
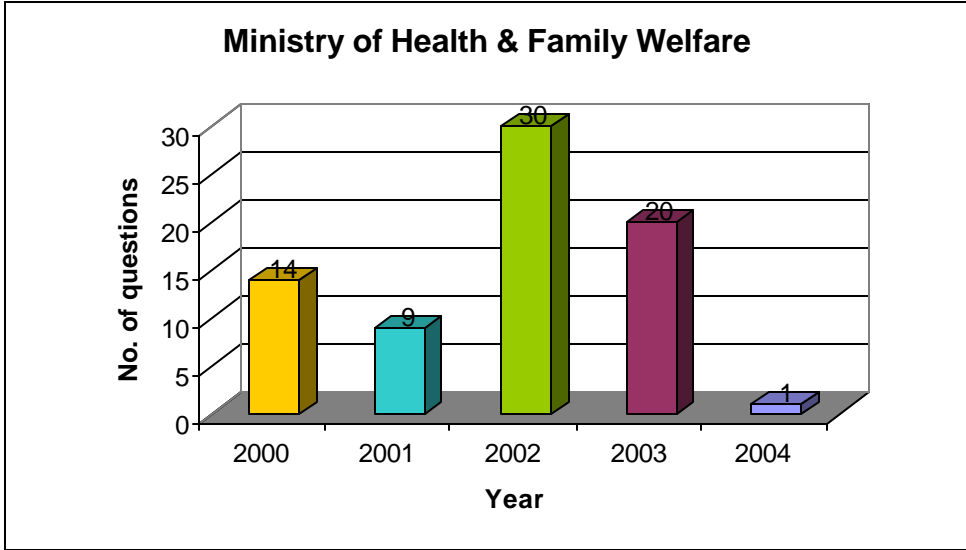


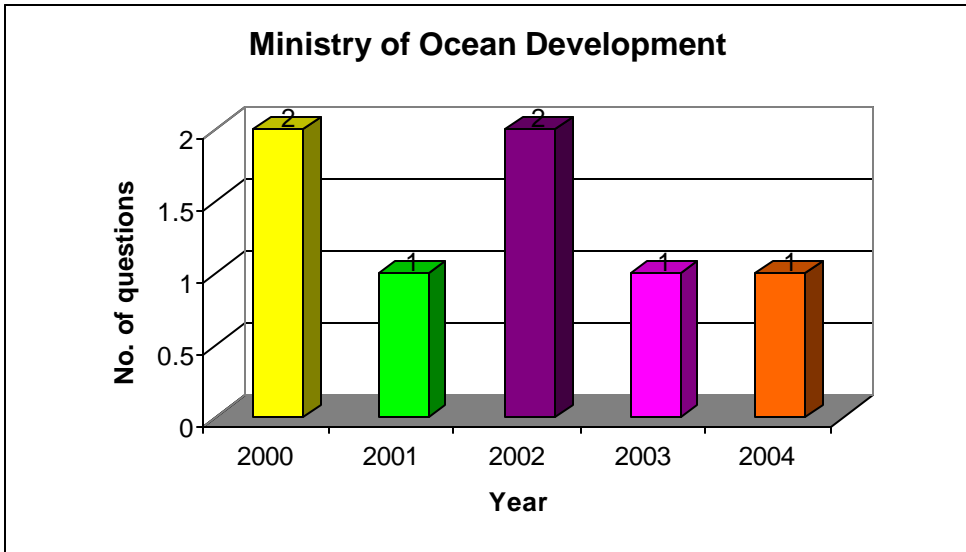
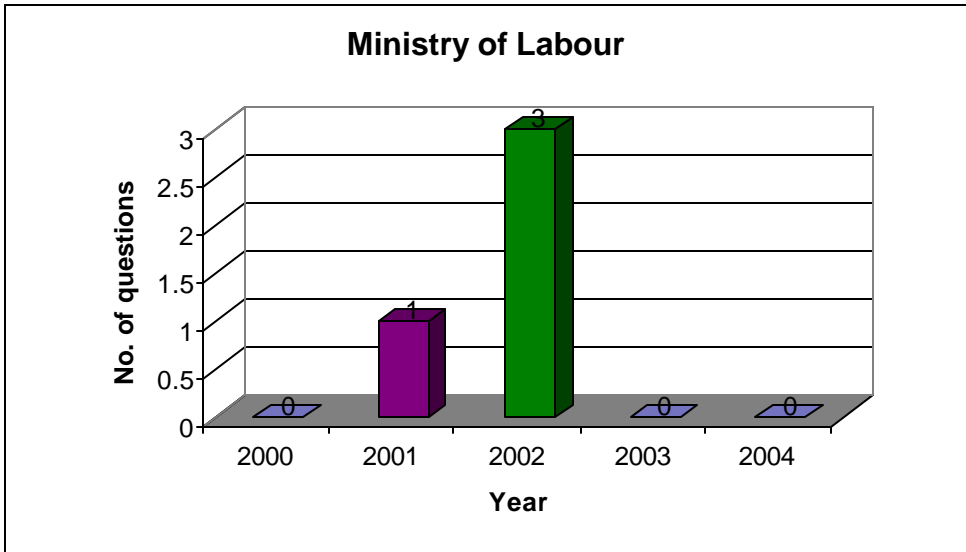
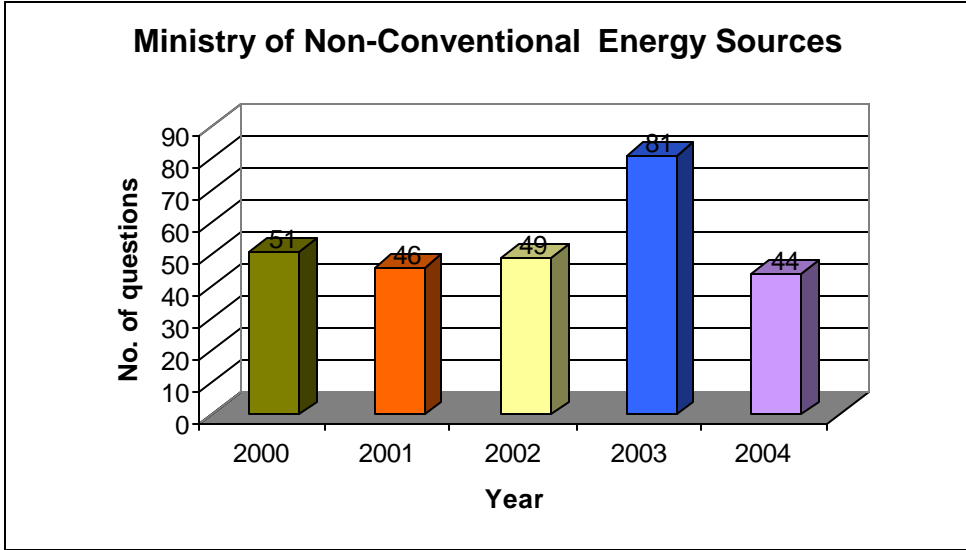
Ministry of Development of North-East Region

