

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the March 15, 2005/Phalgun 24, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

Sale of Reliance shares to fake firms

*181. SHRI JIBON ROY:

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that
Reliance Infocomm has sold a total of one
crore preferential shares to three fake firms
at the rate of Rs. one each; and

(b) if so, whether Government would
institute an enquiry on the whole affair?

Recovery of revenue from import duty

†*182. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount
recovered through import duty is increasing
due to consistent increase in import of
edible oil during the preceding years;

(b) if so, the revenue recovered by
Government through import duty on edible
oil during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and
first ten months of the year 2004-05; and

(c) the rates of import duty fixed during
the said periods?

Inclusion of audit observations of CAG in the Annual Reports of Ministries

*183. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has
directed all Ministries to include in their
Annual Reports as special annexures the
audit observations by the Comptroller and
Auditor General (CAG); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action
taken in the matter?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Filing of Income-tax returns

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have filed Income-tax return after the introduction of one-by-six scheme Under Section 139 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, during each year from 2000-01 to 2003-04;

(b) income-tax collected during each of these years under the Scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been reduction in the number of persons filing return under this category and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to do away with the requirement in respect of those persons whose income is not taxable and if not, the reasons therefor?

Impact of VAT on tea industry

*185. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN
PILLAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of tea will go up after the implementation of Value Added Tax (VAT) in the present form;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether any step is initiated to protect the tea industry due to the above increase in price; and

(d) whether steps will be taken to control the increase in price of tea, if any, due to the implementation of VAT?

Benefits of VAT

*186. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fully assessed benefits or disadvantages by VAT's introduction in the country from 1st April, 2005 and how far it is different from Central Sales Tax;

(b) which are the States who have passed a VAT law till date and whether any State not willing to do so;

(c) whether VAT will operate on the basis of uniform rates across the country by ending several State-level taxes or vary in respect of unwilling State like Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) what special relief small dealers/traders will get under VAT whose turn over is up to 5 to 50 lakhs annually?

Measures to improve the service of AI

*187. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to revamp the existing fleet of Air India and the quality of service of the 'Maharaja';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps so far taken and being taken to implement the proposal?

Appreciation of rupee

*188. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rupee has appreciated considerably in relation to US \$ during the past few months;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the same; and

(c) its financial implications on the Indian Economy?

Task Force on revival of Co-operative credit institutions

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force on revival of Co-operative credit institutions in its final report has called for radical changes in the way the Co-operative credit societies are constituted, managed and regulated;

(b) if so, whether the Task Force has suggested that the RBI should exercise its regulatory power under the Banking Regulations Act directly;

(c) whether it has also called for changes in the Co-operatives credit structure;

(d) if so, what are the other main recommendations made in the final report; and

(e) how many of its recommendations have been accepted by Government?

Reduction in rate of interest by NABARD

*190. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has reduced the rate of interest on refinance to double the flow of agricultural credit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the loans disbursed by NABARD during 2003-04 and 2004-05 against the target fixed; and

(d) the steps taken to accelerate the process of extending loan assistance to agriculture graduates and post graduates in future?

Strategic stock of petroleum

†*191. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have withdrawn the scheme of setting up of a strategic stock of petroleum on the pattern of America and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also suspended the scheme of raising price stabilisation fund of petroleum products; and

(d) the reasons for suspending the both schemes?

Stamp paper scam

*192. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 192 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the investigation by the CBI into stamp paper scam has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome of the enquiry;

(c) how many people have been charged for this so far, name-wise details with charges framed; and

(d) value of fake stamps/stamp paper seized till date?

Irrigation benefit programme

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

(a) whether Government are considering to bring Rajasthan under special category of quick irrigation benefit programme like North-Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh keeping in view the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

circumstances of the State like two third area being the Desert, possibility drought area, long international border along Pakistan and the State affected with natural calamities; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

ONGC's tie up with a Russian firm

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has been able to tie up with its counterpart in Russia to explore new oil and gas fields in that country;

(b) if so, the details of arrangements made; and

(c) to what extent India would be able to import oil and gas from these sources and at what price?

Panel on restructuring of public sector oil companies

*195. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an Advisory Panel on the question of merger of oil companies has been constituted to go into various issues relating to the restructuring of public sector oil companies;

(b) if so, what are the terms or reference; and

(c) the progress in its deliberations and by when its recommendations are likely to be submitted to Government?

Pending water sharing disputes

*196. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending water sharing disputes, which have been referred by Government to a tribunal;

(b) the current status of those disputes; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for their early resolution?

Easing of conditions for sanctioning of loans

*197. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would make innovative efforts to ensure that the loans are sanctioned by the Nationalised Banks without any hassles like asking for collateral security and other stringent conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have conducted any study on easing the conditions for sanctioning of loans by Nationalised Banks;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Investments in oil exploration

*198. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are presently importing nearly 70 per cent of its crude oil requirement and this would rise to 85 per cent by 2025;

(b) whether it is also a fact that over US \$ 2.53 billion have already been invested in the blocks awarded in the first four rounds of bidding;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government had made bidding conditions more attractive for investors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Disinvestment of equity in BHEL and Maruti

*199. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for disinvestments of Government equity in blue chip PSU BHEL and Automobile joint venture Maruti etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is not a violation of commitment made in the Common Minimum Programme of Government not to disinvest profit making PSUs?

Loans taken by State Governments

*200. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the position of the loans taken by the State Governments from the Central Government as on date;

(b) the names of the States which have requested additional loans from Government during the current financial year; and

(c) what is Government's response thereto?

NEW DELHI;
The 9th March, 2005
Phalguna 18, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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