

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 6, 2005/Agrahayana 15, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Civil Aviation; Company Affairs; Finance; Heavy Industries and
Public Enterprises; Panchayati Raj; Petroleum and Natural Gas;
Tourism; Water Resources)

Total number of questions — 20

Plans for development of tourism

*181. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that perspective plans of 20 years for developing tourism in the States have been prepared.

(b) if so, the details and the target of these plans; and

(c) the details of plans envisaged in respect of Tamil Nadu?

Competition in market place

*182. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers promoting competition a serious policy issue as envisaged in the National Common Minimum Programme and other statements made from time to time by Government; and

(b) what policy initiatives Government

have taken to ensure competition in the market place?

Support and suggestions from World Bank on water related issues

*183. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has enhanced the quantum of its loan for water-related sectors in India from \$200 million a year to \$800 million a year for four years;

(b) what are the pre-conditions set forth by the Bank for extending this loan package;

(c) whether the World Bank report on India's performance on water-related issues, mentions of poor management and predicts a turbulent future, devoid of minimum requirement of water to sustain its economy; and

(d) whether the Bank has recommended construction of mega dams in the country to enhance its water storage capacity from the 30 days of rainfall to 900 days as is done in major river basins in arid areas of developed countries?

Tax on advertisement space

*184. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued a clarification, bringing into the tax net, the advertisement space sold to advertisers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the publishers have to pay 10.2 per cent tax to Government due to this move; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for taking this step which affects the readers?

New refinery near Bina

*185. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. is contemplating a joint venture for setting up a new refinery in Bina in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the joint venture;

(c) whether a detailed design and feasibility report for the same has also been prepared, if so, the estimated cost and capacity of the projected refinery; and

(d) the progress made so far in this regard?

Bio-diesel policy

†*186. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that bio-diesel can be prepared from Ratan Jot;

(b) if so, whether it has been confirmed officially;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have not been able to decide any policy regarding bio-diesel so far; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and by when, the policy is likely to be decided?

Shutdown by LPG producing plants

*187. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

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

(a) the details of unforeseen shutdowns in LPG producing plants in public and private sector refineries during last six months, month-wise;

(b) whether a planned shutdown for 45 days was resorted to by Jamnagar Refinery from 4th October, 2005;

(c) if so, its impact on LPG shortage in the country in domestic sector; and

(d) the reason, for permitting such planned shutdown during peak demand in festive season?

Development of places to attract foreign tourists

†*188. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise increase in the number

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of foreign tourists in the country during last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware that still there are many places left where development would automatically attract the tourist and people will get jobs;

(c) whether Government have identified such places;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the concrete arrangements made by Government to avoid any untoward incident with the foreign or the Indian tourists?

Outsourcing of services by Air India

*189. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India (AI) for the first time, is going to outsource some of its services;

(b) if so, which are the areas that AI proposes to outsource;

(c) whether it is a path-breaking move since no PSU has employed outside agencies to perform their public relations role which AI is planning to do; and

(d) the reasons behind this move and whether there will be any security threat when AI outsources some of its services?

Diversification of operations of aircrafts

*190. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has warned the Airlines to diversify their operation of aircrafts and stop low-cost fare offers; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that by allowing Private airlines into the market,

consumers are the beneficiaries because of the competition?

Waiver of interest on drought affected areas

*191. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he in a meeting held on 10th February 2005 agreed to extend the waiver of interest for the last four years to continuous drought affected farmers in Andhra Pradesh as they are not able to repay the instalments of loans taken from the financial institutions due to non-availability of water in Krishna basin and due to non-availability of power;

(b) if so, whether Government would issue necessary and relevant orders immediately for the agreed waiver of interest; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Qualification of insurance surveyors

*192. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to make only Chartered Accountants and Engineers to qualify as insurance surveyors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what will happen to the existing insurance surveyors who are not engineers or Chartered Accountants?

Setting up of village resource centres in Andhra Pradesh

*193. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up village resource centres to provide better services;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when, these are likely to be set up;
- (d) whether the locations of the proposed centres have been identified; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof pertaining to the State of Andhra Pradesh?

Opening of zero amount balance accounts

†*194. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are going to initiate the process of opening the zero amount (balance) accounts in all Banks for daily wagers and people belonging to lowest income group;
- (b) if so, by when the accounts would be opened under this system;
- (c) whether Government have information about the agency monitoring these Banks, the conditions for keeping balance in the account, fees to be charged on the operation of accounts or these accounts would be free of charge;
- (d) whether Government have started providing complete information about relevant rules to the applicants before opening the accounts; and
- (e) if so, details thereof, State-wise?

Rangarajan Committee Report

†*195. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Rangarajan

Committee has been constituted by Government;

- (b) if so, the names of the members of this Committee alongwith the names of the areas these members are representing; and

- (c) the responsibilities assigned to this Committee and by when the Committee is asked to submit its Report?

Schemes for insurance of livestock/ social security

†*196. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of schemes being run by general insurance companies/foreign insurance companies for livestock, social security, poor workers/farmers and the people living below poverty line;
- (b) the norms and rules of the said schemes;
- (c) the persons being benefited by these schemes, district-wise, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) whether Government are aware that the insurance companies are not publicising these schemes?

Pendency of investment in aviation sector by PIOs

*197. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared a number of FDI proposals worth more than Rs. 400 crore during the last one year;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that proposals to invest in aviation sector including domestic airlines by the Persons of Indian Origin are pending for more than one year;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what are the reasons for inordinate delay in clearing the FDI proposals of PIOs in aviation sector; and

(d) what steps are being taken to clear these proposals in view of huge investments made by PIOs in aviation sector?

Utilization of ground water

*198. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all States were asked to re-assess the ground water resources based on latest technology and complete the resource estimation by 31st December, 2004;

(b) whether, all States have completed ground water resource estimation within the stipulated time, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to make optimum and prudential use of ground water?

National Competition Policy

*199. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several distortions in the economic management of the country, as often policies are framed without acknowledging the market process;

(b) whether Government are considering adoption of a National Competition Policy to provide a declared intent to its resolve of promoting competition; and

(c) whether Government have received any representation on this matter?

Declaration of dividends below level of earning per share

*200. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the general tendency on the part of companies including those in which Government have substantial interest, to declare dividends much below the level of earning per share, which effects the shareholders' interests;

(b) whether Government propose to make suitable changes in the company law to address this problem; and

(c) if so, by when that is likely to be done?

NEW DELHI;
The 30th November, 2005
Agrahayana 9, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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