

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the August 16, 2005/Sravana 25, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

Import of petroleum products

*301. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of petroleum products imported by the country and the amount spent thereon during each of the last three years;

(b) the present need for the petroleum products and the percentage of which is met by the indigenous production;

(c) whether any fresh efforts are proposed to be made by Government for the exploration of oil so as to meet the domestic demand for petroleum products and to reduce the oil bill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Action against AI officials

*302. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

two Air India traffic officers were intercepted at the Heathrow Airport at London in early June, 2005 with contraband items from India and deported back to Mumbai on account of their failure to pay up the fine/penalty imposed by the UK Customs;

(b) whether AI has taken appropriate disciplinary action against the errant officials; and

(c) whether Government will ensure that the crew of our flag carriers flying to overseas destinations are constantly drilled to keep away from such unlawful activities?

Post closure adjustment on sale of PSUs

*303. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1616 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th March, 2003 and state the details of post closure adjustments, made in the case of BALCO,

Paradeep Phosphates, HTL, Jessop, ITDC Hotels, Airport Hotels, IPCL, VSNL and other cases of strategic sale of PSUs?

Non-payment of mediclaim by insurance companies

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

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding non-payment of mediclaim by the health insurance companies;

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

(c) whether some companies have given suggestions for its improvement?

Grants-in-aid to Gujarat

*305. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the share as tax devolution and grants-in-aid to Gujarat as recommended by the Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commissions and what was the actual disbursements made for 1995-2000 and 2000-2005;

(b) whether it is a fact that the actual amount disbursed is less than that recommended by respective Finance Commissions; and

(c) the details of proposal received from Gujarat for "State specific needs" for the consideration by Twelfth Finance Commission and what is the recommendation of the Twelfth Finance Commission in respect thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bangalore International airport project

*306. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in implementing the India's first greenfield, corporate, joint sector airport of international standard at Bangalore;

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

(c) the steps taken to hasten the process of implementation of the Bangalore International Airport?

Implementation of Dahej Urban Pipeline

*307. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in the implementation of the Dahej Urban Pipeline, so far;

(b) how much gas is proposed to be supplied to Maharashtra for feeding industrial, power and other projects since Maharashtra falls on the pipeline project indicating the number and nature of the projects to be fed; and

(c) whether Maharashtra Government has laid its claim or otherwise requested for additional gas supply; if so, the details in this regard and Government's response thereto?

Revision of listing norms by SEBI

*308. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to give relief to the

small size companies, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reviewed and revised the listing and delisting norms:

(b) if so, the details of major changes and modifications being so made including the reasons for such changes; and

(c) the steps since taken in this direction?

Revenue of States after implementation of VAT

†*309. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various States in the country have registered different rates of increase in their revenue after implementation of VAT;

(b) if so, the rate of increase recorded by each of the States during the first quarter of the year 2005-06; and

(c) the reasons for different rates of increase in revenue?

Pending tourism projects of NER

*310. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various tourism projects for the development of tourism in NER pending with Government;

(b) the details of proposals and the reasons for pendency project-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government to clear the above projects?

Appointment of private agency for PR work in Air India

*311. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to appoint a private agency to manage its public relation work;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for appointing a private agency in this regard; and

(c) what is the practice prevalent in other PSUs under the Ministry?

Relaxation of export rules to attract FDI

*312. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to relax export rules for more FDI and FII remittances to bridge the trade deficit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other financial reforms Government propose to bring in to achieve higher growth?

Improvement of credit-deposit ratio of Kerala

*313. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the credit-deposit ratio is lower in the State of Kerala compared to other Southern States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to improve the credit-deposit ratio?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh

*314. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh;

(b) if so, the amount of education cess accumulated in the above Kosh in 2004-05;

(c) the amount that is going to be generated and accumulated in Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh during the current fiscal;

(d) whether his Ministry is keen that the Kosh be kept in public account which would enable it to withdraw money as and when required for various programmes; and

(e) the reasons as to why the Ministry wanted that the funds be set up on Proforma basis?

Emoluments to officers of public sector banks

*315. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the emoluments of the officers and staff of the public sector banks have been increased with effect from 2002;

(b) if so, the exact date from which the increase has been made effective and the quantum of increase given both to officers and staff, separately;

(c) whether any increase has been allowed for the pensioners both regular and those retired under Voluntary Retirement Scheme of these banks before 2002; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof and the date from which implemented?

Impact of oil prices on foreign exchange reserve

†*316. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of skyrocketing oil prices and bountiful increase in import of non-oil items every year on the foreign exchange reserves;

(b) what is the decrease/increase in the foreign exchange reserve in the last two years; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to enhance the foreign exchange reserve?

Potential of cruise tourism

*317. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great potential for cruise tourism in India:

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have constituted a committee to make India an attractive cruise tourism destination;

(c) if so, what are the recommendations made by the committee; and

(d) the details of ports identified in the Eastern side of India?

New airports in metros

*318. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ambitious plan to construct new airports in all four metros viz. Mumbai,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata in view of the congestion in the present airports due to increased passengers flow;

(b) if so, the stage of airports expansion and construction works in these metros; and

(c) whether Government also propose to upgrade other important airports in the country?

E-Governance at Panchayats

*319. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are successful in facilitating all Panchayats with Information Technology as per the resolution adopted in the Seventh Round Table Conference of Ministers in-charge of Panchayati Raj;

(b) if so, how many Panchayats in the country have this facility; and

(c) whether the use of this technology is helping in good governance?

Oil refinery in Rajasthan

*320. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has proposed to set up a 7.5 million tonne refinery at Kausaria in Barmer district of Rajasthan, with an investment of Rs. 7,967 crores, as a joint venture with its subsidiary, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd., U.K. based Cairn Energy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including its present status?

NEW DELHI;
The 10th August, 2005
Sravana 19, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	:	302, 306, 311, 318,
Company Affairs	:	—
Finance	:	303, 304, 305, 308, 309, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316,
Panchayati Raj	:	319,
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	301, 307, 320,
Tourism	:	310, 317.
Water Resources	:	—