

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 10, 2002/Agrahayana 19, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—20

Size of public holding in a company

*281. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SEBI is in favour of hiking the minimum size of public holding in a company from 10 to 25 per cent;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

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

Deposits Insurance Corporation for NBFCs

*282. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for dealing with the risks and concerns of the depositors, whose money is held by the Non-Banking Financial Companies; and

(b) whether Government would initiate steps to promote a Deposits Insurance Corporation for the Non-Banking Financial Companies?

Carrying of arms in aeroplanes

*283. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of travelling illegally with arms etc. in aeroplanes during last one year;

(b) the names of persons found responsible for these incidents and the action taken against them;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to send Commandoes in aeroplanes; and

(d) if so, to what extent this proposal has been implemented so far?

Foreign exchange earned from tourism industry

*284. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Foreign tourist arrivals still below pre-September, 11 levels' which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi on 6th November, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of tourist arrivals during the last one year, country-wise/region-wise; and

(c) the estimated foreign exchange earned during the last one year from tourism industry and whether this income is less as compared to the previous year?

(d) whether permission is granted to a few State Governments for taking loan from international agencies; and

(e) if so, the details of such State Governments, international agencies and the amount asked for and the amount for which permission has been granted?

Consultation with States for service tax

*285. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance, in consultation with States, has decided to allow States to tax some services;

(b) if so, whether the meeting of the Chief Ministers has been convened by the Prime Minister to work out the legislative framework for empowering the States to tax services;

(c) whether Government have also agreed to route all the funds to centrally sponsored schemes through the State Governments; and

(d) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Financial position of States

*286. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments are in debt and in difficult financial position;

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the amount of debt of all such State Governments as on date, category-wise;

(c) the details of the steps initiated to improve the financial position of State Governments;

Growth of Indian economy

*287. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether economists have forecast that the Indian economy would grow by 4.8 per cent as against Government's estimates of 5.5 per cent in 2002-2003, as reported in the Economic Times dated the 8th September, 2002;

(b) if so, whether economists have also warned that if Government does not accelerate reform process, the country would not be able to achieve substantially high growth levels, as reported in the Financial Express dated the 5th July, 2002;

(c) if so, to what extent Government have examined these reports and suggestions; and

(d) what steps are being taken to speed up reforms for higher growth?

Income Tax mobilisation

*288. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many professionals like doctors/teachers are not paying income tax due from them and are in fact evading tax;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to bring them into tax net;

(c) what steps are being taken to mobilise more income tax; and

(d) what is the level of achievement of collection as compared to the budget estimates so far in this financial year?

Committee on NBFCs

*289. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee was set up in 1998 to go into the adequacy or otherwise of the existing institutional arrangements for the safe return of the money invested by small investors in the Non-Banking Financial Companies including Residuary Non-Banking Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted any report and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what follow-up action, if any, has been taken thereon to protect the interest of the depositors?

Loopholes in Debt Recovery Tribunals

*290. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the existing loopholes in the system of Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to plug these loopholes; and

(d) the steps taken for speedy disposal of cases of DRTs?

Nexus between Custom officials and smugglers

†*291. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of nexus of custom officials deployed along the border of Nepal touching Bihar and Uttar Pradesh with smugglers;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which have come to the notice of Government during the last three years;

(c) the number of custom officials against whom action has been taken alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) the amount recovered as customs duty by Champaran Check Post of Bihar during the last three years, year-wise?

Joint venture between SBI and Canara Bank in Russia

*292. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India and Canara Bank have formed a joint venture Commercial Bank of India in Russia;

(b) if so, what are the main objectives of this joint venture; and

(c) by when this new bank is likely to commence operations?

Phasing out of Haj subsidies

*293. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for phasing out subsidies and Government support to Haj pilgrims;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) the details of the subsidies, support and concessions granted to pilgrims to different shrines and places of religious importance?

Reference of cases of irregularities in banks to CVC

†*294. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information regarding cases of irregularities in banks has been given to the Central Vigilance Commission during the previous years;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases received during 1999, 2000, 2001 and upto September, 2002; and

(c) the number of cases out of the above in which facts have been ascertained after investigation and what is the number of guilty persons year-wise?

Revamping of co-operative banks

*295. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an apparent need for the rural and urban co-operative banks to cut down transaction cost so as to ensure cheaper credit for rural and agricultural customers;

(b) whether co-operative banks need to revamp their lending in order to pass the benefit of soft loan to their customers; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps are being

taken by these banks to attain the aforesaid objectives?

Alternative fuel for petroleum and diesel

*296. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether research at national and international level is being conducted to evolve alternative fuel in place of petroleum;

(b) if so, the success achieved in this regard so far;

(c) whether efforts are being made to find a suitable, efficient and clean alternative fuel in place of diesel also; and

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

FDI cap in insurance sector

*297. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to raise the FDI cap in insurance sector from 26 to 49 per cent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Irrigation projects for Himachal Pradesh

*298. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of irrigation Projects of Himachal Pradesh are pending for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when these projects are likely to be cleared?

Marketing campaigns of IA

*299. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has launched aggressive marketing campaign to market itself with potential customers;

(b) whether the IA has started giving training to about 63 employees who can be used in the marketing and sales to face the competition;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether IA has any proposal for giving concession to the Central

Government employees who fly by air;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allotment of petrol pumps to dependents of Kargil martyrs

*300. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications which are pending with Government for allotment of petrol pumps to the widows and dependents of Kashmir-Kargil martyrs as on date, State-wise;

(b) since when such applications are pending;

(c) whether any policy has been worked out to deal with the long-pending applications; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 3rd December, 2002
Agrahayana 12, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

INDEX
(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	:	283, 293, 299,
Finance and Company Affairs	:	281, 282, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 294, 295, 297,
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	296, 300,
Tourism and Culture	:	284,
Water Resources	:	298.