

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the July 20, 2004/Asadha 29, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—20

ONGC's joint venture in Sudan

*201. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commercial
production of crude oil in Sudan through
joint ventures of ONGC Videsh and
Sudanese Government has started;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity and the rate at which
crude oil from Sudan will be made available
to India?

Transactions by big firms in NSE and BSE

†*202. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the
total transactions carried out in NSE and
BSE during the first six months of the year
2003-04, over 50 per cent contribution was
made by ten big firms only;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the names of such ten big firms
which made the maximum contribution in

the transactions of the said exchanges
together with the percentage of their
contribution in terms of the total
transactions?

Modernisation of Madurai Airport

*203. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the
Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
modernise and expand Madurai airport and
also to start aircraft operations from Salem
airport in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Budgetary flexibility in States

*204. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India
has called upon States to make efforts to
enhance their own revenues—both tax and
non-tax, to improve budgetary flexibility;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps in
this regard have been considered by
Government; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what are the suggestions made by RBI to the States and how many States have agreed to augment their revenues?

Fiscal deficit of NE States

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

(a) the financial deficit of each of the seven States in N.E. Region during Financial Year 1999-2000;

(b) the details of the States' financial position as on today; and

(c) in what manner, the Central Government propose to assist the States to overcome their financial problem?

Increase in account maintenance charges

*206. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Security Depository Limited sponsored Depository Participants have increased Account Maintenance charges from Rs. 75/- p.a. to Rs. 150/- p.a. and then to Rs. 300/-p.a. during the last three years;

(b) whether this increase has been approved by proper communication to customers (shareholders/investors); and

(c) if not, what action Government propose to take to stop this arbitrary increase so that such an action can help in reviving the stock markets?

LNG terminal at Mangalore

*207. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC proposes to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Karnataka Government to set-up an LNG Terminal at Mangalore coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, it will be set-up?

Debt relief to farmers

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance after declaring measures/package for agriculture, has directed the States to work out targets for boosting loan credit and provide debt relief to distressed farmers;

(b) if so, whether Chief Ministers of States have been urged to implement action plan announced by the Central Government;

(c) if so, whether Government are confident that measures announced will only be implemented with the cooperation of State Governments; and

(d) if so, what is the progress so far made by States and how many States have agreed to meet the target fixed in this regard?

Increase in area under irrigation

*209. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the increase in the land area under irrigation during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are having any short-term plan for the extension of irrigation facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

CAG report on sale of Modern Food, BALCO etc.

*210. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG has sent final report on strategic sale of Modern Food, BALCO, Paradeep Phosphate, ITDC and HCI Hotels, VSNL, Jessop, etc.;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, in view of the assurance by the earlier Government to get every strategic sale scrutinized by CAG;

(c) whether any review of the shareholders' agreement *vis-a-vis* labour issues of these units has been done;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the post-privatisation performance of these units on quantitative, financial, employment generation, and new investment?

Paid-up capital for new entrants in aviation sector

*211. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Private Airlines have requested him for an increase in paid-up capital for the new entrants in the sector and also not to allow foreign airlines to pick up equity in domestic carriers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

LPG agencies in Nagaland

*212. SHRI T. R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies allotted in Nagaland during the last three years;

(b) the target fixed for allotment of LPG agencies in the State during the above period; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet the target?

Reduction in social sector spending by States

*213. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cash strapped State Governments have been trying to bring their fiscal deficit under control by drastically cutting down their social sector spending;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the reduced spending on social sector affects the vital public services leading to enhancement of poverty;

(c) if so, whether Government have carried out any study to find out the reasons for stagnation in the expenditure on social services by majority States; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in this matter?

Excise duty on edible oil

*214. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculturists and edible oil producing units are demanding

withdrawal of excise duty imposed on edible oil/vanaspati in view of the hardship being faced by them; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's reaction thereto?

Development of Tourism in Rajasthan

†*215. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Rajasthan which have been identified by Government for the development of tourism during the current year; and

(b) the details of outlines drawn by Government in this regard?

Cost-effective air service

*216. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has adopted any proposal to start cost-effective International Flights to make air travel attractive and affordable;

(b) if so, the names of countries and destinations chosen for the new service along with the date of commencement; and

(c) whether Government propose to acquire new planes for Air India to augment the fleet strength for this purpose?

Draining of gas in Tripura

*217. SHRIMATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of natural gas reserves discovered by ONGC in the country and

the quantity of gas in each of them;

(b) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of condenser oil has been draining out at the time of isolation of natural gas in Tripura;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this condenser oil is highly inflammable and that no attempt is made to turn this oil into a consumable substance;

(d) whether appropriate steps would be taken to make this gas consumable; and

(e) if so, in what manner and by when?

New International Airport at Bangalore

*218. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the changes in the FDI rules for modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports, the promoters of the Bangalore Greenfield Airport have developed cold feet;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to expedite modernisation of the Bangalore International Airport;

(c) whether Government clearances, if any, have been accorded to this Airport;

(d) whether financial requirements have been tied-up; and

(e) what is the likely date of its completion?

Impact of Open Sky Policy on National Carriers

*219. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the 'Open Sky Policy' of allowing private airlines to operate between Indian cities and the destinations abroad has affected the prospects of our National Carriers commercially;

(b) if so, what are the proposals to improve their prospects; and

(c) if not, whether the private airlines will be allowed to operate between far off destinations and also increase their frequencies?

Utilisation of ground water

*220. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water

Board has examined the indiscriminate exploitation of ground water reserves from aquifers at Plachimada, Palakkad, Kerala and Kaladera, Rajasthan by the multinational soft drink giants;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the action taken against the soft drink plants;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to estimate the extent of utilisation of ground water by manufacturers of soft drinks and mineral water and for other purposes;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and category-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 14th July, 2004
Asadha 23, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 203, 211, 216, 218, 219,
Company Affairs	: —
Finance	: 202, 204, 205, 206, 208, 210, 213, 214,
Panchayati Raj	: —
Petroleum and Natural Gas	: 201, 207, 212, 217,
Tourism	: 215,
Water Resources	: 209, 220.