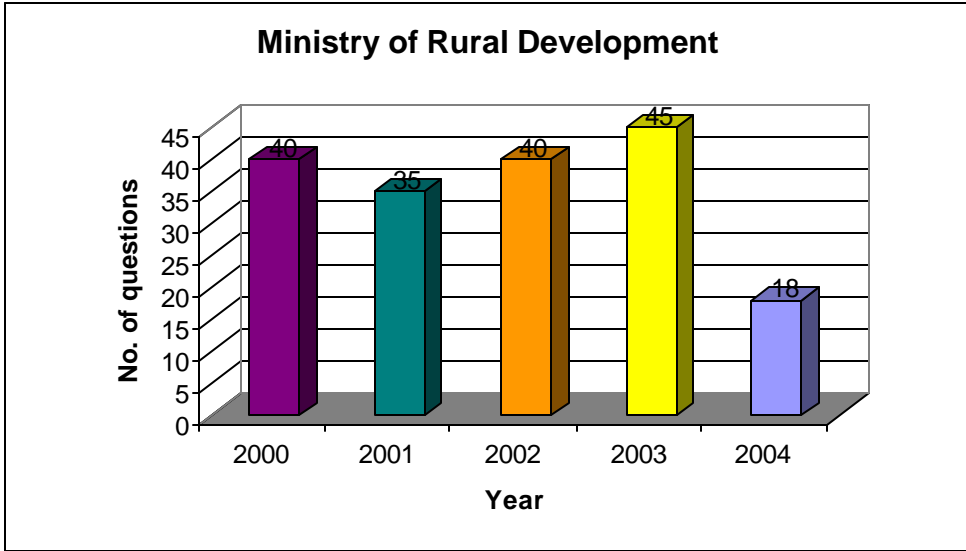
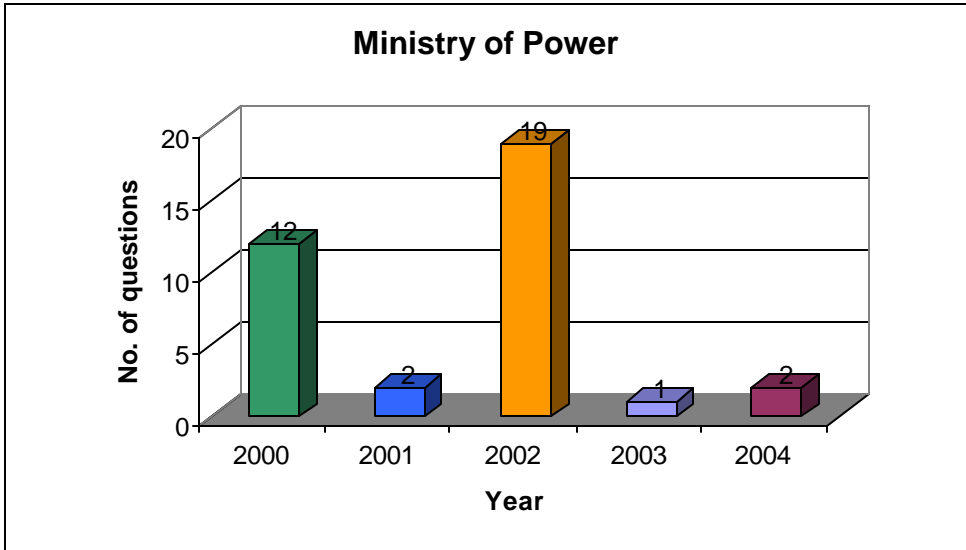
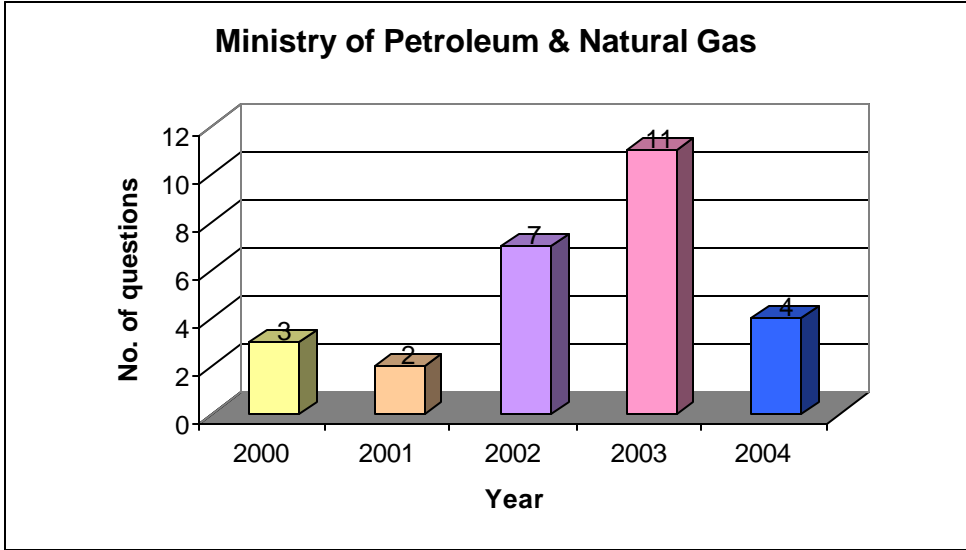


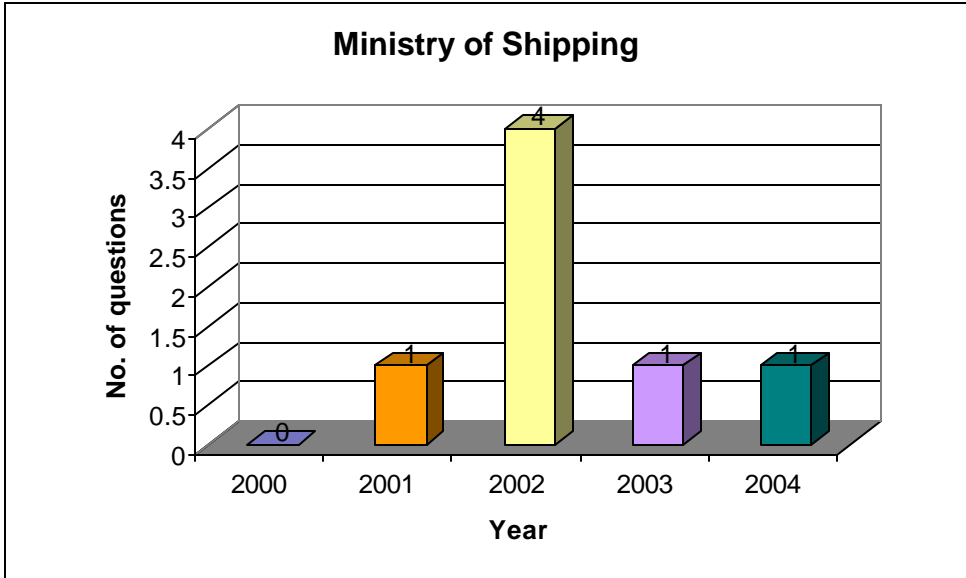
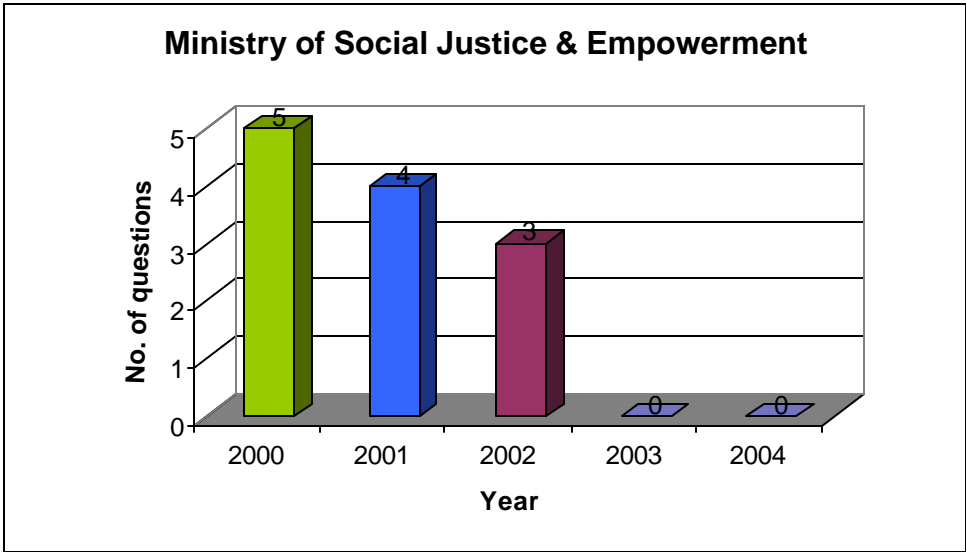
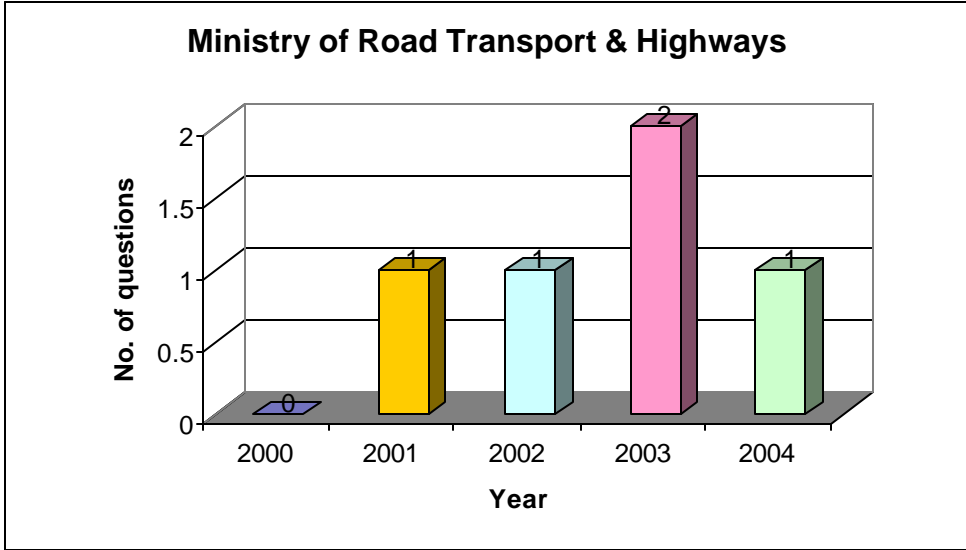
Ministry of Environment & Forests

