

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 16, 2002/Asadha 25, 1924 (Saka)

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

Total number of questions—20

Impact of FDI on economic growth

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flow of foreign direct investment into the country in the last two decades has resulted in a crowding-out of domestic investment;

(b) if so, whether it has been found that there is no clear evidence of its contribution to economic growth;

(c) whether the study carried out by the Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and other developing countries has observed the same;

(d) if so, the other issues highlighted in the report; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to improve domestic investment in the country?

Upgradation of Bhopal and Raipur airports

*22. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade Bhopal and Raipur airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any amount has been earmarked for the purpose; and if not, the reasons therefor?

Action against tax defaulters

*23. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 5049 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th May, 2002 and state:

(a) what specific action has been initiated against the tax defaulters and when;

(b) the amount payable by these companies individually and since when;

(c) what is the extent of penalty in terms of amount and whether at any time any penal amount has been waived; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Behaviour of Marshals in the flights

*24. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new-item captioned "Marshals, the new terror in the Indian Skies", which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 23rd June, 2002;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to control and contain the obnoxious activities of the commandos so as to ensure smooth journey for the bonafide passengers?

Upkeep of old monuments in Pondicherry

*25. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the Union Territory of Pondicherry for development of tourism during 2000-2001, 2001-2002;

(b) what are the details of proposals submitted by the Union Territory of Pondicherry and the amount allotted; and

(c) whether Government have any scheme to improve and upkeep the old monuments at 'Arikamedo' at Pondicherry?

Interest rate on EPF

*26. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance is pressurising Ministry of Labour to cut down interest rate on EPF;

(b) whether Government are aware that EPF Board asserted that they are earning sufficiently to pay interests at prevailing rate; and

(c) if so, the reasons behind imposing cut in interest rates on EPF?

Purchase of turbo-prop aircrafts by I.A.

*27. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase turbo-prop aircraft for the Indian Airlines for short haul routes on account of fuel economy and shorter runways in the North-East and North Indian Hilly regions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Survey on water scarcity

*28. SHRI MOOL CHAND MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that water expert from Maharashtra has conducted field survey in 12 States to prepare a basic treatise on land and water resources development strategy;

(b) if so, whether it has been found in the survey that 300 million people are at present severely affected by water scarcity in the country;

(c) whether in many parched areas of a number of States, situation is very threatening; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to consider the recommendations made in the report?

Tax evasion by private banking financial companies

*29. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has revealed that more than 1,500 private banking financial companies are outside the tax net and are allegedly involved in tax evasion;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make filing annual financial returns mandatory for the non-banking private companies; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

Appointment of consultants by SBI for HRD

*30. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India plans to appoint persons to deploy them in areas in which the bank wants to focus i.e. in marketing like market insurance products;

(b) whether bank's 40 per cent of work force has become redundant on account of computerisation in the country;

(c) whether bank proposes to appoint consultant for human resource development for optimum utilization of work force; and

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

Hike in petroleum products

*31. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the prices of petroleum products/LPG have been increased during the last two years, year wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to keep the prices under control ?

Closing down of Life Insurance Corporation

† *32. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to close-down the Life Insurance Corporation of India or to make its functioning ineffective which has the highest turnover and earns highest profits; and

(b) if not, the reasons for extending closing of the year ending on 31st March, 2002 and what would be the effect thereof on the Corporation's efficiency?

National Library, Kolkata

*33. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to convert the National Library, Kolkata into an autonomous institution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the National Library worked without a librarian from 1972—1983 and again from 1995—2001;

(d) whether during the last few years Directors of the Library were appointed either on part time basis or on *ad hoc* basis; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Customs duties on imported foreign liquor

*34. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the additional customs duties on imported foreign liquor has been reduced from what it was in the previous year;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether Government are aware that the reduction will result in considerably encouraging the import of cheap liquor into the country; and

(d) what is the justification for such encouragement of imports in view of the Constitutional provisions and the various restrictions imposed on the domestic industry?

Complaints against new pricing system

*35. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints in the wake of the dismantling of administered price mechanism with regard to petroleum products from April 1, 2002;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of the position with regard to the availability of these products?

Bilateral agreements on tourism

*36. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sign bilateral agreements with 12 major tourism generating countries;

(b) if so, whether India and China have also signed a tourism pact ;

(c) whether the agreement will bring more Chinese tourists into the country;

(d) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(e) by when the bilateral agreement with these 12 major countries will be signed; and

(f) to what extent it is likely to give a boost to the tourism industry in the country?

Initial Public Offerings for the PSUs

*37. SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR :
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of PSUs and other MNCs have requested Government for Initial Public Offerings (IPOs);

(b) if so, the details of these PSUs and private companies who have applied for IPOs during the current financial year; and

(c) the reasons for the PSUs to go for IPOs when they have surplus cash reserves?

Progress by Brahmaputra Board

*38. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Brahmaputra Board was set up to prepare master plans, conduct surveys and implement multi-purpose projects in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley;

(b) if so, what progress has been made by the Board for the benefit of this area;

(c) the steps being taken to make the Board beneficial for the North-Eastern States; and

(d) whether it is a fact that three top posts of Brahmaputra Board have been lying vacant since its inception in 1980?

Cross border trade through North-Eastern States

*39. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the border points developed and opened for promotion of border trade with the neighbouring countries through North-Eastern borders indicating infrastructure created, list of items finalized for export-import through bilateral agreements, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of trade as well as item-wise demand for cross border trading;

(c) the action taken and achievements made on the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Commerce *vide* its 36th report including the recommendations of the inter-ministerial task force on border trade; and

(d) the role and present status of IIFT in this regard?

LPG connections under Deepam Scheme in A.P.

*40. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of releasing LPG connections under Deepam Scheme in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the quantum of monthly Kerosene quota which has been surrendered by the State in lieu of LPG connections;

(c) whether surrendering of Kerosene quota has affected the small quantity users of the commodity; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 10th July, 2002

Asadha 19, 1924 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	:	22, 24, 27,
Commerce and Industry	:	39,
Finance and Company Affairs	:	21, 23, 26, 29, 30, 32, 34, 37,
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	31, 35, 40,
Tourism and Culture	:	25, 33, 36,
Water Resources	:	28, 38.