

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the December 14, 2004/Agrahayana 23, 1926 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions — 20**

#### **Universal Health Insurance Scheme**

\*181. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently launched a Centrally heavily subsidized and the cheapest redesigned Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHS) targeting people below poverty line;

(b) if so, the total amount earmarked for UHS;

(c) the maximum amount proposed to be given as compensation/reimbursement of hospital expenses for diseases as well as accidental injuries under this scheme; and

(d) the details of the strategy for marketing of this health insurance policy?

#### **Investment in Special Deposit Scheme**

\*182. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has turned down the proposal of Central

Board of Trustees of EPF to invest the Fund money in Special Deposit Scheme; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Agreements on import of oil**

\*183. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agreements entered into by India with other countries for the import of oil and petroleum products for the year 2004-05;

(b) whether there is any proposal for buying oil and petroleum products on the spot market; and

(c) if so, the quantum of oil proposed to be purchased under that arrangement during the year 2004-05?

#### **Training of pilots**

†\*184. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

aviation companies, Indian Airlines and Air India, bear the expenditure on the training of pilots trained by Indira Gandhi National Flying Academy;

(b) if so, whether these pilots are appointed only in these airlines companies after completion of their training or they are contracted by other companies of private sector; and

(c) the justification of the expenditure made on their training by Indian Airlines and Air India?

#### **Parambikulam Aliyar Project**

\*185. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether action will be taken to rectify the violations in the agreement in the inter-State Parambikulam Aliyar Project by Tamil Nadu Government;

(b) whether there is any representation by the State Government of Kerala during the year 2004 regarding violation in the clause enshrined in the inter-State Parambikulam Aliyar Project agreement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Island Special Allowance**

\*186. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Island Special Allowance is given only to the officers/staff of the nationalised banks who are posted from mainland to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) whether the officers/staff belonging to these widely spread Islands are at times on equal footing to their counterparts from main land, if they are settled in one Island and are posted at some far-flung Island which often takes more time in travelling;

(c) what are the reasons for this discrimination and how Government propose to remove it; and

(d) what would be the financial burden if this allowance is extended to Islanders?

#### **Investment Commission**

\*187. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Investment Commission has been formed or being formed;

(b) if so, the details thereof such as its constitution, terms of reference, jurisdiction, etc.;

(c) whether it would be a Standing Commission and submit recommendations periodically; and

(d) if not, whether it will be required to submit its final report by the end of its term?

#### **Increase in Government borrowings**

\*188. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has expressed concern over the expected increase in Government borrowings during the second half of the year;

(b) whether, according to a RBI report, net Government borrowings stood at Rs. 23,250 crores and the gross borrowings at Rs. 75,050 crores forming 29 per cent and 49 per cent of the budgeted amount, respectively; and

(c) whether the RBI has cautioned Government not to cross the fiscal deficit target?

#### **Supply of gas to Southern States**

\*189. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND  
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gas discovered by Reliance in the Krishna Godavari regions is being transported to Maharashtra and Gujarat through pipeline, though Southern States' demand for gas is very high; and

(b) if so, what action plan Government envisage to fulfil the needs of Southern States?

#### **Appointment of Commercial Ombudsman**

\*190. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to appoint a Commercial Ombudsman to deal with passenger complaints and problems concerning private airlines;

(b) whether Government are aware that private airlines are not giving fair treatment to ordinary passengers;

(c) whether Government are aware that private airlines do not have grievance machinery to deal with passenger and consumer grievances; and

(d) what corrective steps Government would take to put in place adequate machinery to help public cope with the various problems and difficulties being created by private airlines?

#### **Direct air service between Bhubaneswar and Delhi**

\*191. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa has made a request for introduction of flight between Bhubaneswar and Delhi *via* Varanasi to help the Buddhist tourists to visit Buddhist spots in Orissa;

(b) if so, what is the status of the proposal; and

(c) by when the proposal of the State Government would be implemented?

#### **Allotment of petrol and diesel outlets**

†\*192. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of petrol and diesel outlets allotted in the country from 1st April, 2003 to 30th September, 2004;

(b) the number of petrol pumps allotted in each State and Union Territory; and

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any new policy regarding allotment of petrol pumps?

#### **Development of tourism in North-Eastern States**

†\*193. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the places identified and developed by Government for encouraging tourism in North-Eastern States during the last three years; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the scheme formulated by Government in this regard?

#### **High cost refining process**

\*194. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of refining process of crude oil (petroleum products) is high in our country when compared to that of other countries;

(b) what are the stages of process at refineries and the reasons for high cost of refining;

(c) whether Government have any plans to cut down the cost to bring down the prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Diesel price**

†\*195. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the falling prices of crude oil in the international market during November, 2004, the consumer price of petrol was lowered;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that in view of the increasing crude price in the international market during last few months, the price of petrol, diesel and LPG was increased in the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons for which the price of diesel in the country is not reduced simultaneously with the reduction in the price of petrol due to the falling price of crude?

#### **Voting rights of shareholders in banks**

\*196. SHRI RAMA MUNIREDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce a Bill to remove 10 per cent voting rights of shareholders in banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would not pave the way for foreign banks to acquire private banks in the country;

(d) if so, how this helps the banking sector in the country; and

(e) the list of foreign banks which have applied to the RBI to acquire stakes in Indian banks?

#### **Panchayats as primary unit of planning and implementation**

\*197. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some fresh initiatives have been taken to make the Panchayati Raj Institutions more effective by making panchayats the primary unit of planning and implementation of some 300-odd Centrally-sponsored schemes reaching the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including fresh guidelines laid down for the concerned Ministries at the Centre and/or the State Governments while formulating/ implementing such schemes?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Decline in foreign tourists**

†\*198.DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States in the country where maximum number of foreign tourists visit;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists has decreased during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor along with the details of plans Government propose to implement to improve the situation?

### **Promotion of tourism in Karnataka**

\*199. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Karnataka propose to promote its tourism potential worldwide by making use of Mahamasthakabhisheka of the Gomateswara statute;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has submitted its proposal to the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Non-acknowledgement of letters by UTI**

\*200. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that UTI does not acknowledge receipt of letters from investors regarding change of residential address for long-term schemes;

(b) if so, whether this attitude of UTI is likely to cause inconvenience to investors and loss of confidence about the administrative functioning of UTI; and

(c) the remedial steps Government have taken in this regard?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 8th December, 2004*  
*Agrahayana 17, 1926 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

## **I N D E X**

**(Ministry-wise)**

<b>Civil Aviation</b>	: 184, 190, 191,
<b>Company Affairs</b>	: —
<b>Finance</b>	: 181, 182, 186, 187, 188, 196, 200,
<b>Panchayati Raj</b>	: 197,
<b>Petroleum and Natural Gas</b>	: 183, 189, 192, 194, 195,
<b>Tourism</b>	: 193, 198, 199,
<b>Water Resources</b>	: 185.