

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the July 13, 2004/Asadha 22, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—20

Report on Cessna aircraft crash

*101. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has completed its probe into the recent crash of Cessna aircraft in which actress Ms. Soundarya was killed;

(b) if so, whether the DGCA has submitted its report;

(c) if so, what is the outcome of the report; and

(d) what action Government have taken or propose to take against the culprits?

Development of Khajuraho Airport

†*102. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that land is being acquired free of cost from the Government

of Madhya Pradesh for the development of Khajuraho Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of land acquired so far and the present status of development work thereon; and

(d) by when, it will be completed?

Permission to Jet Airways for overseas landing

*103. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jet Airways are contemplating to obtain landing slots at various international airports including London, Singapore and Malaysia;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof along with the names of countries/airports approached for securing landing slots during the last one year;

(c) whether Government have given permission to Jet Airways for obtaining such landing slots; and

(d) if not, the action taken so far or proposed to be taken against the airline?

LPG bottling plants

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

(a) the details of LPG bottling plants functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of proposed LPG bottling plants during 2004-05, State-wise/location-wise; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Missing of Gold bars from Palam Airport, New Delhi

*105. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 kg. Gold bars belonging to State Bank of India which were booked on I.C. flight No. 658 on May 7, 2004 from Mumbai Airport were found missing from the Palam Airport, New Delhi after the parcel was off loaded along with other parcels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said gold bars have been traced; and

(d) if not, what action Government have taken against the concerned officials?

Review of National Water Policy

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

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to comprehensively review the project of inter-linking of rivers in its totality;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to review the National Water Policy;

(c) if so, the details of areas which Government are thinking to review; and

(d) what are the reasons for such a review?

Exploration of oil and gas in Bihar

†*107. PROF. RAM DEO
BHANDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether drilling and other exploration works have been undertaken to find out petroleum and natural gas in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details and results thereof; and

(c) the details of future plans in this direction?

Introduction of VAT

†*108. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to introduce VAT (Value Added Tax) in place of professional tax or sales tax;

(b) if so, the detailed outline thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have constituted a Committee of Finance Ministers of States to review the said tax;

(d) if so, the recommendations of the said Committee;

(e) whether he is aware of the fact that a number of State Governments have registered protest against the said Value Added Tax; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

LNG terminal at Kochi

*109. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for an LNG terminal at Kochi;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) the names of the companies included in the consortium;

(d) whether NTPC has agreed to be the potential customer; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

US-India economic dialogue

*110. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior officers of India and the United States held discussions on financial and economic development and the global efforts to combat terrorist financing;

(b) if so, whether these discussions were part of the enhanced US-India Economic dialogue;

(c) what was the outcome of the talks held and what is the latest position so far achieved by discussing these issues; and

(d) by when a final agreement is likely to be reached?

Development aid by World Bank

*111. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has made out a compelling case for increasing development aid in order to eliminate poverty and strengthen country's literacy and health programmes under the millennium development goals;

(b) if so, whether the Indian delegation defended the plea before IMF and World Bank for increased aid flows;

(c) if so, to what extent both World Bank and IMF have agreed to provide more assistance in view of good performance shown by India in these sectors; and

(d) what is the total aid both World Bank and IMF have agreed to provide for further implementation of the plan?

Commercial production of bio-diesel

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

(a) whether any detailed studies have been undertaken to explore the possibility of commercial production of bio-diesel, derived from certain plants like 'Jatropha', 'Pungam' etc. which can be grown even in wastelands, for use as alternative fuel to petro-diesel like LNG, CNG etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of other countries like Canada, the US and some European countries have already

undertaken major bio-diesel programmes to identify and develop high yielding varieties of plants and also for its use in transport vehicles etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Air strips in Himachal Pradesh

†*113. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of air strips in Himachal Pradesh and the number of those being used for regular flights;

(b) whether the State Government has demanded the help of the Central Government to expand and upgrade these air strips; and

(c) if so, the details of the assistance to be provided by the Central Government?

Operational airports in the country

*114. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of spending Rs. 420 crore on maintenance and upgradation of airports in 2002-03 alone, only 63 out of 96 airports owned by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) are fully operational;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no efforts have been made by Government to operationalise 33 airports as it requires estimated investment of Rs. 1,200 crore; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed thereon?

Modifications in river linking policy

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

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra, through a resolution adopted by Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, has sought certain changes and modifications in the river linking policy of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of the Assembly Resolution and the demands made therein; and

(c) the Government's response thereto?

Task Force constituted on 13th December, 2002

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

(a) whether Government have received the report of the Task Force which was constituted on 13th December, 2002 for the study of the scheme of transfer of water from surplus to water deficits areas and to connect Peninsular rivers with the rivers flowing from the Himalayas for the optimum use of water resources;

(b) if so, the outline thereof; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative by when it is likely to be received and the number of meetings of the task force held, so far?

Revenue collections

*117. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, for the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

first time, been able to make revenue collections for fiscal 2003-04 which have exceeded budget estimates since 1995-96;

(b) if so, what was the total provisional figure for fiscal year ending 31st March, 2004 and to what extent it has been more than budget estimates;

(c) what are the main reasons therefor; and

(d) what further steps are being considered to collect more revenue in future?

Airbus service between Kolkata and Agartala

*118. SHRIMATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that for want of Airbus or Boeing aircrafts in the morning between Kolkata and Agartala, the national newspapers cannot reach the readers in the evening;

(b) whether it is a fact that ATR aircrafts plying in the morning at present cannot carry the bundles of papers and cannot withstand the load of baggages and luggages; and

(c) whether an Airbus or a Boeing would be operated between Agartala and Kolkata in the morning very shortly to solve the above problem?

Funds for Centrally-sponsored schemes

†*119. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a scheme to provide funds for the Centrally sponsored schemes directly to Panchayats in future; and

(b) if so, the names of such schemes and the reasons therefor?

Flexible air space management

*120. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: SHRIMOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to make air space management more flexible which will lead to ten to fifteen per cent expansion in the Indian air space;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether, at present, the air space is divided between civil and military operations and if so, the percentage of air space available to military organizations and civilian aircrafts; and

(d) whether the civil aviation and Indian Air Force authorities have discussed air safety measures and if so, the outcome of the discussion?

NEW DELHI;
The 7th July, 2004
Asadha 16, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 101, 102, 103, 105, 113, 114, 118, 120,
Company Affairs	: —
Finance	: 108, 110, 111, 117,
Panchayati Raj	: 119,
Petroleum and Natural Gas	: 104, 107, 109, 112,
Tourism	: —
Water Resources	: 106, 115, 116.