

## 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 19, 2003/Sravana 28, 1925 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions—20**

#### **Allocation of kerosene to Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh**

\*381. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether kerosene being allotted to Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh is in proportion to the national average;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the quota of kerosene is proposed to be increased in view of the increasing population and the dependence of the rural people on kerosene;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Ichampalli and Polavaram irrigation projects**

\*382. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:  
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to execute major irrigation projects such as Ichampalli and Polavaram;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take them up for execution; and

(c) by when they are likely to be completed?

#### **Funds for irrigation projects in tribal areas**

†\*383. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the irrigation works in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by Government to start irrigation related development work in these areas; and

(e) the amount allocated, State-wise, particularly to Jharkhand for development of irrigation projects in the tribal areas?

#### **Delegations visiting foreign countries**

†\*384. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

official and non-official delegations visit foreign countries;

(b) if so, the number of such delegations that visited foreign countries during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on the visits of these delegations, year-wise?

#### **Import of crude oil**

†\*385. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN  
SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) the value of import of all the petroleum and related products during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the percentage of this value out of the total import value during the said period?

#### **Under-invoicing by exporters/ importers**

\*386. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Customs authorities have imposed penalty on several exporters/ importers and individuals for under-invoicing exports/imports under COFEPOSA during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to strengthen various laws to check such frauds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Nomination on the Board of Directors of IFCI**

†\*387. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:  
SHRIMATI SARLA  
MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to nominate Directors from Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Reserve Bank of India in-place of private directors on the Board of Directors of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Allocation of gas to power projects**

\*388. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:  
DR. A.K. PATEL:

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

(a) the demand for allocation of gas to power projects at present;

(b) whether Government are considering the demand;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government now propose to firm up the allocation of gas for Pipavav Project when the problems between the British Gas, Reliance, and ONGC Consortium have been sorted out?

#### **Foreign Exchange options market**

\*389. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether launch of a foreign exchange

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

options market in the rupee on 7th July, 2003 has helped deepen overseas investors' interest in the country;

(b) if so, whether this would offer them a more flexible means of hedging currency risk;

(c) whether most investors have been content to leave their currency exposure unhedged to cash in on rupee gains in recent times; and

(d) if so, to what extent this decision has helped more foreign investment?

#### **Irrigation projects from Karnataka**

\*390. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:  
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of irrigation projects from Karnataka are pending in his Ministry for approval; and

(b) if so, the present status of these projects and the steps taken to clear the projects on priority basis?

#### **Promotion of organic cultivation by NABARD**

\*391. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:  
SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD plans to promote organic cultivation of horticulture crops in mango belt in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NABARD has got such projects for other States like Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Differential interest rates charged by banks**

\*392. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Nationalised Banks have already given huge amount of loan to monopoly houses @ 6.5 per cent interest whereas they are charging 12.5 per cent interest rates from self-help women groups and 16 per cent interest on agricultural and co-operative loans;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a big difference in interest rates; and

(c) whether Government would like to rationalise the various rates of interest and give loan to farmers and self-help groups @ 6.5 per cent interest per annum?

#### **Tax relief on Insurance policies**

†\*393. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:  
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide income tax rebate on the Insurance Policies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Use of brokers for securities transactions**

\*394. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

has utilised the services of brokers in their securities transactions in the overseas market;

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

(c) whether such transactions were done as principals or as agents and trades were settled through the books of the brokers; and

(d) if so, the volume of the transactions including purchase and sale?

**Rate of interest on finance provided to exporters**

\*395. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of interest charged on finance provided to exporters by various financial institutions;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rate of interest is much higher as compared to those in other countries of the world;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) what steps Government are taking or propose to take to reduce the rate of interest;

(e) whether any proposal in this connection has been submitted to the Ministry of finance; and

(f) if so, the response thereto?

**IA's market share**

\*396. SHRI GAYA SINGH:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the market

share of Indian Airlines has eroded during 2003; and

(b) if so, the comparative share of Indian Airlines and other major private airlines in the matter of passengers and revenue and how do they compare with the figures during the same period last year?

**Restructuring of LIC**

\*397. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to restructure Life Insurance Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor together with the agency that suggested restructuring;

(c) the total capital of LIC and total number of policy holders as on today;

(d) the total claims paid by LIC during 2002-03;

(e) the annual dividend paid to Government for the last three years, year-wise

(f) whether the available solvency margin of LIC will be much above the required level as compared to the market value of assets of LIC; and

(g) what steps are proposed to be taken to further strengthen the role of LIC?

**International assistance for Cauvery water supply**

\*398. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:  
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government to include Cauvery Water Supply State-IV, Phase-I in

the list of projects to be taken up under Japanese Bank for International Cooperation assistance during 2003-04; and

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

**Merger of associate banks of SBI**

\*399. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering merger of seven associate banks of State Bank of India;

(b) if so, the names of associate banks to be merged with State Bank of India; and

(c) whether this merger will result in efficient working of banks?

**Supply of CNG to private cars**

\*400. SHRI AMAR SINGH:  
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that owners of the private cars cannot get CNG fuel at Indraprasth Gas Ltd. unless their registration certificates had a special stamp put by the Transport Department of Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when this restriction is likely to be removed particularly in view of the abundant supply of CNG in the capital?

NEW DELHI;  
The 13th August, 2003  
Sravana 22, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
Secretary-General.

**I N D E X**  
(Ministry-wise)

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Civil Aviation</b>            | : 396,  |
| <b>Finance</b>                   | : 384, 386, 387, 389, 391, 392, 393, 394,<br>395, 397, 399, |
| <b>Petroleum and Natural Gas</b> | : 381, 385, 388, 400,                                       |
| <b>Tourism and Culture</b>       | : —   |
| <b>Water Resources</b>           | : 382, 383, 390, 398,                                       |