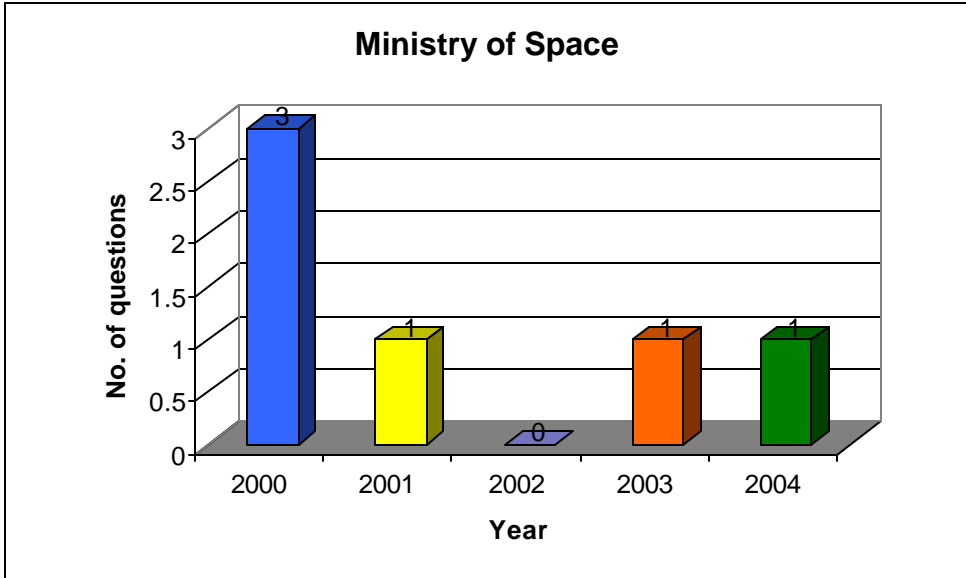
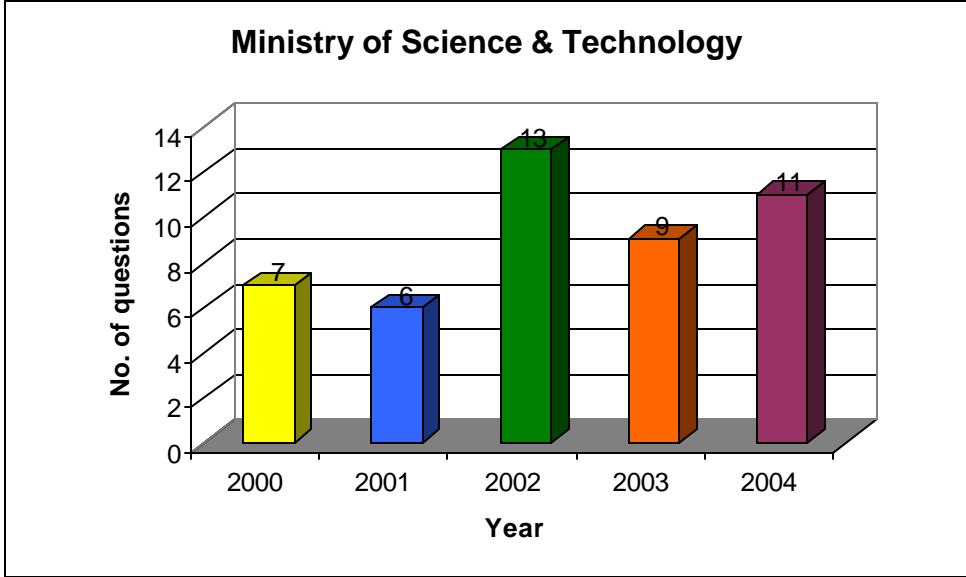
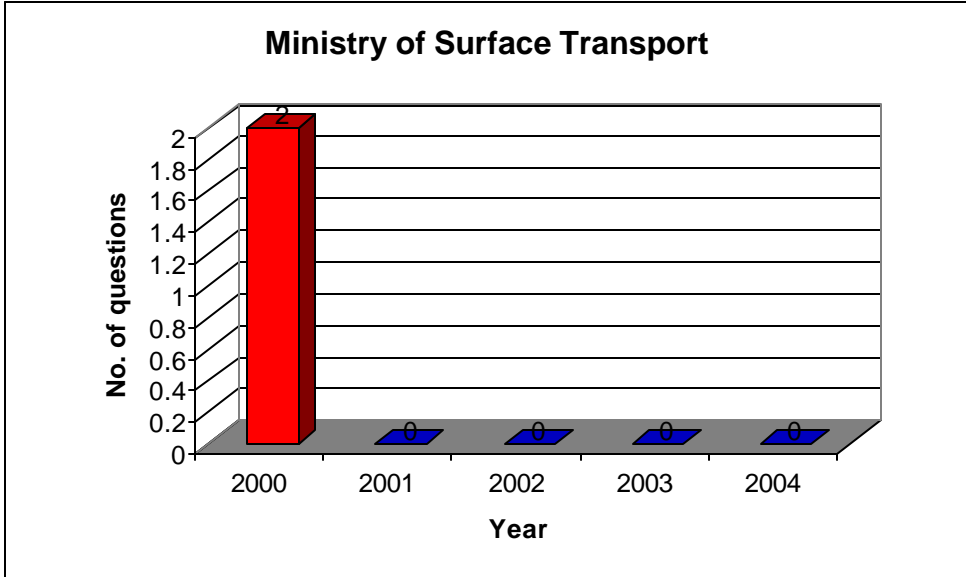


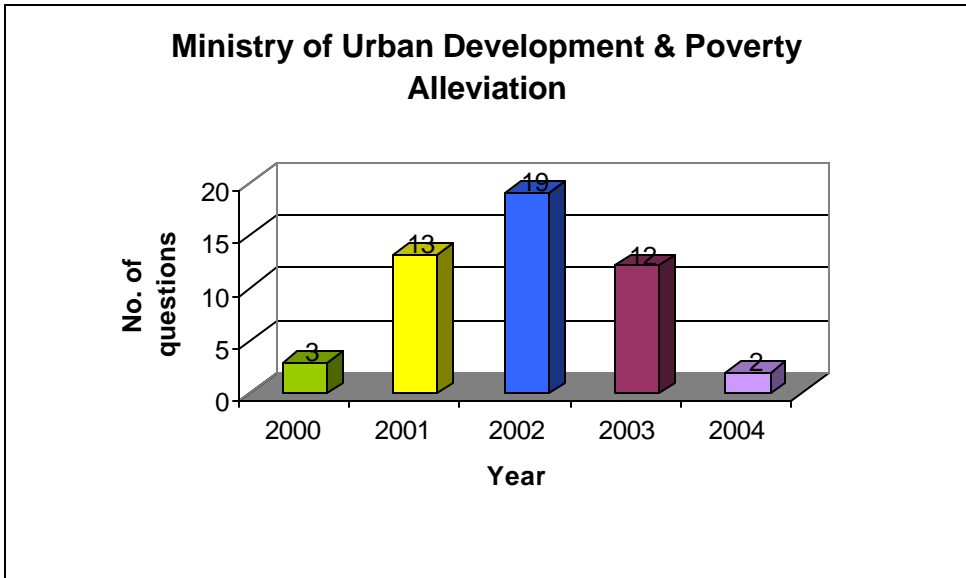
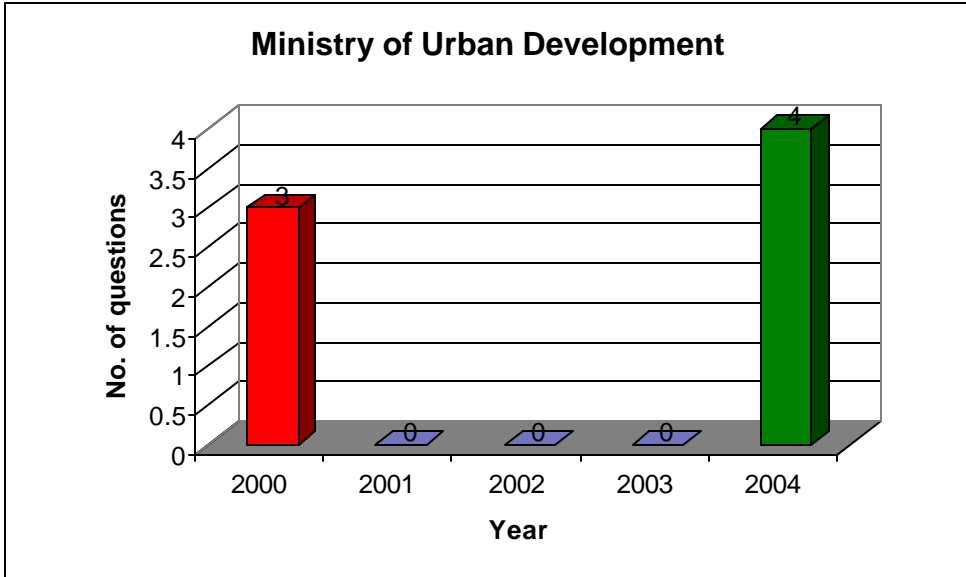
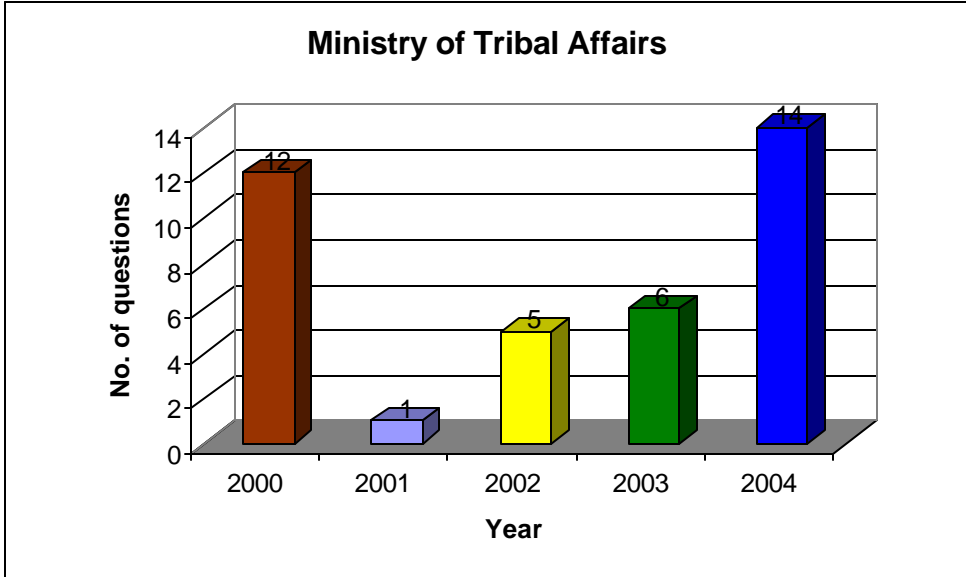


