

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the May 14, 2002/Vaisakha 24, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—20

Visa-on-arrival scheme

*681. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in The Hindustan Times dated the 12th April, 2002, to the effect that the 'Visa-on-arrival' scheme announced to be operational from 1st April, 2002, is likely to be delayed considerably due to various constraints and differences in perception of concerned Ministries, like Home Affairs, Civil Aviation, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of difficulties being encountered and the steps taken to remove the bottlenecks so as to implement the scheme in a time-bound manner to boost the sagging tourism industry?

Grant for Chhattisgarh under Library Development Scheme

†*682. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a demand for additional grant for state level library under the Library

Development Scheme from the Government of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when necessary orders in this regard will be issued by Government?

World Bank Loan to Andhra Pradesh

†*683. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank is extending a monetary loan of 250 million dollars to the Andhra Pradesh Government;

(b) whether the Department for International Development (DFID) of Britain has also offered to extend monetary loan to any other State;

(c) whether Government have permitted both of them to extend loans; and

(d) if so, whether the direct inflow of foreign money in States will endanger the sovereignty and unity of India?

Airstrips in Rajasthan

†*684. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the places in Rajasthan where new airstrips are proposed to be constructed alongwith the cost of each of these airstrips and the present status of the one proposed to be constructed at Ajmer;

(b) whether Government propose to construct an airstrip at Sawai Madhopur, a major tourist spot in Rajasthan which is also famous for Ranthambor Tiger Project and whether Government are aware that it will boost tourist industry of the country; and

(c) by when, international flights will be introduced from Jaipur, one of the major airports of Rajasthan?

Coffee production

*685. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual coffee production and consumption in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that supply of coffee has outstripped the demand in the country resulting in a loss of remunerative prices for the coffee growers;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether coffee growers in the country have demanded relief measures from the Central Government for tiding over the crisis faced by them; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

Debts of Highly Indebted Poor countries

*686. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced their decision to write-off the debt owned to it by the highly indebted poor countries;

(b) if so, the names of the highly indebted poor countries in the World to whom India has provided loans;

(c) the quantum of debt owned by those countries and under what terms and conditions such loans were given; and

(d) the advantage to Government for writing off such debts?

Scarcity of water in Rajasthan

†*687. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan falls under the category of worst affected State as far as potable water is concerned;

(b) whether there is a acute scarcity of potable water in Rajasthan and many districts of the State have to face the problem of polluted and floride contaminated water;

(c) whether any scheme is under Government's consideration to provide Rajasthan with some special financial package to make available pure potable water to the people of Rajasthan placing the State under special category in respect of crisis of potable water under the National water policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Acquisition of aircrafts by Air India

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

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Air India has prepared its own plan to acquire 23 new aircrafts over the next five years;

(b) whether Air India is suffering losses continuously for the last three years;

(c) whether during 2001-2002 Air India had earned a net profit of Rs. 30 crore;

(d) if so, whether in view of this, Air India has prepared a Rs. 10,000 crore acquisition plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when the plan is likely to be implemented?

Development of tourist circuits

*689. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to throw open development of new tourist circuits in the country to foreigners;

(b) if so, the tourist circuits proposed to be given for development together with the name of States in which they are located; and

(c) the conditions on which this development is to be done?

Excise duty exemption on cement in Gujarat

*690. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat Government has requested the Central Government for exemption of excise duty on sale of cement to the earthquake affected people for rehabilitation and reconstruction work;

(b) if so, whether Government have given full excise duty exemption to cement from 1st June, 2001; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Money deposited in Indian banks through hawala transactions

*691. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large sum of money has been deposited in Indian banks through hawala transactions from Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether this money is being used by terrorist outfits through their contacts in Agra, Saharanpur, Delhi, Surat and Hazaribagh, etc.;

(c) whether these bank accounts have been confiscated and action taken against guilty persons; and

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

Funds for flood control

*692. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of normal flood and erosion control projects submitted by the Government of Assam during the last three years alongwith the date of submission, date of final clearance for execution, total outlay, year-wise amount sanctioned, utilized, progress made and target set, scheme-wise; and

(b) the total outlay, amount disbursed and achievement made on utilization of fund from the PM's special package for Rs. 500 crores?

Donations for Annadhana Scheme in Tamil Nadu

*693. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tamil Nadu Government has requested to grant income tax exemption to donations received by the devotees for the Annadhana Scheme which is being implemented in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

Report of Pension-Reform Committee

*694. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pension-Reform Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the salient points of the report;

(c) the total fund required for disbursement of pension in the current financial year;

(d) the projections for the coming five years; and

(e) what is the additional liability to Government towards pension based on the Fifth Pay Commission Report?

Subsidies to refineries and producers

*695. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the wholesale ex-storage price of kerosene, diesel and LPG paid to different refineries/producers;

(b) the rates and amount of different Central and State taxes, duties etc. leading

to final price build up at which these products are available to consumers in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana; and

(c) the manner in which subsidy is given to refineries/producers/consumers?

Classification of banks as fragile

*696. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several banks in the Indian banking system have been classified as being fragile and having a negative network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the factors responsible for such Indian banks being classified as fragile;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to tone up the functioning of such banks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Development of Bangalore Airport

*697. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangalore airport handles approximately 100 flights a day and about two lakh passengers in a month;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the existing infrastructure is insufficient to meet the demands of the passengers; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps Government propose to take for infrastructure development of Bangalore airport till the completion of Devenahalli airport for the ever growing passenger traffic and its International importance?

Profit of nationalised *vis-a-vis* foreign banks

*698. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks and financial institutions have improved their performance and profits;

(b) the comparative figures in terms of profit with that of foreign banks for the past three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the functioning and profitability of these financial institutions and banks keeping in view the acute competition by the foreign banks?

Irrigation water management

†*699. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a new scheme for irrigation water management in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) by when, this scheme is likely to be started; and
(d) the amount proposed to be allotted by Government for this scheme?

Earnings on import of crude oil

*700. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of taxes, customs and excise duties Government have earned on import of crude oil and refining of petroleum products for the year 2001-2002;

(b) what is the projected amount of taxes Government will be earning in the year 2002-2003 by way of customs duty on import of crude oil and refining of petroleum products for the year 2002-2003; and

(c) what is the quantum of subsidy Government will be spending on LPG and Kerosene for the year 2002-2003?

NEW DELHI;
The 8th May, 2002
Vaisakha 18, 1924 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 684, 688, 697,
Commerce and Industry	: 685,
Finance	: 683, 686, 690, 691, 693, 694, 696, 698,
Petroleum and Natural Gas	: 695, 700,
Tourism and Culture	: 681, 682, 689,
Water Resources	: 687, 692, 699.