

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the December 16, 2003/Agrahayana 25, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—20

Debt swap scheme for States

*201. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether States have pre-paid
Rs. 23,000 crore of high cost debts in the
first seven months ending October 31, 2003
in the current financial year taking
advantage of the debt-swap scheme;

(b) if so, whether this pre-payment will
also help States in decreasing funds and
improving State finances; and

(c) if so, to what extent States have pre-
paid their debts upto now?

**Management of Kolkata Stock
Exchange**

*202. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of
FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noticed
deficiencies in the management of Kolkata
Stock Exchange;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to
streamline the working of the Exchange;
and

(c) what steps SEBI is taking to ensure
normal working of stock Exchanges?

Recommendation of working group

*203. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the
Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have
examined the recommendations made by
working group on Petroleum and Natural
Gas submitted last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly
the recommendations made for
incorporation in the Tenth Five Year Plan;
and

(c) the action taken by Government
thereon?

Supply of under-weight cylinders

†*204. DR. AKHTAR HASAN
RIZVI: Will the Minister of
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that
gas cylinders being supplied to the
consumers contain less gas than the
prescribed weight;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are formulating any scheme to introduce new cylinder seal to check the theft of gas with a view to supply full weight gas cylinders to the consumers?

Reduced rate of interest on housing loans

†*205. SHRIMATI KAMLA
MANHAR:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP
SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rates of interest being realised by the banks and the public institution on housing loans as per the policy of Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Amro Bank has reduced the same to 6 per cent;

(c) if so, whether the banks under the control of Government also propose to make reduction in their rates; and

(d) the arrangement likely to be made by the Government for the said purpose?

Inclusion of Majuli Island as National Heritage site

*206. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the implementation status of the proposal to include Majuli Island of Assam for funding under NCF and Oil Foundation as a National Heritage site by amendment of existing norms for considering cases under cultural landscape category in addition to monuments as recommended by Government of Assam?

Retail outlets of ONGC

*207. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has been granted permission to set up about 500 retail outlets in the country;

(b) if so, the break up of the outlets proposed to be set up in various States of the country, State-wise; and

(c) by when, these are going to become operational?

Adulteration in Petrol

†*208. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that despite its all out efforts adulteration in petrol could not be checked and a large number of complaints of car-engines getting out of order due to adulterated petrol are being received from the consumers;

(b) if so, whether Government have worked out any scheme to initiate stringent action against persons indulging in the adulteration of petrol; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Scheme for filing Income Tax returns

*209. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the operation of the recently introduced limited scheme for filing Income Tax returns electronically, by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

assessee whose only source of income is salaries, through six specified banks, in seven cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken, if any, to broad-base the scheme to include other categories of assessee also and to expand the facility to include more banks and more cities across the country?

Ground water level

†*210. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground water level is decreasing considerably in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for raising the ground water level?

Loss due to shortage of aircrafts

†*211. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 17 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 2003 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India and Indian Airlines have shortage of aircrafts and most of the aircrafts are quite old;

(b) if so, the total number of aircrafts with these companies separately along with the age of each aircrafts; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the two airlines are incurring losses due to shortage of aircrafts, if so, the details thereof?

Special tourism areas

*212. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the places identified in various States for developing them into special tourism areas, State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance sanctioned by Government for developing those areas during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to develop these places as places of tourist interest?

Regulatory Authority for Oil Sector

*213. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up any regulatory authority that will oversee market based decision-making by both private and public sector oil companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Rate of interest on savings

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

(a) the annual rate of interest on savings bank account, fixed deposit, monthly income scheme as on 1st April, 1998 and 1st December, 2003;

(b) the lending rate as on 1st April, 1998 and 1st December, 2003; and

(c) whether Government have assessed the annual loss of interest being reffered by the depositors in (a) above?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Heritage sites in Tamil Nadu

*215. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the Heritage Sites in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of steps taken or being taken to attract more foreign tourists to India by Government in the recent past;

(c) whether these steps have resulted in the visit of more foreign tourists to India; and

(d) if so, the effort being made in connection with the sites of Tamil Nadu during the last three years?

Completion of water projects

†*216. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to expedite completion of some of the projects, selected from the ongoing water projects, in 1996 itself under a new scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the projects selected so far; and

(c) the number of projects out of the same completed by March, 2003 and the total additional irrigation-potential brought about thereby?

FDI limit in banks

*217. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to increase FDI limit in private banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the increase in FDI limit in private banks will have any impact on nationalized banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

India Economic Summit, 2003

*218. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Economic Summit, 2003 was held in New Delhi from November 23-25, 2003;

(b) if so, whether India has slipped three places to be ranked 56th in the global competitiveness report 2003-04 released by the World Economic Forum;

(c) whether six European economies are ranked among the top ten;

(d) if so, what is the total number of countries that participated in the meeting and the decisions taken; and

(e) what are the main reasons for slipping three places by India and the steps being taken to improve the position?

Irrigation projects under CAD programme

*219. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central assistance is granted to the State Governments under the Command Area Development (CAD) Programme for development of major irrigation projects;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details in this regard and assistance released under CAD Programme to the States during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have received request from the Government of Karnataka for extending assistance under the Programme to minor irrigation projects also for their development and rejuvenation; and

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

Irrigation project of Karnataka

*220. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the irrigation projects of Karnataka pending with the Government for approval/clearance;

(b) how many out of them have been sent back to karnataka for seeking clarifications; and;

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to accord approval/clearance to all these pending irrigation projects?

NEW DELHI;
The 10th December, 2003
Agrahayana 19, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

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Finance	:	201, 202, 205, 209, 214, 217, 218,
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Tourism and Culture	:	206, 212, 215,
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