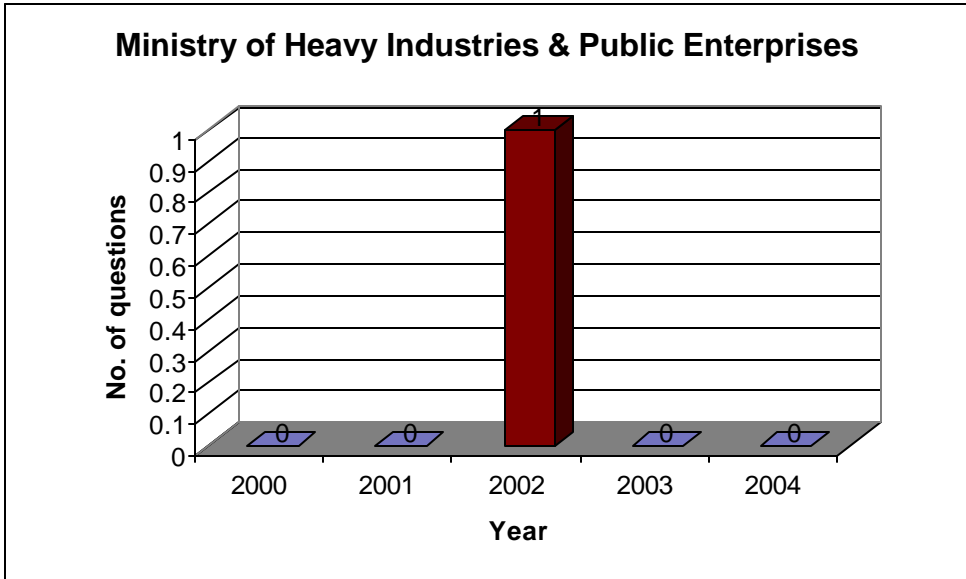
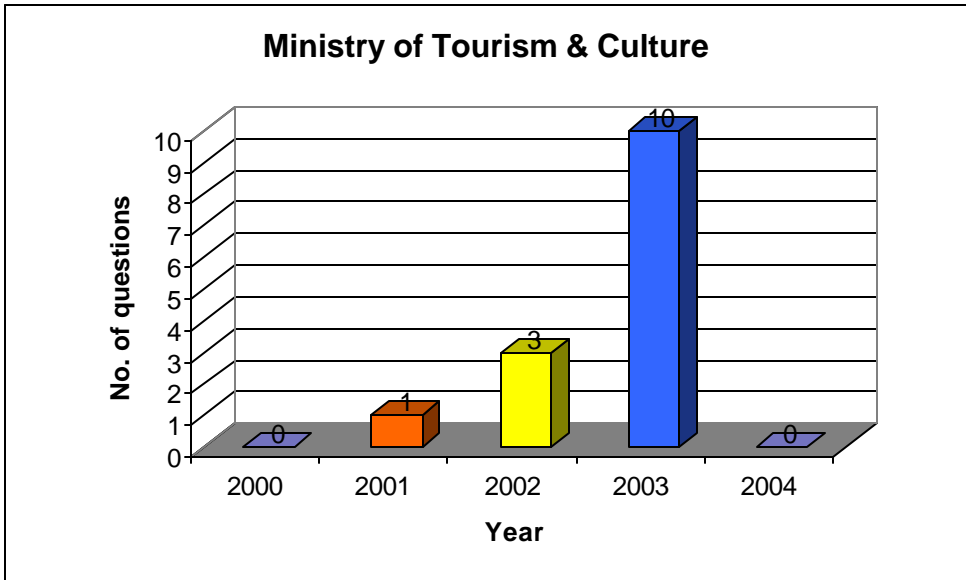
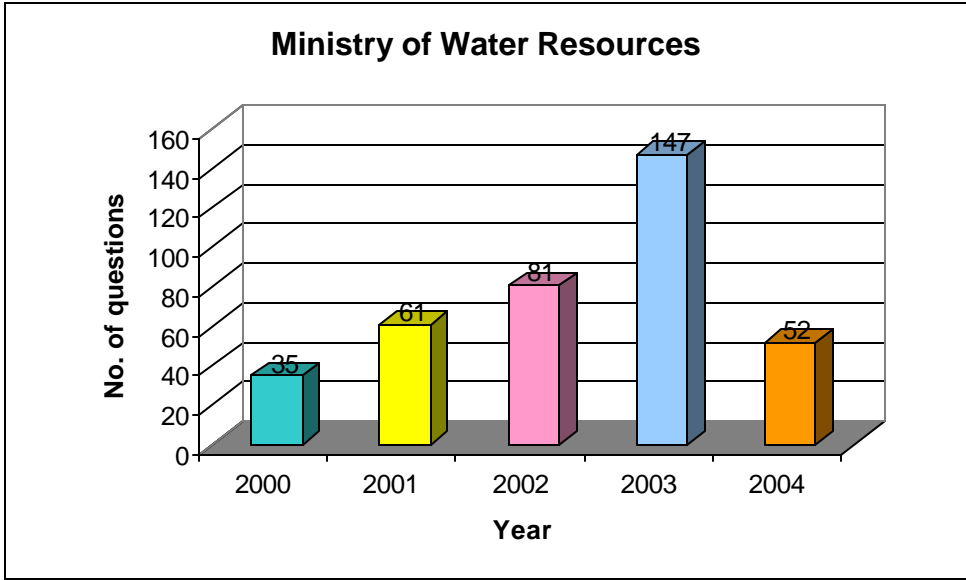


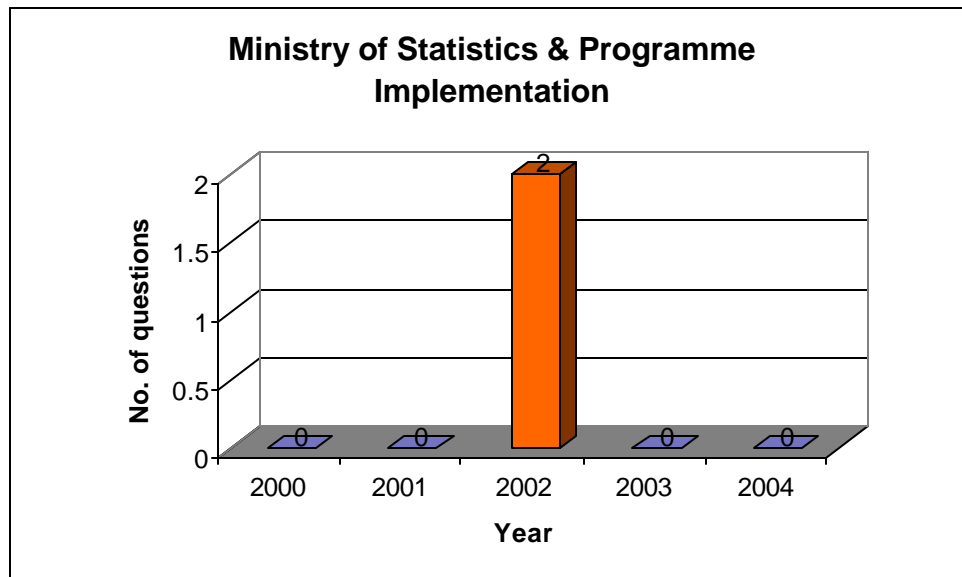
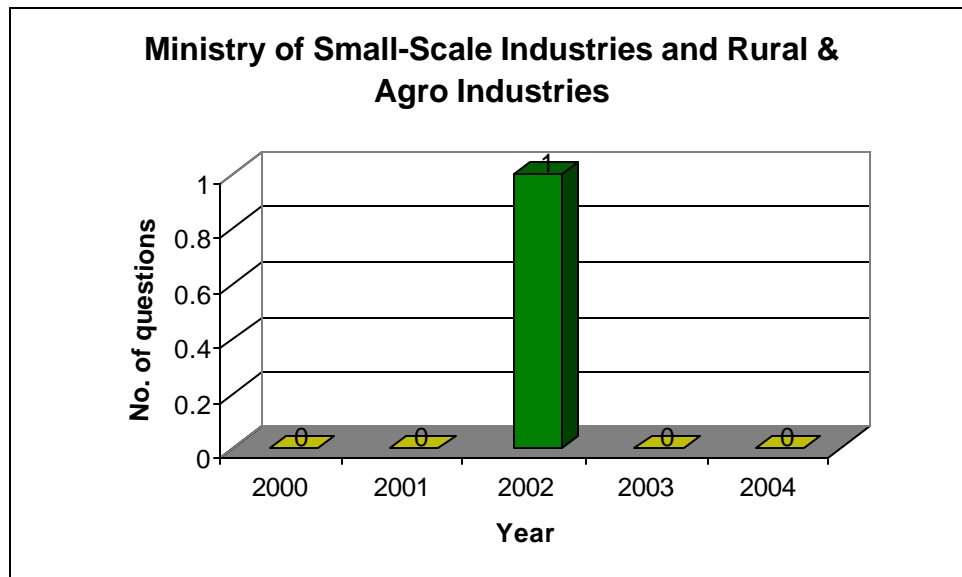
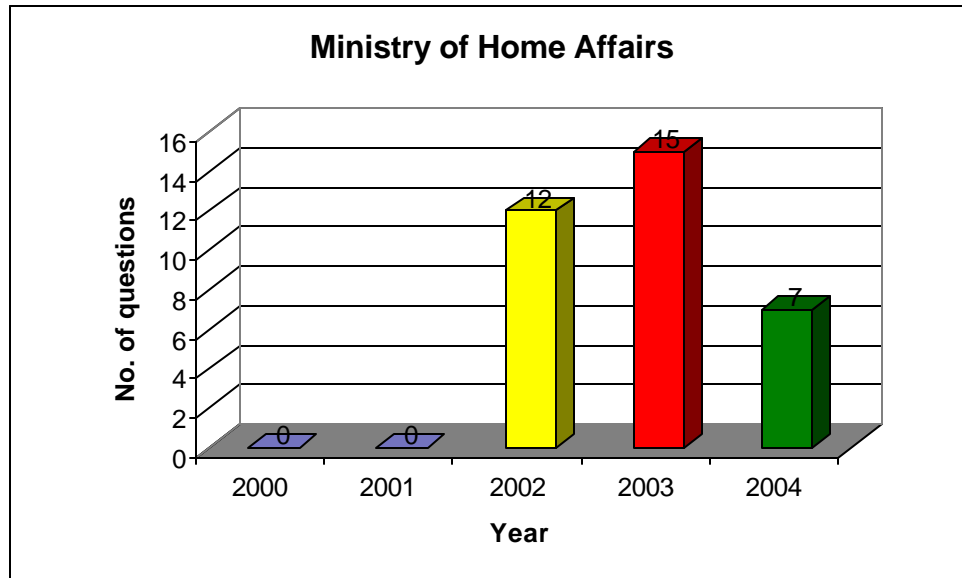


