

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 17, 2004/Sravana 26, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

Tourist information centres at airports

*301. SHRIMATIPREMA

CARIAPPA:

SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
set-up round-the-clock tourist information
centres at all the International Airports of
the country manned by competent and
qualified staff to provide information to the
tourists; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Leasing of aircrafts by AI

†*302. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will
the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has
taken a decision to take aircrafts on lease;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of aircrafts which would
be taken on lease and the period thereof;

(d) how old are these aircrafts and the
amount that will have to be paid by Air
India for each aircraft every year; and

(e) the extent to which Air India's
earnings will increase every year by taking
these aircrafts on lease?

Conference on Panchayati Raj and Rural Development

†*303. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will
the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be
pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the main
recommendations of the Conference of
Chief Ministers and Ministers of
Panchayati Raj and Rural Development
held recently in Delhi on Panchayati Raj
and Rural Development;

(b) whether any work plan to
implement the said recommendations has
been formulated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Self-employment schemes

*304. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the various self-employment schemes being run for extending credit to unemployed youth by different banks in different States;

(b) whether these schemes conform to the local resource availability and the employment based on such resources;

(c) whether a periodic evaluation is done to judge their efficacy for continuation; if so, the resultant achievements in terms of credit extended for self-employment; and

(d) the details of the credit schemes, which were initiated but failed to take off to promote sustainable employment and the reasons for their failure?

Loans for SSI

*305. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans sanctioned by various nationalised banks for the setting up of small scale industries in various States during the last three years; and

(b) what guidelines have been prescribed by Government for granting loans to SSI units in the country?

LPG marketing by private companies

*306. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has objected to allowing some private companies to sell LPG directly to bulk

consumers on the plea that the situation will have an adverse impact on State-run marketing companies; and

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

Profit by oil companies

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

(a) what is the amount of profit earned by public sector oil companies during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that oil companies, under the garb of increased crude oil prices at international level, time and again propose increase in prices of petroleum products; and

(c) what were the selling prices per litre of diesel and petrol as on 1st April from 1999 to 2004 in different parts of the country?

Coal gassification project of GAIL

*308. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL has been examining coal gassification option for commercial projects in eastern parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the source of technology and the countries, where this technology is being used for power generation and fertilizer production;

(c) whether Government will extend any fiscal and other support for projects on coal gassification in view of high oil price scenario; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Srinagar airport as international airport

*309. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of J & K have been requesting Government for declaring the airport at Srinagar as international airport;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in this direction; and

(c) by when a declaration to this effect would be made?

GDP growth rate

*310. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what will be the growth rate target in 2004-05 in view of Government's commitment of sustained growth of 7-8 per cent while 8.2 per cent GDP growth achieved in 2003-04 marks the best performance by the economy since reforms began;

(b) which other sectors, besides farm and agriculture, will be focused so that overall growth rate is further improved upon; and

(c) whether it is a fact that China has achieved 9.8 per cent growth and whether a comparative study has been made in this regard to learn from their experience, wherever feasible?

GAIL's overseas projects

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL proposes to venture into Egypt and other foreign lands in oil and gas sector;

(b) if so, the details of the new projects;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the country is facing deficit in gas sector and propose to import gas from other countries to meet the shortfall; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of Government to become self-sufficient in this sector in times to come?

NPAs of banks

*312. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act passed in 2002 has had any appreciable impact on the recovery management of the banks;

(b) if so, the details of the Non-Performing Assets of the banks during the last two years *i.e.* 2002-03 and 2003-04, year-wise and bank-wise; and

(c) by when the outstanding NPA is likely to be fully recovered and what special steps are going to be taken for the purpose?

Shifting of Regional Office of United Bank of India

*313. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Bank of India as the lead bank for Manipur, has shifted its Regional Office from Imphal to Silchar, Assam and has also closed down its five branches;

(b) if so, the details there of and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken including finding a new lead bank to accelerate banking activities in Manipur specially in hilly districts?

Growth prospects of civil aviation sector

*314. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number with names of the public sector and private sector airlines in the country with economic viability;

(b) whether a number of private carriers (East West Airlines) are waiting in the wings for clearance and licence to fly; and

(c) the status of domestic civil aviation sector with growth prospects in the next five years with names of likely players and share?

Village tourism in Tamil Nadu

*315. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to promote and publicize village tourism in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) whether Government plan to encourage foreign and domestic tourists to visit the villages in Tamil Nadu to see the Pongal festival and Jallikattu?

Agriculture finance by RRBs

*316. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture finance by regional rural banks has been targeted to grow at the rate of 40 per cent during the current financial year;

(b) whether the target for agriculture finance set by RRBs during the current financial year was Rs. 8500 crore which is 40 per cent higher than the figure achieved during the previous financial year;

(c) whether the target for agriculture finance set for RRBs during the fiscal under review is much higher than what is set for commercial cooperative banks; and

(d) if so, what efforts are being made to grow more than 40 per cent in future?

Reduction of interest rate on EPF

†*317. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for reducing interest rate on Employees Provident Fund is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Restoration of water bodies

†*318. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to restore five lakhs water bodies in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount estimated to be spent on implementing this scheme; and

(c) the estimated number of the water bodies to be restored in the country, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Proposal for "Palaces-on-Sea"

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

(a) whether Government propose to plan "Palaces-on-Sea";

(b) if so, details of the action plan;

(c) the areas where these ships will cruise along our coastline; and

(d) how far this would help to improve the economy of the coastal population?

Recovery of dues

*320. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of crores of rupees are outstanding for long but due to grant of stay by the courts, settlement commission, IATA and income-tax authorities etc., the recovery of the same has been held up;

(b) if so, the steps taken to get the stay orders vacated and to recover the amount; and

(c) whether the financial condition of Government indicts laxity in the recovery of these dues?

NEW DELHI;
The 11th August, 2004
Sravana 20, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

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