

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the December 17, 2002/Agrahayana 26, 1924 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions—20**

#### **Tourism Projects in Rajasthan**

\*381. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 237 projects sanctioned for the development of infrastructure in the field of tourism since 2001, only 4 projects have been sanctioned for Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the names of the projects sanctioned for Rajasthan;

(c) the amount spent on each of the projects so far; and

(d) by when the projects are likely to be completed?

#### **Higher interest rates in RRBs**

\*382. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that interest rates in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are higher than those of commercial banks; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to take up the right type of restructuring plan for RRBs?

#### **Indo-Italian Co-operation Programme in H.P.**

\*383. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the proposals for bilateral assistance under the Indo-Italian Development Co-operation Programme received from Himachal Pradesh Government;

(b) what are the main objectives of the project; and

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter and by when?

#### **Restriction on creation of new posts in Government services**

\*384. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken the decision of restricting the creation of new posts in Government services as well as in the services of Government undertakings;

(b) the extent of progress made in the execution of Voluntary Retirement Scheme; and

(c) the reasons for encouraging the employees for taking Voluntary Retirement Scheme?

**Inspection of Central and State Co-operative Banks by NABARD**

\*385. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has conducted statutory inspection under Section 35 of the RBI Act in regard to Central and State Cooperative Banks;

(b) if so, the details of the irregularities noticed by NABARD; and

(c) whether NABARD has further taken any action in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

**Multiple tax system**

\*386. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:  
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that multiple tax system and several other levies are cramping the growth of industrial sector in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to enact a law on ending multiple taxes, regulation and standards; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

**Demat Share Scam**

\*387. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an official

complaint has been lodged with SEBI to probe into Demat Share Scam;

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

(c) whether Government propose to issue a White Paper on this scam?

**Surplus in the current account of Government**

\*388. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA  
SEKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether surplus in the current account of Government was recorded in 2001-2002 for the first time in 24 years;

(b) if so, what is the total surplus during the current year;

(c) whether there has been any further improvement upto now; and

(d) what efforts are being made to have a further surplus in the current account during the remaining period of the current financial year?

**Increase in price of Natural Gas**

\*389. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase the price of natural gas after 1st April, 2003;

(b) if so, by when and how much and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government of Gujarat have made any representation to the Central Government not to hike gas prices, if so, what decision has been taken?

**National Level Regulatory Board for  
SFCs**

\*390. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to form a permanent National Level Committee/Regulatory Board to look after the functioning of State Financial Corporations, to make them free from influential persons, to have uniformity in their functioning and to provide them the guidance from one point instead of triangular points;

(b) if so, what will be the composition of that Board and by when it will be formed; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

**Tax on agricultural income**

\*391. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to levy tax on agricultural income;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) what is the estimate of revenue through this taxing of agri-income?

**Cases pending with DRTs in Andhra Pradesh**

\*392. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending before the two DRTs in Andhra Pradesh as on date, bank and Financial Institution-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of DRTs in Andhra Pradesh to expedite recovery cases of banks and FIs; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Development of Reghurajpur village in Puri, Orissa**

\*393. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether Government have identified Reghurajpur village in Puri district of Orissa as one of the 10 places for development of tourist centres; if so, what are the other such places in Orissa;

(b) whether UNICEF would also contribute towards development of this village as a tourist centre, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the agency if any, engaged for development of this tourist centre with contribution to be made by Government?

**Permission for opening foreign currency (domestic) account**

\*394. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government with a view to further liberalise foreign exchange facilities have decided to permit resident Indians to open, hold and maintain foreign currency (domestic) account with any Nationalised bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any limit has been fixed for retaining money in the proposed foreign currency (domestic) account in US Dollars; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Efficiency of commercial banks**

†\*395. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN  
SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that efficiency in the working of commercial banks has declined during the period from 1996-97 to 2001-2002;

(b) if not, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the total turnover of banks during the above period year-wise?

**Allocation of oilfields**

†\*396. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the total area having oil reserves in the country so that they be allotted for oil production under the new petroleum policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total reserves of oil and gas available in the said oil sectors; and

(c) the number of oilfields allotted to private and public sectors for production so far and their oil production capacity per day?

**Expert Committee on pricing of gas**

\*397. SHRI ARJUN SINGH:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has set up an expert committee to review the pricing of gas supplied to the consumers by Mahanagar Gas Limited;

(b) if so, whether the Committee was to give its recommendations by the end of November, 2002;

(c) if so, what are the details of the report;

(d) whether Government have considered the report; and

(e) what steps are being taken to implement it?

**Formula for fixing price of petrol and diesel**

\*398. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of petrol and diesel are increased/decreased on the basis of prevailing international prices of crude oil after abandoning of APM;

(b) if so, whether the consumer is unaware of the mechanism of change in prices;

(c) if so, whether Government would, in public interest and transparency, apprise the consumer, through media about the arithmetic applied in arriving at the sale-price of petrol and diesel whenever the change is actually effected; and

(d) if so, the details of the conversion formula?

**Loans extended by RRBs**

†\*399. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans extended by the various Regional Rural Banks in the country;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the amount of loans recovered within the stipulated time limit together with the amount of loan outstanding;

(c) the details of the Regional Rural Banks of Madhya Pradesh in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken to recover the outstanding amount?

(a) the details of the proposed expansion at Chennai Airport;

(b) the reasons for the delay in completing the expansion of the ANNA International Terminal at Chennai Airport; and

**Expansion of international terminal at Chennai Airport**

\*400. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(c) whether there is also any proposal to have a second runway at Chennai Airport?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 11th December, 2002*  
*Agrahayana 20, 1924 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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