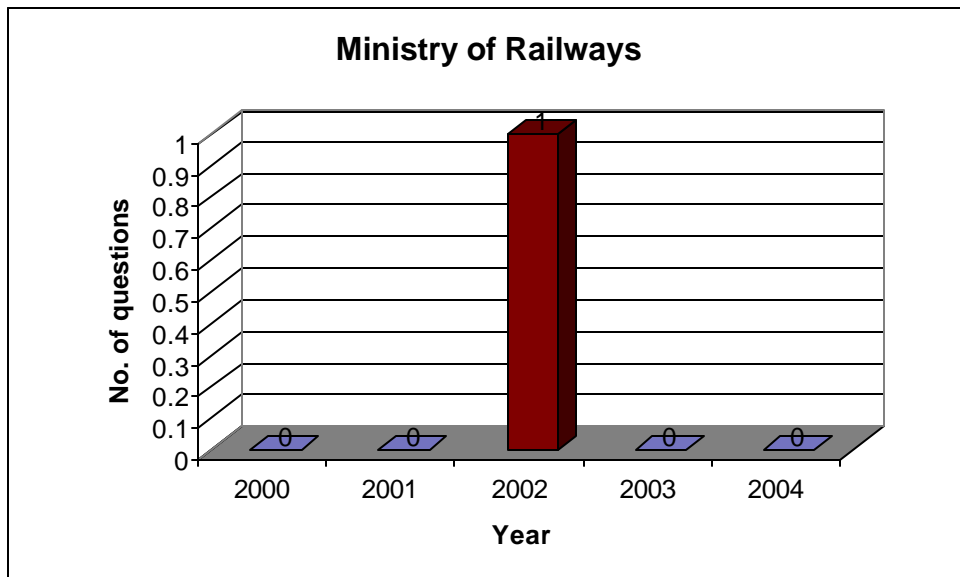
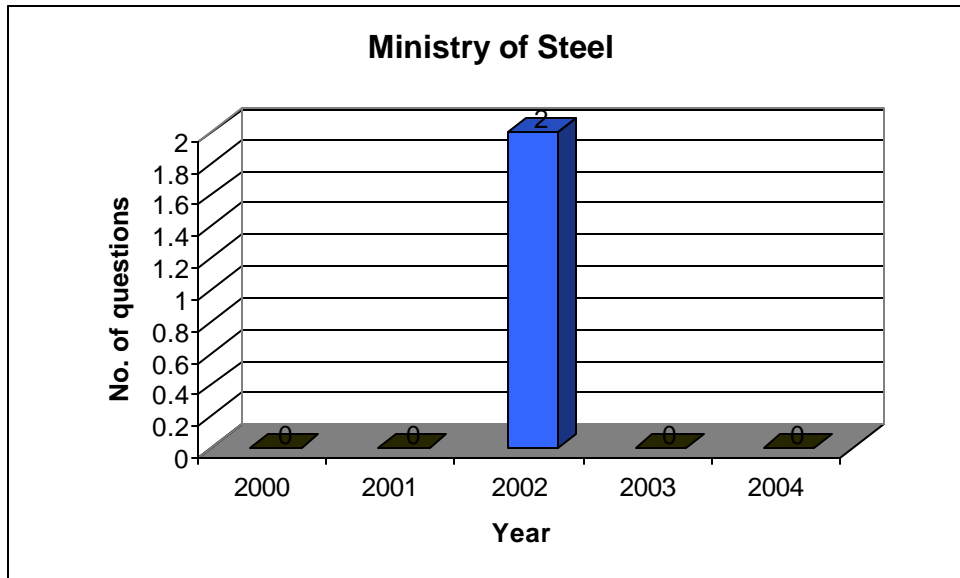


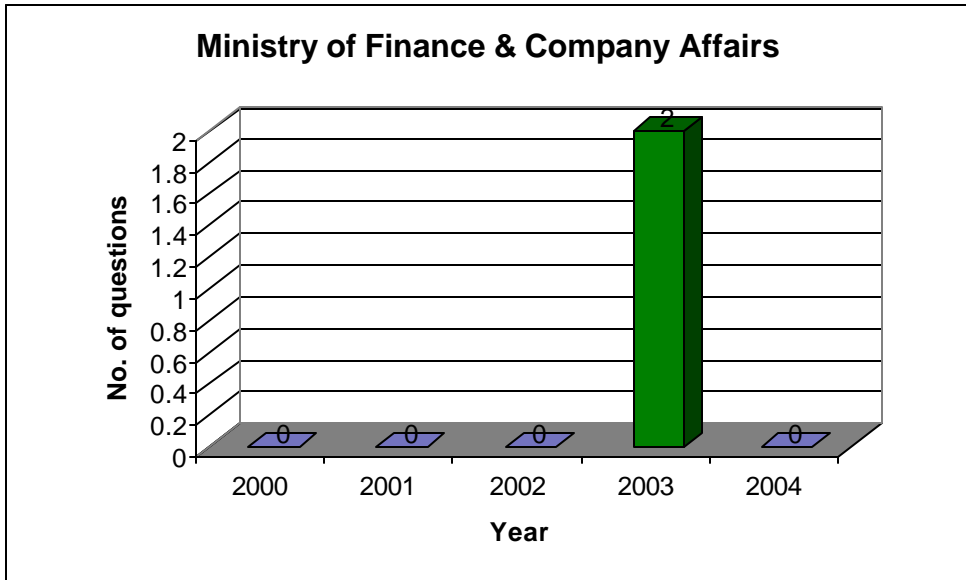
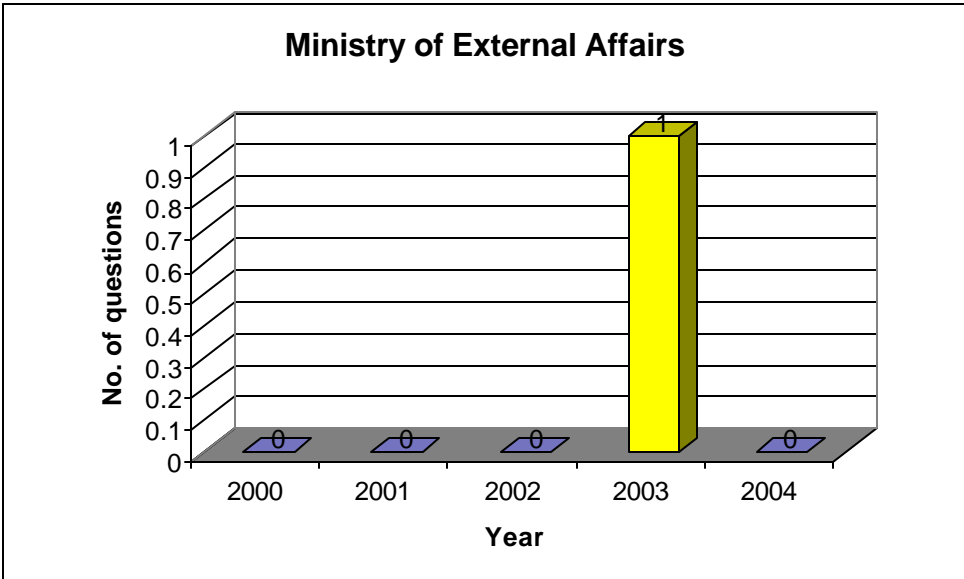
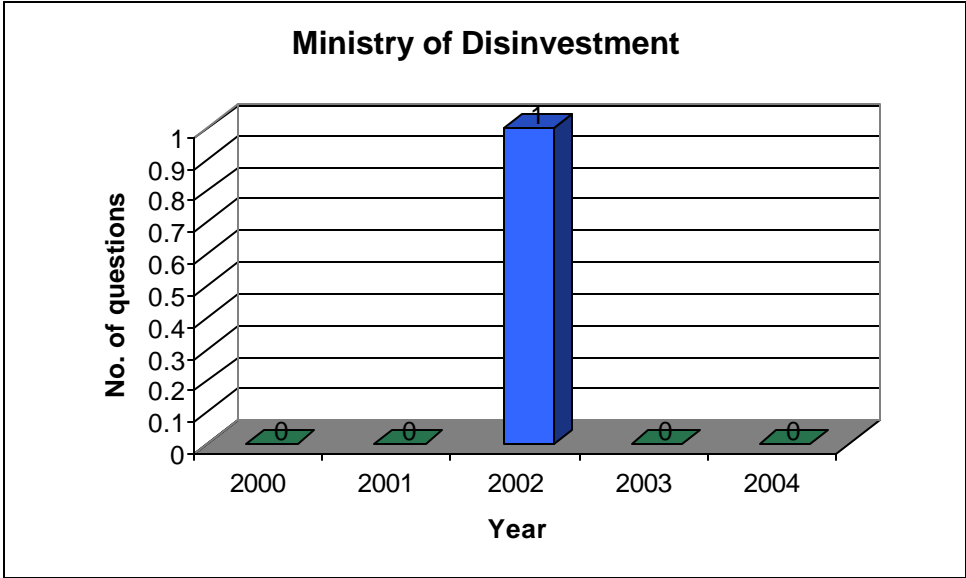


