

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the July 6, 2004/Asadha 15, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

FDI in civil aviation sector

*21. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether he recently met the
Minister of Commerce to discuss broad
contours of allowing foreign direct
investment in civil aviation sector and chart
out a road map for putting in place a civil
aviation policy which would send the right
message to investors;

(b) whether Government are also keen
to bring out greater transparency in the
Rs. 20,000 crores worth aircraft fleet
acquisition plan of Air India and Indian
Airlines; and

(c) if so, to what extent Government
are providing help and assistance to
improve Air India and Indian Airlines?

Recommendations of Naresh Chandra Committee

*22. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will
the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Naresh Chandra

Committee, set up to formulate a road map
for development of civil aviation in the
country, recommended more FDI, flights
and a regulator, apart from other things;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the
Committee recommended to allow the entry
of foreign airlines in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have studied
the Report submitted by the Committee;
and

(e) if so, the decision taken by
Government on the recommendations?

Interest rate on fresh loan to States

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided
to ease the fiscal stress of States by planning
a 50-100 basis point cut in the interest
charged on fresh loans to States;

(b) if so, whether reduction in interest
rate on plan loans has provided some relief
in easing their debt burden;

(c) if so, what is the total reduction of interest rate on fresh loans in 2004-05;

(d) to what extent this reduction of interest rate has provided relief to States; and

(e) which States have been benefited?

Development of national and international airports

*24. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing projects for development of various airports, both national and international, in the country; and

(b) the details of target set for commissioning the aforesaid airports?

Nationalisation of rural banks

*25. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural bank employees have asked the Central Government to nationalize rural banks with a view to effectively increasing rural credit in villages and to save farmers from the debt trap;

(b) whether rural banks were promoted with an aim to support small and marginal farmers and artisans in villages and were made to extend credit to affluent customers under the supervision of commercial banks;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered their suggestions; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to improve rural banking in the country?

Safeguards in foreign exchange market

*26. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the RBI had to sell a small chunk of foreign exchange reserves in June, 2004 to stabilize the foreign exchange market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that foreign institutional investors are speculating in the Indian foreign exchange market;

(c) what safeguards RBI is taking to ensure that there is reasonable stability in the value of Indian rupee in foreign exchange market; and

(d) the details of the guidelines to be evolved to ensure stability in the foreign exchange market?

Inter-linking of rivers

*27. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Action Plan-II of the inter-linking of rivers recommended imposition of water charges, levy of cess and duties on some of the goods of mass consumption, raising agricultural *mandi* tax etc.;

(b) if so, the other important details of Action Plan-II;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to the preliminary estimates, an investment of Rs. 46,000 crores is needed for inter-linking of 30 rivers and construction of 32 dams in the country; and

(d) if so, in what manner Government are thinking of mobilising resources for this megaproject?

Floods in Bihar

†*28. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that rivers such as Kosi, Kamla, Gandak which are flowing from Nepal into Bihar cause heavy floods in the State and the State has to suffer severe loss of life and property and has to bear additional burden of crores of rupees;

(b) the latest position of the talks with Nepal to setup dams on those rivers and other measures;

(c) the measures being taken by Government to save the State from severe floods by controlling the said rivers; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take in this regard?

Taxation on interest on NRI deposits

*29. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Internal Group constituted by RBI, recommended that interest income from NRI deposits be taxed like domestic deposits looking at the danger of excessive short-term debt in the fast changing global scenario;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the Group; and

(c) what are the other major recommendations made by the Group?

Price hike by oil companies

†*30. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

have recently allowed the oil companies to increase the prices of petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether Government had given consideration to the proposals to avoid the price hike before giving permission for such increase; and

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

Assistance for irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh

*31. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

SHRIRAVULA CHANDRA SEKARREDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of pending irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to give special assistance to Andhra Pradesh to complete pending irrigation projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken to raise the budgetary amount under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme to complete the long pending irrigation projects?

Fluctuation in Sensex

*32. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the high fluctuation in Sensex after the results of recent Lok Sabha election was manipulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by SEBI to prevent the same in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Debt relief package

*33. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent announcement by Government of debt relief package to the farmers will help the distressed farming community;

(b) whether Government are strengthening rural credit banks to implement the debt relief package to the farmers; and

(c) if so, how will it be implemented?

Agreement with China for exchange of hydrological data

†*34. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 274 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd July, 2003 and state the progress made with regard to exchange of hydrological data of rivers originating from China?

Completion of infrastructure projects

*35. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to improve the spending on infrastructure projects like National Highways Development Programme, railway privatisation, port development through the proposed Rs. 1 lakh crore Sagar Mala Project and metro projects;

(b) if so, what improvements have so far been made in spending on infrastructure;

(c) to what extent these projects are being implemented; and

(d) what is the latest progress and by when these are likely to be completed?

Upgradation of Kolkata and Chennai Airports

*36. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the Kolkata and Chennai Airports to new international airports;

(b) the other steps proposed to provide best travel facilities to visitors coming to India; and

(c) in what manner the resources are to be mobilized?

Expert Committee on water scarcity

*37. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been predicted by Safety Health Environment Expert Committee of the Indian Chemical Manufacturing Association that India will face acute water scarcity by 2005;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the Expert Committee's remarks;

(c) whether per capita availability of fresh water has dropped from 5000 cubic metres per year in 1947 to below 2000 cubic metres in 1997 and is expected to drop further to below 1500 cubic metres in the next few years;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation; and

(e) whether inter-linking of rivers is the only solution to meet water shortage in future?

Regulator for Civil Aviation Sector

*38. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a regulator is necessary for Civil Aviation Sector;

(b) if so, what plans Government are having for setting up a full-fledged regulator for this sector;

(c) whether Naresh Chandra Committee has also recommended for setting up of a regulator;

(d) whether Government would think of including this aspect in the proposed Civil Aviation Policy;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Performance of nationalised banks

*39. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalised banks have improved their performance in comparison to foreign banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the comparative figures in terms of profit and loss; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the functioning and profitability of these nationalised banks?

Merger of banks

*40. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge all the nationalized banks into seven large entities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study group has recommended this step;

(d) by when banks will undergo such a merger; and

(e) what are the advantages of such a merger?

NEW DELHI;
The 30th June, 2004
Asadha 9, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 21, 22, 24, 36, 38,
Company Affairs	: —
Finance	: 23, 25, 26, 29, 32, 33, 35, 39, 40,
Panchayati Raj	: —
Petroleum and Natural Gas	: 30,
Tourism	: —
Water Resources	: 27, 28, 31, 34, 37.