

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 7, 2004/Agrahayana 16, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

Production of Methane gas

*81. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have
formulated any policy for exploration and
production of Methane gas from coal
seams, wastes of landfill and gas and oil
systems in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of Methane produced
during the last two years in the country,
year-wise and State-wise?

Installation of CCTV camera at airports

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

(a) whether Government propose to
install close circuit TV cameras in the

internal areas of the domestic as well as
International Airports in order to prevent
day-to-day incidents of fraud and crime
taking place at these airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when, a final decision is likely to
be taken in this regard; and

(d) the estimated cost of the project?

Aviation agreement with UK

*83. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will
the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been
signed with Government and Aviation
authorities of UK for increasing the
frequency of flights by Indian carriers to
the United Kingdom; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement
and the steps taken for its implementation
by Air India and other concerned agencies?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Curtailment in Government posts and expenditure

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

(a) whether his Ministry has suggested the Ministries/Departments to curtail the number of Government posts and expenditure in the light of recommendations made by the Expenditure Reform Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of concerned Ministries/Departments on the suggestion of his Ministry; and

(d) by when, the curtailment is likely to be effected?

Review of energy security

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

(a) whether Government have reviewed the escalating threats to energy security of the country posed especially by the emerging problems of crude oil shortage and high prices;

(b) if so, the details of intensive studies undertaken, if any, and the holistic policy and alternative solutions worked out;

(c) whether Government have also reviewed the proceedings of the Peak Oil Conference held recently in Berlin, wherein the Association for the Study of Peak Oil has made some grim predictions, on the diminishing world oil reserves and the rising price of crude, reaching phenomenal \$ 182 a barrel; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Outstanding foreign debt

†*86. SHRIMATI. KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign debt outstanding against the country in exclusive terms alongwith its percentage in the GDP;

(b) whether there has been any increase or decrease in the said debt during the last three years; and

(c) the total external debt owed to the country based on this ratio during the last three years?

Channellisation of Swan river in Himachal Pradesh

†*87. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Himachal Pradesh had on the 4th March, 2002 submitted a proposal of Rs. 123.93 crores for 16.67 km. long Channellisation of river swan in the Una district of Himachal Pradesh from Jhalera bridge to Santokhgarh bridge after its approval by Planning Commission and financial and administrative sanction by the Himachal Pradesh Government for providing financial assistance for the same;

(b) if so, the details of action taken thereon and reasons for keeping the said matter pending till now; and

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

Supply of gas to Andhra Pradesh

*88. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government of Andhra Pradesh has approached his Ministry for restoration of full gas supplies to four independent power producers in the State;

(b) if so, when the proposal/request was received in his Ministry;

(c) the details of GAIL's allocation of gas to the State of Andhra Pradesh for various projects during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the details of demand made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for supply of gas during the last three years, year-wise?

Panchayati Raj institutions in J&K

*89. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the importance of strengthening of Panchayati Raj institutions in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details of the schemes that were initiated in Jammu and Kashmir and the progress made thereon during the last three years ending on 30.9.2004?

Promotion of alternate energy sources

*90. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 70 per cent of Indian Crude Oil is still imported; and

(b) the measures proposed to popularize a judicious mix of hydrocarbon and alternate energy sources like bio-diesel to solve our energy demand in view of high international oil prices leading to oil crisis?

Joint airlines service on international routes

†*91. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide a joint airlines service on all international routes by merging Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) whether Government propose to run only private airlines on all domestic routes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

New branches of RRBs

†*92. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of Regional Rural Banks State-wise;

(b) whether the branches of Regional Rural Banks have been opened in 1990 and even after that;

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

(d) whether some new branches of rural banks are proposed to be opened in the current Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

External debt

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India's external debt has risen to US \$ 113 billion as on June 2004;

(b) the components that helped in increase of external debt;

(c) the reasons for short-term debt

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

increase to US \$ 1.2 billion during the recent review period; and

(d) what measures Government are taking to reduce the external debt burden of the country?

VAT on tea and coffee

*94. SHRI ABANI ROY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering imposing Value Added Tax (VAT) on tea and coffee at the rate of 12.5 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for imposing higher rate of VAT on tea and coffee especially when these commodities are considered to be of mass consumption by weaker sections of society; and

(c) whether Government would reconsider their decision to lower the VAT rates on these commodities and if not, the reasons therefor?

Hike in prices of petroleum products

*95. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

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

(a) whether Government have increased the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG recently;

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto and the justification thereof;

(c) whether Government have also taken a decision to increase the price of LPG at the rate of rupees five every month in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the justification thereof;

(e) the extent to which the prices of essential goods are likely to increase due to hike in truck freight as a result of increase in diesel price; and

(f) whether there is a proposal to roll back the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG?

Decline in water table

*96. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent report that declining water table may result in no ground water in major States like Delhi, in as few as 15 years;

(b) which are the top five worst performing States in terms of decline of their water table; and

(c) what steps are being planned and taken by Government to remedy the current situation?

Narmada rehabilitation cost

*97. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has raised its claim for project rehabilitation cost in respect of Narmada Dam oustees against the Government of Gujarat or the Central Government at a review panel;

(b) if so, the nature and extent of the claim; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

NABARD loan to farmers in MP and Chhattisgarh

†*98. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD is providing loan to the farmers in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh through State Governments; and

(b) if so, the percentage of interest being charged by NABARD from the State Governments on the said loan?

Linking of major rivers

*99. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force appointed by the previous Government with regard to the linking of major rivers in India is still functional;

(b) if so, the latest status report with regard thereto;

(c) whether the Task Force has been able to achieve any breakthrough with regard to the major outstanding issues like ecological sustainability, technological feasibility and financial viability of the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Oil and natural gas exploration

*100. SHRI T. R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects undertaken by ONGC to explore oil and natural gas in different parts of the country;

(b) whether any progress has been made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 1st December, 2004
Agrahayana 10, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 82, 83, 91,
Company Affairs	: —
Finance	: 84, 86, 92, 93, 94, 98,
Panchayati Raj	: 89,
Petroleum and Natural Gas	: 81, 85, 88, 90, 95, 100,
Tourism	: —
Water Resources	: 87, 96, 97, 99.