

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the February 18, 2003/Magha 29, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—20

Allocation of kerosene to NE States

*1. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per capita availability and consumption of kerosene in the North-Eastern States, State-wise vis-a-vis the national average; and

(b) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to increase the allocation of kerosene to North-Eastern States?

Bifurcation of UTI

*2. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India (UTI) has been split into two parts namely UTI-I and UTI-II;

(b) if so, the details and functions of each of them; and

(c) what is the purpose of splitting it into two parts?

Bhatinda Refinery

†*3. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil-refinery at Bhatinda in Punjab is being constructed through Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details of amount spent so far on the construction of above refinery alongwith the percentage of the construction work completed, so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have accepted the proposal of disinvestment of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.(HPCL); and

(d) if so, the name of the agency which would be entrusted with the responsibility of completing the construction of said refinery after the disinvestment of HPCL?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Replacement of equipments at IGI Airport

*4. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the imported equipments at Indira Gandhi International Airport for making the runway operational during fog conditions have failed to function during fog in December, 2002 and January, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what was the cost of the equipments and whether there is replacement guarantee for these equipments; and

(d) what action is being taken to equip the airport with effective system/equipments for landing in foggy conditions?

Withdrawal of tax exemptions

*5. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of any State-sponsored Social-Security for non-Government, non-Public Sector, Private Sector and self-employed persons, incentive of tax-exemptions motivate people to save/invest in LIC, PPF, NSC etc., and obtain self-financed social-security;

(b) whether it is also a fact that withdrawal of tax-exemptions will demotivate people against savings in aforesaid schemes jeopardising above said self-acquired social security; and

(c) if the answer to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative in what manner Government propose to address this sensitive issue?

Tourism project for Himachal Pradesh

*6. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects sanctioned since 1998 for development of infrastructure of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

Tourism Policy for the Hills

*7. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign tourist traffic has come down during the last three years; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have any hill tourism policy keeping in view the attraction of enchanting mountains in the country;

(c) if not, what action is contemplated to promote tourism, pilgrimage, adventure and environmental aspects on mountains;

(d) what are the plans to develop Hill Stations of India to attract more foreign tourists; and

(e) the details of financial assistance given to States during the last three years for the development of tourism?

Demand of petroleum products

†*8. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether Government have assessed the demand of petroleum products in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the estimated demand of each petroleum product during the current year; and

(c) the extent to which this demand is likely to exceed as compared to the previous year?

Meeting on linking the Ganga and the Cauvery rivers

*9. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Central Government to convene a meeting of all States to discuss and arrive at a consensus on the ambitious project of linking the Ganga and the Cauvery rivers; and

(b) if so, what is States' response in this regard?

Influence of international prices of crude oil on domestic prices

*10. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fluctuations in the prices of crude oil in the international market during the last six months;

(b) in what manner these have influenced the domestic prices of petroleum products; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase domestic production of crude oil?

Linking of rivers in the Country

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

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to link all the major rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame by which the work is likely to be completed;

(c) whether any techno-feasibility study of the project has been initiated and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the cost estimated for the completion of the project;

(e) whether Government would seek foreign assistance for the project;

(f) whether Government's attention has been drawn to several dissenting opinions expressed in the media by some top experts and specialists on the efficacy and the feasibility of the project; and

(g) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Development of various spots in North Eastern Region

*12. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that detailed

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

plans of development of tourism facilities in regard to Bhuvan Hills in Gehar (Barak Valley), Kashipur in Silchar and Kamakhya Yatri Niwas at Guwahati are pending consideration with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning the project especially when funds therefor have already been earmarked; and

(d) by when the projects are likely to be cleared to facilitate their development as tourist resorts?

Regulation of foreign exchange reserves

†*13. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further liberalise rules governing regulation of foreign exchange considering continuous inflow and vast reserve of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether restrictions imposed on extension of facilities of exchange of rupee with foreign currency by banks to their customers has since been lifted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Renovation of Ranchi Airport

†*14 SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether ownership of land of Ranchi Airport rests with the Ministry of Defence;

(b) whether difficulties are being faced in renovation of the airport due to this reason; and

(c) whether any correspondence has been made in this regard with the Ministry of Defence?

Oil potential in deep sea in India

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge potential of attracting FDI in deep sea oil exploration in our country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the potential;

(c) whether any foreign companies have shown interest under New Exploration Licensing Policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Development of Buddhist Centres in Orissa

*16. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa Government has chalked out an ambitious plan to develop the State as a major destination for Buddhist tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Central Government propose to bear-major portion of the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

expenses for development as reported in the New Indian Express dated 15th December, 2002, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the places that would be developed for the purpose and associations that would be involved in it?

Updating of ASI protected monuments

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ASI has not updated the protected monument's lists for decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the monuments in the country State-wise, which are not traceable; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

Supply of gas from Iran

*18. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether during his recent visit to India the Iranian President has made an offer of supply of gas to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the proposed supply line for the transfer of gas will pass through Pakistan;

(d) if so, what arrangements are proposed to be put in place to cover the security risk involved in a pipeline through Pakistan;

(e) whether the proposed offer also includes a new global corporate ownership of the pipeline; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

New exploration by ONGC

*19. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after gas was found in Krishna Godavari Basin by Reliance, ONGC has also found gas in another exploration block at some other location;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the exploration from the new source would start?

Tax free an inter-linking of rivers

*20. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Task Force on inter-linking of rivers;

(b) if so, the details regarding composition of the task force;

(c) what are the terms of reference of the Task Force;

(d) by when the Task Force is likely to submit its report;

(e) whether the matter has been discussed with the State Governments; (f) if so, by when the work on this project is likely to start?

NEW DELHI;
The 11th February, 2003
Magha 22, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

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|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Civil Aviation | : | 4, 14, |
| Finance and Company Affairs | : | 2, 5, 13, |
| Petroleum and Natural Gas | : | 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 18, 19 |
| Tourism and Culture | : | 6, 7, 12, 16, 17, |
| Water Resources | : | 9, 11, 20, |