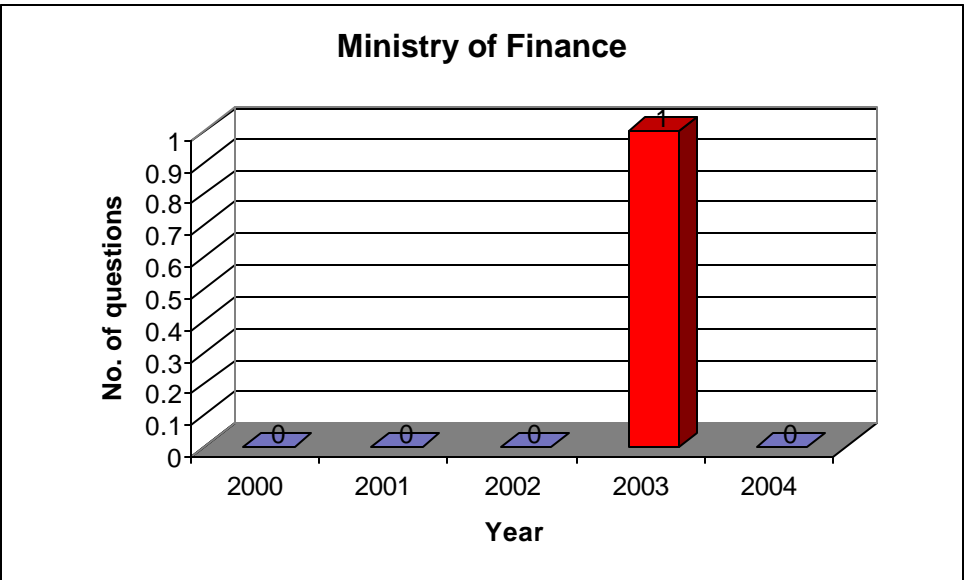
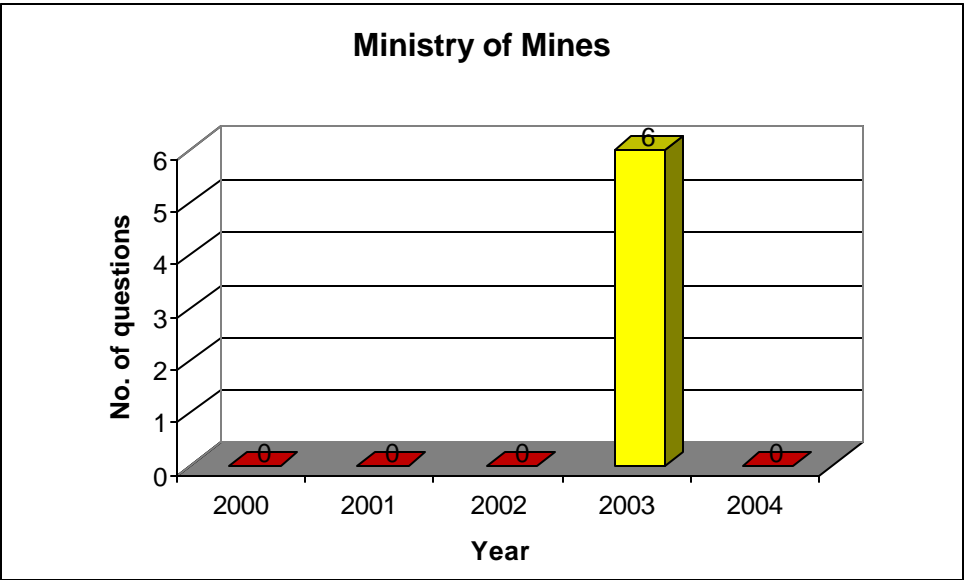
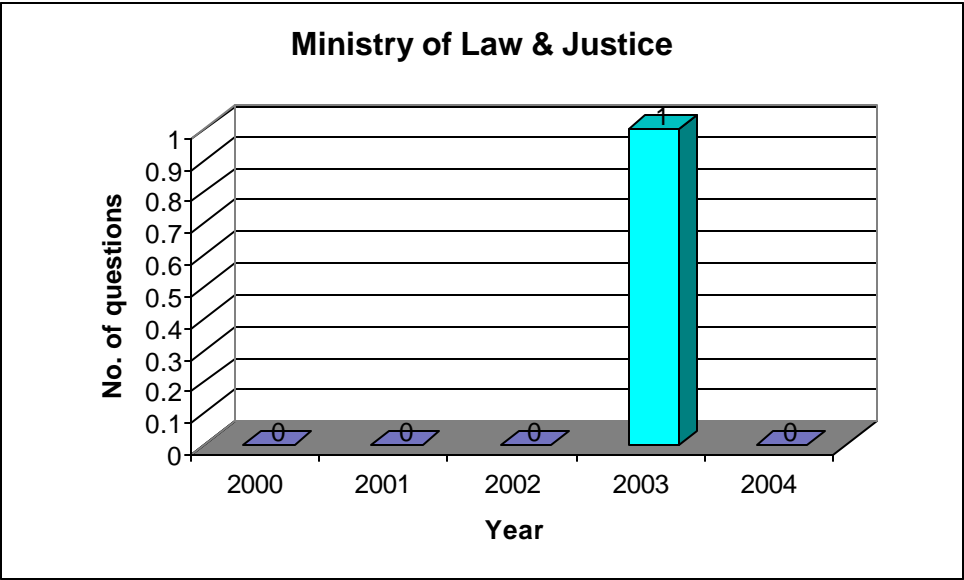


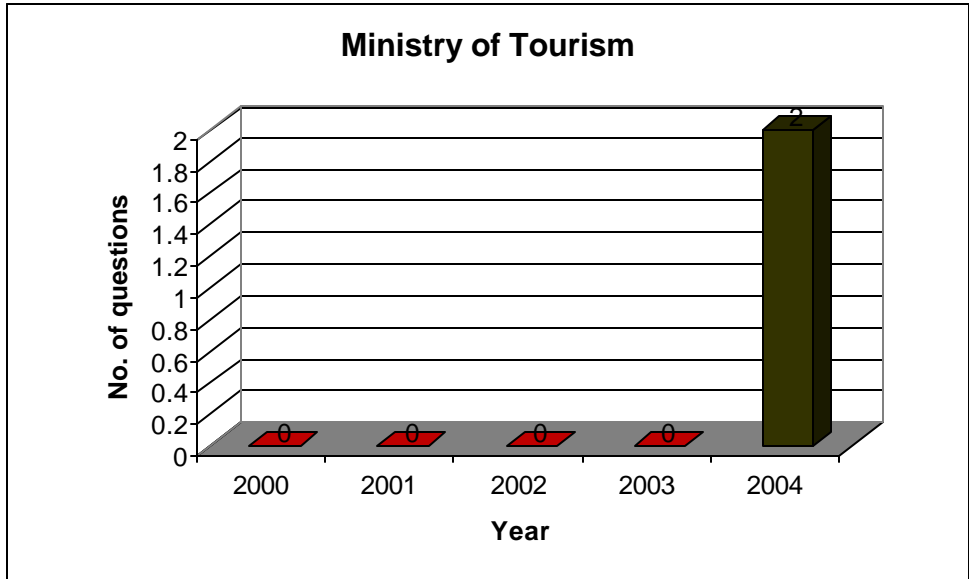
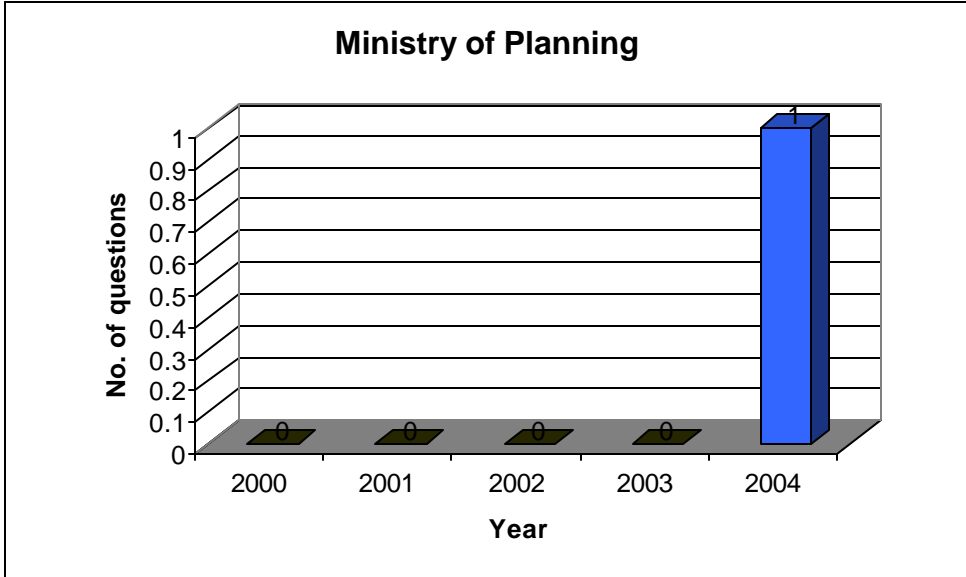






