

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 7, 2006/Phalguna 16, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

Report on improvement of banking system

*221. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the
Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received
any study report for improving the
Nationalised banking system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and indicating
the salient features thereof;

(c) whether this report has suggested
any measures for reducing interest rates of
Nationalised banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and
Government's reaction thereto?

Loans to small workers

†*222. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will
the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to
state:

(a) whether he has asked all the banks
to provide loans to ten small workers every
year at nominal rate of interest;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government

to ensure that such loans are provided by
the banks;

(c) whether Government would
introduce credit card scheme for small
workers and poor people living in rural
areas also; and

(d) if so, by when and the details
thereof?

Lending to SSI sector

*223. SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that priority
sector lending is a profitable business for
the banks in terms of returns on the credit
and interest subsidies to the Banks;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that
the credit to the priority SSI sector has not
risen with the same rate as that of the net
bank credit of the Nationalised Banks

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

despite this sector offering good business opportunity; and

(c) what steps are being taken to encourage the banks to lend to the SSI sector at a commensurate annual rate of growth in NBC?

Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries scheme

*224. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of banks which have so far joined the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries (CGTSI) scheme;

(b) whether the private and foreign banks can also join the scheme;

(c) if so, the number of private and foreign banks who have so far joined the CGTSI scheme; and

(d) what steps are being taken to encourage banks particularly the Non-Nationalised banks to join the scheme?

Shortage of trolleys at IGI Airport, Delhi

*225. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that luggage trolleys at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi are in a bad and dilapidated state;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the IGI Airport is one of the major Airports in the country and receives number of foreigners/visitors and the state of luggage trolleys reflects the country's image/dignity when a foreigner lands at Airport itself; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any measures to provide trolleys in good condition at IGI Airport?

Coordination with States to join VAT regime

*226. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six more States have expressed their willingness to switch over to the Value Added Tax (VAT) regime in the next few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the time-frame finalized, if any, therefor;

(c) the States which have not yet decided to implement the VAT regime; and

(d) the steps being taken to co-ordinate with those States to join the VAT?

Co-operation with Saudi Arabia in energy sector

*227. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the visit of the Saudi Arabia King to India they have shown interest in investing in India's energy sector and also welcomed India's investment in gas fields in Saudi Arabia; and

(b) if so, the response of Government as the country is facing severe crisis in the energy sector?

Demand for more supply of gas from ONGC and GAIL

*228. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a well-known Dairy at Mehsana are repeatedly demanding

for more supply of gas from ONGC and GAIL;

(b) whether they have made representation to the Petroleum Ministry;

(c) if so, reasons for ONGC and GAIL not heeding their request for supply of gas which is being produced in the same district, Mehsana of Gujarat; and

(d) in the recent meeting with Petroleum Ministry whether and what solution was reached between the parties?

Shortage of commanders in Alliance Air

*229. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of commanders and co-pilots in Alliance Air as on 1st March, 2005 was made up;

(b) the vacancies of commanders and co-pilots in Alliance Air as on date; and

(c) what strenuous efforts are being made to fill up the present backlog of vacancies?

Delhi as a major tourist destination for Commonwealth Games

*230. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government to showcase Delhi as a major tourist destination especially in view of the upcoming Commonwealth Games in 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Oil refinery at Paradeep (Orissa)

*231. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the establishment of oil refinery and petrochemical complex at Paradeep in Orissa has been badly delayed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to expedite the process indicating the approximate time when serious work will begin and the time by which the project will be completed?

Expert Group on usage of surplus rain water

†*232. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that inspite of all efforts 85 per cent rain water goes without being used into the sea;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have neither formulated any concrete programme for water harvesting nor managed any substantial achievement in the direction of reconstruction of local rivers, ponds and 'Johars';

(c) if not, the details of the efforts and the achievements made in this regard; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating to constitute a high level expert group in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Impact of price rise on common man

†*233. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have paid attention to the constant rise in the prices of foodgrains and other commodities alongwith its impact on the common man;
- (b) the assessment of Government in this regard; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to control the price rise?

Losses due to cancellation of flights

*234. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that almost all the airlines are incurring heavy losses every year due to cancellation of flights because of heavy fog;
- (b) if so, the number of flights cancelled due to fog during the last three years; and
- (c) the estimated loss incurred by the airlines due to cancellation of flights during the above said period?

Collection of Income Tax

*235. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an expenditure of Rs. 2.37 has to be incurred to collect Income Tax of Re. 1/- by Government;
- (b) if so, what is the justification for spending more money to collect less income tax; and
- (c) the quantum of income tax collected during 2003-04 and 2004-05 and how much money was spent on collection of income tax?

Management of facilities at airports

*236. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps proposed to bring about immediate improvement in passenger-amenities at Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad airports;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the issues of parking, lack of trolleys and other basic facilities are not being properly managed;
- (c) the steps proposed to improve management at the airports;
- (d) whether Government have received representations on such problems; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Access to gas and oil of Central Asian countries

*237. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have made any plans to seek access through Afghanistan for gas and oil pipelines from Central Asian countries to India;
- (b) if so, the details of such proposals;
- (c) what are the problems in getting such pipelines and access; and
- (d) the details of steps taken in this regard?

Increase in short term interest rate by RBI

*238. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

has raised the short term interest rate-the repo rate and the reverse repo rate recently;

(b) if so, what prompted the increase; and

(c) what is the consequence or the effect of the above increase?

Higher allocation for tourism industry

*239. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have granted higher allocations to keep the tourism industry on the priority of State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of such allocations made to Andhra Pradesh during the current year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had instructed all the States to initiate policies encouraging private sector to build new hotels;

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard; and

(e) the details of action taken thereon?

Changes in Insurance Act

*240. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make major changes in Insurance Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering to allow LIC to enter into health insurance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 1st March, 2006
Phalguna 10, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 225, 229, 234, 236,
Company Affairs	: —
Finance	: 221, 222, 223, 224, 226, 233, 235, 238, 240,
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	: —
Petroleum and Natural Gas	: 227, 228, 231, 237,
Tourism and Culture	: 230, 239,
Water Resources	: 232.