

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 9, 2003/Agrahayana 18, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—20

Delhi-Patna Alliance Air flight

†*101. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi-Patna Alliance Air flight used to operate previously in the evening;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for discontinuing the flight whereas Sahara Airlines operates a Patna-bound flight at about 3 P.M.;

(d) whether Government propose to operate flight between Delhi and Patna in the evening; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Low cost airlines in the country

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

(a) whether Government propose to promote low cost Airline Services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether proposals for providing point to point services by private operators are pending with Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when decision is likely to be taken on these proposals?

Offloading of cross-holdings by oil PSUs

*103. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Oil Companies have decided to offload cross-holdings among them in the stock market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the amount estimated to be raised by each of the PSU oil companies by such offloading and the purpose thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Grant of additional pension

*104. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations/appeals from the various Trade Unions or individuals during the last two years for reconsideration of granting additional pension at the rate of one per cent per year to those Central Government employees who have rendered more than 33 years of service, with effect from 1st January, 1996 as recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government propose to reconsider the matter in keeping the recognition of the services rendered by them; and

(c) if so, by when orders to this effect are likely to be issued?

Research on Himalayan Glacier Hydrology

*105. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Group consisting of Scientists from UK, Nepal and India conducting Research on Himalayan Glacier Hydrology has concluded that as glacier system is melting under global warming, water from the Himalayas will make river Ganga monsoon fed;

(b) whether they have also held a view that the proposed linking of rivers will not be viable after 25 years; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

Restoration of air services between India and Pakistan

†*106. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to resume air services between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what safety steps have been considered in view of terrorists' activities?

Promotion of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir

†*107. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister during his recent visit to Kashmir announced a package to improve and promote tourism industry in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the outlines of the scheme to implement the said package; and

(d) the number of tourists visiting the State during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 and whether Government holds a view that by implementing the package, the number of tourists is likely to go up?

Cultural centres to promote art and culture

†*108. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up cultural centres in order to promote Indian

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Culture and Art in various parts of the country including Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Bihar; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Adoption of tourist sites

*109. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the adoption of any tourist site in Rajasthan by Public Sector Undertaking for protection, conservation, development and maintenance is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the existing arrangement available for generating sustained tourist interests in the tourist sites which are not properly conserved and upkept?

ONGC's foreign earnings

*110. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign exchange earnings and foreign exchange outgo of ONGC during the current financial year; and

(b) the details of measures being taken by Government to reduce foreign exchange outgo?

Import and export of petroleum products

†*111. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of petroleum products have been imported and exported during the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the name of each product imported and exported during the abovesaid period alongwith the quantum and value thereof, separately; and

(c) the average sale price and purchase price respectively of each product so imported and exported?

Cases pending in Debt Recovery Tribunals

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

(a) what is the total number of Debt Recovery Tribunals which are in existence at present;

(b) what is the number of cases decided by these Tribunals upto 30th September, 2003 alongwith the amount of debt recovered; and

(c) what is the number of cases which are still pending in these Tribunals?

Fall in premium collection of LIC

*113. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that market share of LIC of India, in terms of new business

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

premium has dropped 3 percentage points during the year 2002-03;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps LIC has taken to meet the competition squarely and increase its market share *vis-a-vis* its competitors?

Air service between Agartala and Kolkata

*114. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days a week the aircrafts run between Agartala and Kolkata in the morning;

(b) whether Government are aware that the people of Tripura travelling by the evening flights cannot avail of the connecting train or place; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to make available aircraft in the morning for journey between Agartala and Kolkata everyday?

Separate act for Central Economic Intelligence Bureau

*115. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to enact a separate Act for the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau, on the lines of the Central Bureau of Investigation;

(b) whether it is a fact that lack of field formations for the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau, has lead to hampering of its activities;

(c) when was the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau started; and

(d) from which services of the Central Government can the post of Director General and Special Secretary in the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau, be filled up?

Allocation for housing sector

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the nationalised banks have increased its allocation for housing sector in the country in the financial year 2002-2003; and

(b) if so, what is the amount earmarked and disbursed for housing sector?

Exploration of gas in Kangra District of H.P.

†*117. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that exploration work for inflammable gas in the volcano of Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh is going on for the last few years and some signs of gas in abundance have been noticed recently which is creating fear amongst local residents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government have made any efforts to allay fear from the minds of public, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the commercial production of the gas at the said place is likely to begin?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Investment by oil companies

†*118. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of public sector oil companies are investing capital in other industries in and outside the country;

(b) if so, the names of companies in India and abroad where these oil companies have invested capital alongwith the names of such investing oil companies and the amount invested by each of them till the month of September, 2003; and

(c) the amount borrowed by each company upto September, 2003?

Retail outlets of IOC

†*119. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation proposes to open approximately 1000

petrol pumps in the country and disinvestment is also proposed this year to strengthen the infrastructure in retail business;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of sale centres of Indian Oil Corporation in the country at present?

Conditions for concessions to senior citizens

*120. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to further relax the conditions for giving concessions on air fares to senior citizens and students in the domestic sectors on Air India, Indian Airlines and Alliance Air;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the age prescribed for being a senior citizen; and

(c) what are the concessions available under various categories including Apex and Super-Apex fares on these airlines and the reasons for not providing these fares on Delhi-Srinagar and Delhi-Bhubaneshwar sector?

NEW DELHI;
The 3rd December, 2003
Agrahayana 12, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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