

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 13, 2005/Agrahayana 22, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

Pension commitments

*281. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state what percentage of the net tax
revenue is spent on pension commitments
by Central as well as State Governments?

acute dry spells this year and for the
preceding three years, with the result that
ground water level has depleted a lot;

(b) the extent of depletion of ground
water level during these years, State/region-
wise; and

Tapping of PSU deposits

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

(a) whether Government propose to
relax the condition enabling foreign banks
to tap the Public Sector Undertakings
deposits; and

(b) if so, by when it will be
implemented?

(c) whether any Central aid has been
sought and given to meet the situation,
if so, the details in this regard?

Reduction of excise duties on LPG based appliances

*284. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA
RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received
representations seeking reduction in excise
duties on LPG based appliances from 16
per cent to 8 per cent;

(b) whether it is a fact that high excise
duties on such consumer goods are allowing
cheap import destroying thereby the Indian
industry;

(c) to what extent Government would
rationalize the excise duty structure to

Depletion of ground water

*283. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL
APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra, particularly
the Vidarbha region, Rajasthan and different
parts of Western and Northern India
including Punjab and Haryana have faced

ensure that Indian producers are not handicapped by cost-push inflation in production of consumer items like LPG based stoves etc.; and

(d) the measures proposed to ensure that cheap imports do not harm Indian industry due to irrational excise taxes?

Depletion of ground water

*285. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground water table in all the geographical regions in the country is depleting;

(b) whether uncontrolled sand mining on the river beds is one of the major causes for the unprecedented depletion of ground water;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any Central norm/rule pertaining to the mining of sand on the river beds;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, what steps Government propose to take to control the menace?

Impact of unleaded petrol on environment

†*286. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the dangerous bengene gas is dissolving in the atmosphere due to unleaded petrol;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken to check it;

(c) whether Government are aware that employees of petrol pumps and the people

living around are being affected to great extent and there is risk of blood cancer to the persons living in contact with bengene for a long time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Development and promotion of tourism

*287. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various projects for the development and promotion of tourism in the country, State-wise and project-wise, pending for clearance; and

(b) the action taken by Government on the proposals?

Duty evasion by drug manufacturing companies

†*288. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards massive tax/duty evasion by drug manufacturing companies in the country; and

(b) if so, the names of such companies and the total amount outstanding against such companies and the action being taken by Government for realization of the said amount?

Revision of duties on petrol

*289. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions on which the price of petrol has been revised during the course of the current calendar year;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the present component of customs duty, excise duty and sales tax put together in the price, per litre, of petrol and diesel in different Metros;

(c) whether it is a fact that the component of taxes is more than the basic price of per litre of petrol; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and why this component was not reduced so as to minimize the burden on the consumer?

NABARD's loan to Orissa under RIDF-XI

*290. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has approved a loan of Rs. 106.4 crore to Orissa under its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-XI;

(b) whether this loan would be used for construction of irrigation projects, new roads and bridges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the total financial assistance that has so far been made available by this bank during the current financial year for development of infrastructure in Orissa?

Comprehensive plan for ground handling operations

*291. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a comprehensive plan has been chalked out to restrict the number of players engaged

in ground handling operations at the airports so as to eliminate the avoidable duplication of infrastructure and manpower by multiplicity of agencies, as also to cut down on choking conditions prevailing at peak hours; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of its implementation?

Projects under artificial recharge of ground water

*292. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 174 projects in the States/Union Territories were taken up for construction of various recharge structures under the scheme of artificial recharge of ground water;

(b) if so, the details of the projects in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) by when, the work is likely to be completed?

Bhubaneswar airport as an international airport

*293. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the historical heritage of Orissa is one of the most sought after religious hubs in the world and the Biju Patnaik Airport Bhubaneswar fulfils all the requisites of an international airport;

(b) whether the State Government has requested for declaring this airport as an international airport so that it can receive international flights and also chartered flights to promote international tourism; and

(c) if so, what is the status of the proposal and the time-frame within which it would be sanctioned?

Sale of LPG at unsubsidised prices

*294. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Government owned oil companies seeking permission to sell Liquefied Petroleum Gas at unsubsidised prices to rich and middle class households;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Overhauling of ATC system

*295. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that appropriate measures have been taken to overhaul the Air Traffic Control system to remove congestion at the Airports minimizing thereby the waiting period to get all clear signals to land at the Airports;

(b) if so, whether such an exercise will also be done at Nagpur Airport which of late is experiencing greater air traffic; and

(c) what is the time-frame in covering all Airports in the country for this type of overhaul?

ONGC's investment in Nigeria

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

(a) whether ONGC has signed an agreement with Nigeria for oil exploration recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been done about the geological condition or production potential before signing the agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Disposal of cases for the protection of small shareholders

†*297. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether much time is taken in the disposal of complaints received under the laws made for the protection of small shareholders;

(b) if so, whether the complaints received in the last three years have been disposed of within three months, six months, nine months and one year; and

(c) whether Government are formulating any code for the disposal of complaints at a specified time, and if so, the details thereof?

Denial of loans to MPs by some banks

*298. SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some public and private sector banks are

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

not extending various loan facilities to Members of Parliament despite their completing all the required formalities;

(b) whether such banks have their own rules relating to grant of various loans to MPs or Government have issued any such instructions to these banks in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of such instructions; and

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take in this matter?

Perks and pay to actuaries working with LIC

*299. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LIC is facing the threat of poaching of its actuaries by rival private players in Insurance sector;

(b) if so, whether LIC plans to introduce

additional perks and pay to actuaries working with it; and

(c) whether the LIC alongwith GIC proposes to set up its own actuarial training institute, to ensure availability of fellows of the society on service bond?

Central assistance under Command Area Development Programme

*300. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total Central assistance provided by the Central Government to State Governments under the Command Area Development Programme during each of the last two plan periods, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of States, which have not utilized the grant/assistance fully alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 7th December, 2005
Agrahayana 16, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

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