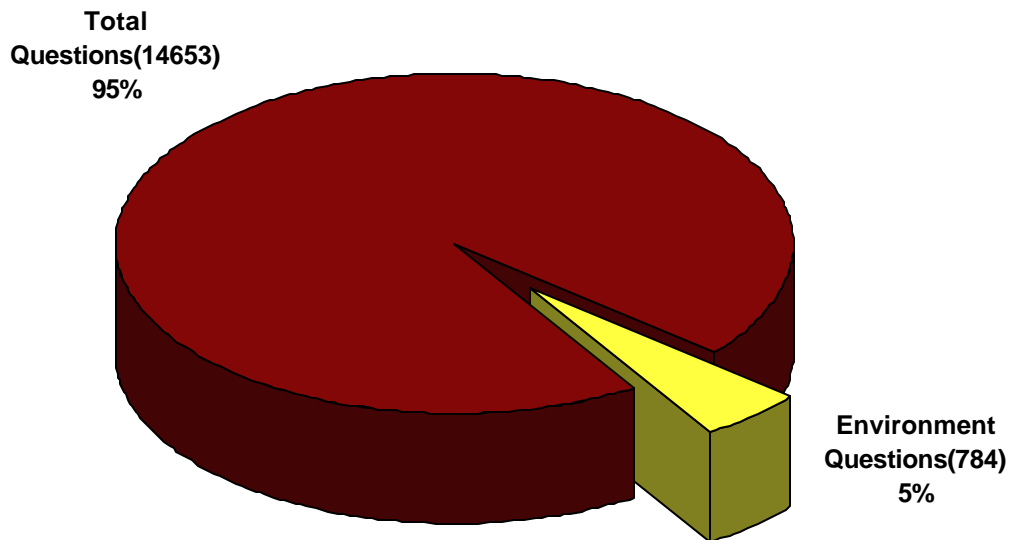




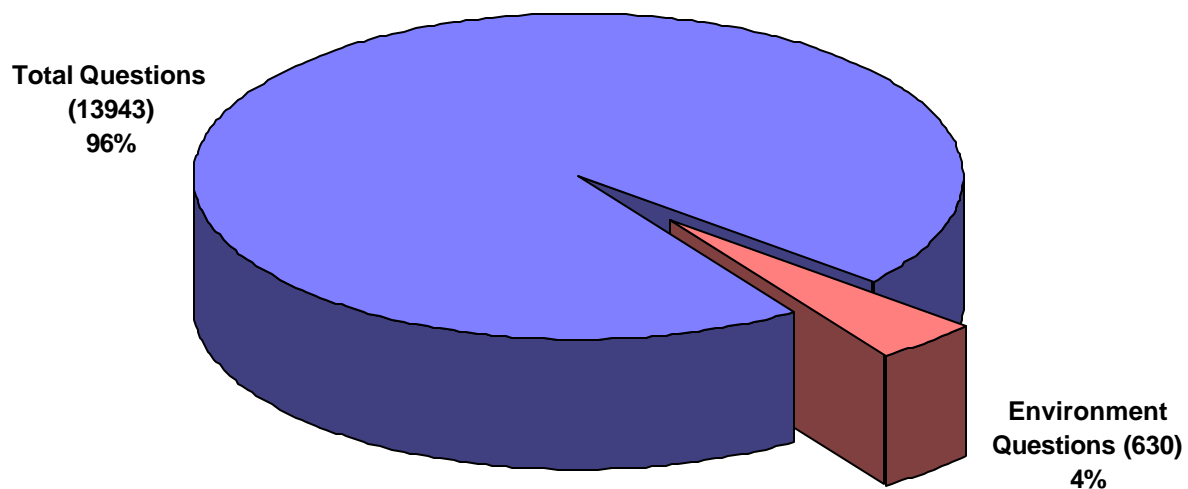


Year-wise Percentage of Environment-related questions out of the Total no. of Questions addressed in the Parliament: Lok Sabha 2000-2004

