

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the May 6, 2003/Vaisakha 16, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—20

#### Fall in economic growth

\*621. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the economic growth is gradually falling in each quarter;

(b) if so, the percentage of fall in the growth;

(c) what are the main reasons for this slippage; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the economic growth?

#### Amendment to Transfer Pricing Regulation

\*622. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the industry is demanding amendments to the Transfer Pricing Regulation Legislation;

(b) if so, the details of demands being made by the industry apart from transfer pricing fine;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has issued any guidelines under the Transfer Pricing Regulation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### Losses due to implementation of VAT

\*623. SHRI GAYA SINGH:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revenue losses suffered by States following the implementation of Value Added Tax (VAT) would be compensated by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the losses estimated to be incurred by each State/UT and the amount compensated by the Central Government?

#### Income tax paid by cricketers

\*624. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH  
LIBRA:  
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indian cricketers are getting huge amounts not only by ways of remuneration for playing but also through advertisement and through other ways; and

(b) if so, the details of Income Tax paid and due from each cricketer who represented India during the last three years, year-wise?

#### Special facilities to former Ministers

\*625. DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to grant any special facilities to former Ministers of Civil Aviation for travel by IA and Air India planes; and

(b) if so, what are the special facilities and the reasons for granting them?

#### Debt swap mechanism for States

\*626. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the debt swap announced in the Budget for 2003-2004 requires States to forego 20 per cent of their small savings;

(b) if so, what would be its impact on State finances;

(c) the amount collected by States, from small savings during the last three years State-wise; and

(d) the reduction in the rate of interest on small savings during these years?

#### Working conditions of employees of PSUs

†\*627. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether working conditions of employees working with Public Sector Undertakings will remain unchanged in private companies also in case, Public Sector Undertakings are sold to the private companies; and

(b) if not, the details of the scheme formulated by Government to provide employment to thousands of such workers rendered unemployed?

#### Comments of UNIDO on FDI

\*628. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Director General United Nations Industrial Development Organization in New Delhi made on April 1, 2003 to the effect that India could "easily" double its foreign direct investment inflow by bringing about policy changes including labour regulations;

(b) if so, what specific changes in India's policy are sought to be brought about by the UNIDO Chief; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

#### Tourist inflow

†\*629. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrival of foreign tourists has decreased as compared to that of last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government are contemplating for making special arrangements for arrival of tourists in future; and

(c) the details thereof?

#### Special provisions for small investors

\*630. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of reduction in interest rates over the years Government propose to amend the relevant rules, to make various post office schemes and the PPF less stringent and attractive for the small investors and also by making special provisions in these rules for Senior Citizens with additional benefits; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(b) if so, by when this work is likely to be taken up and completed?

**Instructions to LIC to pay up  
S. Kumar's dues**

\*631. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the L.I.C. to pay up S. Kumar's dues, to make it eligible for the Power Finance Corporation's credit enhancement guarantee for Shree Maheshwar Hydro Power Project in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the specific reasons for which L.I.C. has been instructed to subscribe to the tune of Rs. 100 crores?

**Production cost of LPG**

†\*632. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether production cost of LPG has been assessed by Government;

(b) if so, what was the average production cost during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and

(c) the percentage of taxes, cess and surcharge of the Central and State Governments levied on LPG during the aforesaid years?

**NPA of NBFCs**

\*633. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has recently asked the Non-Banking Financial Companies to furnish information regarding Non Performing Assets in their balance sheets;

(b) if so, the position of Non Performing Assets of NBFCs as on 31st March, 2003;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure Non Performing Assets of NBFCs are cleared within a stipulated period of time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Helicopter service to Kedarnath  
Dham**

†\*634. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for introducing helicopter service to Kedarnath Dham;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

**World Bank loan for river linking**

†\*635. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether loan is being taken by Government from the World Bank for linking the river;

(b) if so, the amount of loan and whether Government have formulated any water policy for getting the loan;

(c) if so, the details of the policy;

(d) the present availability of water in the country;

(e) whether Government are going to sell our rivers owing to external pressures;

(f) if so, the details of the same; and

(g) if not, the reaction of Government to the news item published in the Rashtriya Sahara on 16th March?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### Projected loss of IA

\*636. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite cut in Aviation Turbine Fuel costs, Indian Airlines is likely to incur a loss for the year 2002-2003;

(b) whether IA propose to pull out from non-trunk routes to save more than Rs. 200 crores;

(c) whether IA has sold off its real estate holdings in Delhi and Chennai in an attempt to balance the books; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### Production of Coal Bed Methane

\*637. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:  
DR. A.K. PATEL:

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

(a) which region produces Coal Bed Methane in our country;

(b) how much of Coal Bed Methane is produced in the above region;

(c) whether there is any policy of Government on CBM; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to increase the production of CBM?

### Development of Durga Hatkoti Temple in H.P.

\*638. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be sanctioned by Government to Himachal

Pradesh for encouraging tourism during the year 2003-2004;

(b) whether Government have any scheme to make the Durga Hatkoti Temple, which is important from the tourism point of view and where lakhs of devotees come for 'Darshan', more attractive; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by Government for the convenience of the tourists?

### Licence to photographers at Taj Mahal

\*639. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the procedure for issuing licences to photographers at Taj Mahal has recently been streamlined and liberalised following allegations of favouritism and malpractices; and

(b) if so, the present guidelines in this regard with details of allegations?

### New schemes to boost tourism industry

\*640. SHRI B.J. PANDA:  
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an increase in tourists during 2002 as compared to 2001;

(b) if so, whether it is because of visa-on-arrival scheme and service tax exemptions on hotels and tour-operator charges; and

(c) whether Government have any plans or schemes to boost tourism in the country?

NEW DELHI,  
The 30th April, 2003  
Vaisakha 10, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
Secretary-General.

## **I N D E X**

(Ministry-wise)

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Civil Aviation</b>            | : 625, 634, 636,                                       |
| <b>Finance</b>                   | : 621, 622, 623, 624, 626, 627, 628, 630, 631,<br>633, |
| <b>Petroleum and Natural Gas</b> | : 632, 637,  |
| <b>Tourism and Culture</b>       | : 629, 638, 639, 640,                                  |
| <b>Water Resources</b>           | : 635.   |