

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the March 4, 2003/Phalguna 13, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—20

Loans for self-employment schemes by banks

*181. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent Conference of the State Ministers of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Public Works, it was highlighted that the Nationalised Banks were sitting tight on loan applications for self-employment schemes in rural areas and this was hampering the rural development;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in order to expedite the release of bank loans for self-employment projects in the rural sector?

Amount received through Hawala Channel

*182. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have estimated the amount received through

Hawala Channel in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to bring about changes in the Foreign Contributions Regulations Act, to monitor and control such receipts; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

Psychological tests to Air Traffic Controllers

*183. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Traffic Controllers undergo any psychological tests;

(b) if so, the key areas they are tested in;

(c) if not, whether there is any need for the Air Traffic Controllers to undergo psychological tests since they face pressure situations daily;

(d) whether it is a fact that many a times Air Traffic Controllers have to take risk in regard to their jobs to avoid major mishaps; and

(e) whether Air Traffic Controllers undergo some training overseas to learn new and advanced techniques for Air Traffic handling?

Tunnel connecting the Red fort to the Dilli Chalo Park

*184. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to open 200 year old tunnel connecting the Red Fort to the Dilli Chalo Park and the Ring Road behind the Fort;

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

(c) whether Government have identified such tunnels used by the ancient monarchs in other States;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Full convertibility of rupee

†*185. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether Government have taken any steps aimed at eventually making the rupee fully convertible and ease controls on investment abroad by mutual funds and individuals; and

(b) if so, broad features thereof?

Tax amnesty scheme for raising funds for infrastructure sector

*186. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a new tax amnesty scheme to raise long term funds in the infrastructure sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Involvement of NGOs in rain water harnessing in Karnataka

*187. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought the involvement of Non-Government and Voluntary Organisations for harnessing rain water;

(b) if so, the number of Non-Government and voluntary organisations proposed to be involved for the purpose;

(c) whether there is any provision in the Central scheme for recharge of ground water for the involvement of NG and voluntary organisations; and

(d) if so, whether Government have given permission to Karnataka Government to involve them in harnessing rain water?

Loss due to sharing of Ravi waters to Pakistan

†*188. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Water of Ravi river has been flowing incessantly to Pakistan even after 50 years of Independence;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the book "Troubled water of Punjab" by Vijai Pal Singh in which it has been explained about the rivers of Punjab and highlighted as to how India is losing to Pakistan on sharing river water; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Increase in deposits of scheduled commercial banks

*189. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deposits of scheduled commercial banks have increased in the recent past despite low interest rate given to depositors;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the rate of interest for depositors in near future; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

New tourist centres in Maharashtra

†*190. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for development of tourist centres in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of the new tourist centres proposed to be developed;

(c) whether any decision has been taken to promote such schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Development of Trivandrum International Airport

*191. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land acquisition process for the development of Trivandrum International Airport has been completed;

(b) if so, by when the development/ construction activities of new terminal would be completed;

(c) whether any foreign airlines have offered to conduct new services from Trivandrum International Airport;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have taken any decision in the matter so far; and

(e) what is the present status of the proposal of starting Cannoor Airport in Kerala?

Installation of statue of Laxmibai

†*192. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ancestral house of Jhansi Ki Rani, Laxmibai in Tulsi Ghat at her birth place, Banaras is in a dilapidated condition; if so, the difficulty in developing it and installing a statue of Laxmibai; and

(b) the reasons for not declaring it as protected area?

Security system at Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad

*193. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad lacks an integrated modern security system;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the close circuit television covers only a part of the Museum; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to ensure better security of the Museum?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Outstanding loan of state Governments

*194. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) the Central loan outstanding against State Governments as on 31st March, 2000, 2001 and 2002 respectively, State-wise;

(b) the amount loan written off, State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to write off the entire loan in case of Rajasthan because of unprecedented drought conditions there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Tax demand raised by tax authorities

*195. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of tax demand raised by the tax authorities during each of the last four years, year-wise for individuals and companies;

(b) how much of the said tax has been paid and how much remains un-paid, year-wise; and

(c) the status of recovery, year-wise?

Arrangements for Haj pilgrims

*196. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are making special arrangements for Haj pilgrims every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the difference of airfare per pilgrim for the last three years and the details of agency who is operating such flights; and

(d) whether Government are providing any financial help to Haj pilgrims, if so, the details thereof?

FDI inflow

*197. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether India failed to fully capitalise on growth engines such as FDI and privatisation when compared to countries like China, Poland and Brazil;

(b) if so, whether while other nations have attracted FDI inflows varying from 3 to 6 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product, India's FDI stands at 0.5 per cent only;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to attract more FDI?

Petroleum Regulatory Board

*198. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to set up a Petroleum Regulatory Board to ensure a level playing field for the various players in the oil sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of its implementation?

**Impact of border tension on
tourism**

*199. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tourism has been badly affected due to border tension between India and Pakistan and violence in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what had been the impact thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to encourage foreign tourist?

Reliance debenture deal with UTI

†*200. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

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

(a) whether SEBI has recommended Government to order a CBI probe into Reliance's debenture deal with UTI in the early 1990s;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that Reliance's debenture deal with UTI in early 1990s have caused losses to Government worth several crores; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 25th, February, 2003
Phalgun 6, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	:	183, 191, 196,
Finance and Company Affairs	:	181, 182, 185, 186, 189, 194, 195, 197, 200,
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	198,
Tourism and Culture	:	184, 190, 192, 193, 199,
Water Resources	:	187, 188.