2000

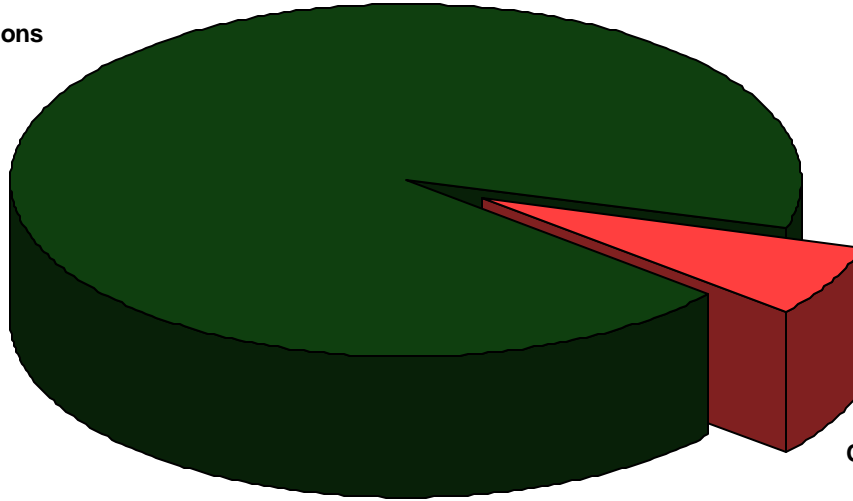


2001



2002

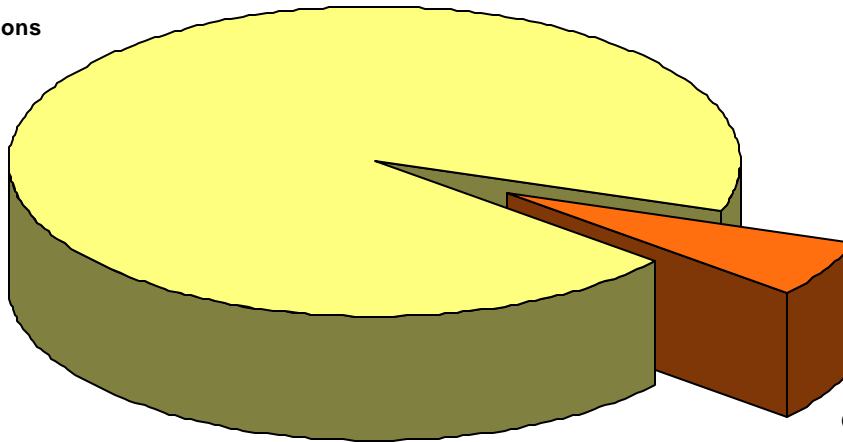
Total Questions
(13224)
93%



Environment
Questions (941)
7%

2003

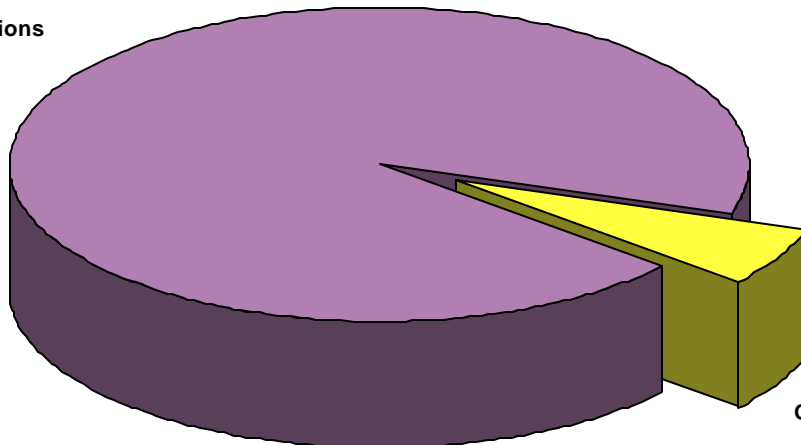
Total Questions
(12353)
94%



Environment
Questions (765)
6%

2004

Total Questions
(5859)
94%



Environment
Questions (374)
6%

Annexures

Subject-wise Statistical Trends of Rajya Sabha 2000-2004

S. No.	Subject	Year																			
		2000				2001				2002				2003				2004			
		BS	MS	WS	T	BS	MS	WS	T	BS	MS	WS	T	BS	MS	WS	T	BS	MS	WS	T
1	Agriculture	8	1	3	12	1	6	8	15	14	4	8	26	15	7	9	31	-	2	18	20
2	Animal Rights	5	9	14	28	10	8	1	19	7	15	2	24	5	1	2	8	-	3	2	5
3	Alternative Technologies	25	22	14	61	9	25	14	48	31	11	26	68	5	30	17	52	-	33	20	53
4	Biosafety	0	12	3	14	3	9	18	30	15	9	5	29	7	6	5	18	-	4	4	8
5	Environment Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8	1	1	10	0	1	4	5	-	2	0	2
6	Climate Change	4	1	0	5	2	0	0	2	4	2	4	10	3	0	2	5	-	3	1	4
7	Conservation	53	25	16	92	23	30	18	71	34	25	19	78	16	26	16	58	-	6	13	19
8	Disaster	34	22	15	71	27	8	28	63	12	8	33	53	32	13	10	55	-	28	12	40
9	Forestry	15	37	22	74	29	12	9	50	36	30	18	84	21	18	12	51	-	8	18	26
10	Ecology	11	9	11	31	11	8	14	33	21	8	9	38	13	7	6	26	-	6	7	13
11	EIA	10	9	3	22	10	12	1	23	8	8	11	27	5	5	5	15	-	7	6	13
12	Environmental Law	16	3	8	27	8	12	10	30	27	6	8	41	11	12	23	46	-	4	8	12
13	Eco-development	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	4	0	1	2	3	-	1	0	1
14	Health	7	6	3	15	3	7	15	25	19	9	4	32	10	8	10	28	-	1	3	4
15	Medicinal Plants	6	0	1	8	5	2	2	9	1	1	6	8	4	2	2	8	-	0	2	2
16	Mining	3	1	1	5	3	5	0	8	3	1	3	7	3	1	5	9	-	0	1	1
17	NGOs	19	2	3	22	0	5	3	8	11	1	3	15	9	6	7	22	-	4	1	5
18	Pollution	40	34	18	91	32	32	14	78	44	31	24	99	49	19	16	84	-	14	12	26
19	Population	6	2	3	11	7	4	2	13	5	4	1	10	1	1	2	4	-	1	1	2
20	Rural Development	2	16	4	21	4	8	10	22	6	4	5	15	14	1	0	15	-	12	6	18
21	Socio-Economic Issues	14	2	4	19	2	3	4	9	13	5	3	21	7	5	5	17	-	5	11	16
22	Sustainable Development	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	3	2	1	0	3	-	0	0	0
23	Tribal Studies	9	1	4	14	2	5	0	7	3	4	5	12	6	5	2	13	-	11	5	16
24	Waste Management	14	2	6	21	8	6	1	15	16	9	6	31	9	9	9	27	-	2	6	8
25	Water Management	36	14	11	60	13	14	30	57	29	18	42	89	70	22	21	113	-	28	9	37
26	Wildlife	17	20	19	56	28	8	8	44	22	26	11	59	12	9	13	34	-	7	3	10
27	Miscellaneous	0	12	2	14	12	9	2	23	13	10	13	36	10	5	0	15	-	7	6	13
28	Total	318	262	204		253	238	214		403	254	272		339	221	205		-	199	175	
29	Grand Total	784				630				941				765				374			

Ministry-wise Statistical Trends of Environment-related Questions in Rajya Sabha 2000-2004

S. No.	Ministry	YEAR																			
		2000				2001				2002				2003				2004			
		BS	MS	WS	<u>T</u>	BS	MS	WS	<u>T</u>	BS	MS	WS	<u>T</u>	BS	MS	WS	<u>T</u>	BS	MS	WS	<u>T</u>
1	Agriculture	46	22	21	89	40	12	15	67	17	11	32	60	25	12	9	46	-	9	11	20
2	Atomic Energy	6	1	1	8	1	2	0	3	5	3	5	13	0	4	1	5	-	0	4	4
3	Agro and Rural Industries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
4	Chemicals and Fertilizers	4	1	1	6	1	4	1	6	4	2	0	6	2	0	0	2	-	2	1	3
5	Coal	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	-	0	2	2
6	Coal and Mines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	-	1	0	1
7	Commerce and Industry	5	0	2	7	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	0	4	-	0	2	2
8	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	7	-	0	0	0
9	Development of North-East Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	-	1	1	2
10	Environment and Forests	150	146	139	435	154	139	49	342	187	142	97	426	128	93	77	298	-	63	72	135
11	Health and Family Welfare	5	5	4	14	4	4	1	9	13	8	9	30	9	6	5	20	-	0	1	1
12	Human Resource Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	2	0	7	1	0	1	2	-	0	0	0
13	Mines and Minerals	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
14	Non-Conventional Energy Sources	22	18	11	51	8	23	15	46	21	8	20	49	39	28	14	81	-	31	13	44
15	Labour	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
16	Ocean Development	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	-	0	1	1
17	Petroleum and Natural Gas	1	0	2	3	1	1	0	2	4	1	2	7	7	2	2	11	-	1	3	4
18	Power	3	3	6	12	0	1	1	2	12	2	5	19	1	0	0	1	-	0	2	2
19	Rural Development	16	17	7	40	10	11	14	35	16	7	17	40	33	5	7	45	-	6	12	18
20	Road Transport and Highways	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	2	-	1	0	1

21	Social Justice and Empowerment	2	1	2	5	1	3	0	4	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
22	Shipping	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	4	0	1	0	1	-	0	1	1
23	Surface Transport	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
24	Science and Technology	0	4	3	7	1	3	2	6	8	4	1	13	8	0	1	9	-	7	4	11
25	Space	0	0	3	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	1	0	1
26	Tribal Affairs	2	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	1	3	5	2	2	2	6	-	10	4	14
27	Urban Development	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	2	2	4
28	Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation	20	15	10	45	4	7	2	13	4	5	10	19	8	3	1	12	-	0	2	2
29	Water Resoueces	0	0	0	0	16	20	25	61	30	11	40	81	77	37	33	147	-	39	13	52
30	Tourism and Culture	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	3	5	2	3	10	-	0	0	0
31	Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
32	Home Affairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	4	12	8	3	4	15	-	4	3	7
33	Small-Scale Industries and Rural and Agro Industries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
34	Statistics and Program Implementation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
35	Steel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
36	Railways	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
37	Textiles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
38	Disinvestment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
39	External Affairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	0	0	0
40	Finance and Company Affiars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	-	0	0	0
41	Law and Justice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	0	0	0
42	Mines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	6	-	0	0	0
43	Finance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	-	0	0	0
44	Planning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	1	0	1
45	Tourism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	2	0	2
46	Total	286	234	217	737	246	238	129	613	348	219	253	820	370	202	166	738	-	181	154	335
47	Grand Total	737				613				820				738				335			

Summary

Environment in the Indian Parliament - Rajya Sabha 2000-2004

Article 51-A (g) expects every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures. The Indian Constitution endorses the concept of sustainability in its concern for the preservation of wildlife and forests. It enjoins the State and the Citizens to be aware and consequentially protect the environment.

The Graphical & Statistical Report on Parliamentary proceedings of Rajya Sabha during 2000-04 is an attempt to bring forth the environmental issues, dealt by the authorities, in a different mode which would be easier for everyone to comprehend.

As substantial development of environment is the key to future mankind, considerable attention is being given, in the Indian Parliament, to issues pertaining to it. In continuing problems of environmental pollution like solid waste disposal, loss of forest resources, degradation of economic productivity, global warming, depletion of ozone layer and loss of biodiversity, making the common man aware of the challenges is indeed need of the hour. The rapid growth of industrial development, test of nuclear weapons, use of chemical weapons etc. is leading to gradual degradation of our environment.

It is now even more critical than ever before for all of us to have a clear understanding of environmental concerns and also to follow sustainable development practices. This initiative by the ENVIS Centre-07 of the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India on Graphical illustrations along with statistics have been meticulously provided in a comprehensive manner incorporating Year-wise, Session-wise as well as Subject-wise illustrations. The year 2002 had the highest number of environment-related questions (941) compared to 2000 and 2003 which had almost the same count between 750 and 800. A significant number of questions relating to Water Management were asked in all the years. The remarkable feature was the consistent rise in the number of questions asked, from 60 in the year 2000 to 113 in 2003. India is a large country with a considerable diversity and water is needed for all the citizens for different uses. Management of water, its supply, innovative ideas, generation of financial resources, improvement of services & accountability were the issues relating to this subject head. The declining per capita availability of water in the last two decades provides insight to the gloomy picture of our water sector. During summers, thousands of people in rural areas trek for miles in search of water. The condition of the urban populace is only relatively better. Excessive tapping of ground water being a prominent cause of this crisis came into light. Participation in Rainwater Harvesting Systems and Watershed Management were the most talked about solutions.

Pollution remained the hot topic of discussion in all the years with issues ranging from emission norms, impacts on health, rising levels in metropolitans to encouragement to eco-friendly fuels, awareness and stringency of laws. India is among the top 10 rapidly industrializing and developing countries. But, this rapid industrialization has resulted in unplanned urbanization, mounting pollution and increased levels of risk to human health and safety. Also, the need for power has led to a proliferation of thermal power projects that

cause air and water pollution by the discharge of sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and carbon monoxide. Air pollution in many Indian cities, as revealed, are way above permissible levels and major water bodies including ground water have been severely contaminated. All these various forms and sources of air, soil and water pollution indicate the precarious environmental health of the economy. The Ganga Action Plan, formulated in 1985 was also one of the critical issues. Conservation, Forestry and Alternative Technologies were the other important subjects which comprised of a lot of questions in all years from 2000 to 2004.

Apart from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Water Resources, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Rural Development and Agriculture were the other Ministries with respectable number of environment related questions.

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