

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the December 3, 2002/Agrahayana 12, 1924 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Civil Aviation; Finance and Company Affairs; Petroleum and  
Natural Gas; Tourism and Culture; Water Resources)**

**Total number of questions—20**

#### **NPAs of State Finance Corporations**

\*201. DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND  
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large  
number of State Finance Corporations are  
very sick and burdened with a large amount  
of non-performing assets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government  
proposes to rehabilitate the State Finance  
Corporations and deal with their large non-  
performing assets?

#### **Exploration of oil and natural gas in Krishna-Godawari basin**

\*202. DR. DASARI NARAYANA  
RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM  
AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of  
exploration of oil and natural gas in  
Krishna-Godawari basin in Andhra  
Pradesh by ONGC;

(b) whether any headway has been  
achieved in finding oil and gas reserves in  
the basin; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **International look to the airports at metropolitan cities**

†\*203. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will  
the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided  
to give international look to the airports at  
all the four metropolitan cities of the  
country;

(b) if so, what are the short-comings in  
these airports in comparison to the  
international standards;

(c) what is the time-limit fixed by  
Government to give an international look  
to these airports; and

(d) what is the quantum of amount  
Government are going to spend on each  
airport for this work?

#### **Interest on deposits**

†\*204. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN  
SINGH 'LALAN' :  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND  
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of  
interest on deposits in financial institutions  
in the public sector has been reduced from  
time to time during the last three years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what has been the total reduction in the rate of interest during the period from March, 1999 to October, 2002; and

(c) what were the prevalent rates of interests on deposits in financial institutions in the months of March, 1999 and October, 2002, respectively?

#### **Command Area Development Programme**

\*205. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether top irrigation officials from various States met to review the progress of the Ninth Five Year Plan and chalk out strategies to accelerate the implementation of the Command Area Development Programme (CADP);

(b) if so, what were the main points of discussions;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached; and

(d) if so, to what extent States have agreed to implement the CADP projects immediately?

#### **Stake in Sudani oil field**

\*206. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is in the midst of buying a 25 per cent stake in Sudani oil field;

(b) if so, the efforts so far made in this regard;

(c) whether diplomatic efforts have

made any headway; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Preferential allotments by companies**

\*207. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies which have made preferential allotments on private placement basis and the amount of capital so raised by them since August, 1994 to 31st March, 1999 and since 1st April 1999 to 30th June, 2002;

(b) the names of the companies which have made preferential allotments on a consideration other than cash; and

(c) the details of companies which have made preferential allotment by swapping of shares?

#### **Negotiations with Iraq for oil quota**

\*208. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to send a team to urge Iraq to raise oil quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether imports under 'food for oil' have been dropped; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Pipeline gas service**

\*209. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing demand for cooking gas all

over the country;

(b) whether Government are implementing pipeline gas service all over the country in order to avoid delay in supply of LPG; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Artificial filling up of ground water in Gujarat**

\*210. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of sharp decline/shrinking of ground water table in most of the districts in Gujarat specially North Gujarat and Kutch-Saurashtra Region;

(b) if so, whether Government have launched any comprehensive plan to fill the ground water artificially to avoid severe water crisis in drought prone districts of Gujarat;

(c) if so, the funds earmarked for the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) the funds allocated to Gujarat during the last three years and likely to be released during the current financial year?

#### **Recommendations of Ashim Dasgupta Committee**

\*211. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high powered Committee set up by Government under the Chairmanship of Ashim Dasgupta, Finance Minister of West Bengal has listed four core problems being faced by the States as a result of Central politics;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government on each of its recommendations?

#### **Geethakrishnan Committee Report**

\*212. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the major recommendations of the Geethakrishnan Committee Report;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Committee had recommended for abolition of 42,000 posts in Government;

(c) if so, the number of posts abolished during the last three years, category-wise, department-wise and year-wise;

(d) the number of posts created/tenure extended during the same period, category-wise, department-wise and year-wise; and

(e) whether it is a fact that only lower category posts are targeted for abolition?

#### **Banks in rural areas**

†\*213. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
'LALAN':

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total number of Public Sector Banks in the rural areas of the country has declined from 35,389 in 1993 to 32,394 in 2002;

(b) if not, the facts thereof; and

(c) the estimated decline in the number of branches of these banks during the above period, State-wise?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Threat to aircrafts by hoax calls**

\*214. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:  
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of hoax calls posing threat to aircrafts has increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of hoax calls received during this year; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

**LPG as auto fuel**

†\*215. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) is an eco-friendly fuel for auto vehicles;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to encourage the use of LPG as a fuel for auto vehicles;

(c) whether Government propose to maintain a suitable difference between the price of petrol and LPG so that people are encouraged to use LPG instead of petrol; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Waiver of loans of small farmers**

†\*216. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to waive loans of small farmers in different States confronted with

natural calamities regularly; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the loan waiver?

**Linking of Mahanadi with southern rivers**

\*217. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Peninsular Grid linking Orissa's Mahanadi with major southern rivers was found technically feasible in a study by National Water Development Agency;

(b) whether this project if implemented, could go a long way in solving water scarcity problems of States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether this would save water of Mahanadi going waste and flowing into the sea; and

(d) whether Government propose to take up this project, if so, by when?

**Vanishing companies**

\*218. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many new companies vanish from the market after their public issues;

(b) what steps are being taken to monitor such companies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many investors are finding it difficult to trade/dispose off their shares; and

(d) the number of such companies which have not listed their shares in exchanges?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Task Force on small aircraft**

\*219. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force appointed to monitor the implementation of the Report of the Committee constituted to review the systems and procedures for acquisition, maintenance and operation of small aircraft in the context of Air-crash of September, 30, 2001, near Kanpur, has submitted its action taken report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent any further accidents of this nature,

involving misjudgement or mistake of the pilots?

**Merger of IDBI**

\*220. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to merge IDBI with some other banks or convert it into a universal bank; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;  
The 27th November, 2002  
Agrahayana 6, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
Secretary-General.

**I N D E X**  
**(Ministry-wise)**

<b>Civil Aviation</b>	: 203, 214, 219,
<b>Finance and Company Affairs</b>	: 201, 204, 207, 211, 212, 213, 216, 218, 220,
<b>Petroleum and Natural Gas</b>	: 202, 206, 208, 209, 215,
<b>Tourism and Culture</b>	: —
<b>Water Resources</b>	: 205, 210, 217.