

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 20, 2005/Agrahayana 29, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

Rise in tourist inflow

*381. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be
pleased to state:

(a) whether tourist inflow for seven
month period ending August, 2005 is up
by 15.6 per cent to 2.37 Million against
2.05 Million in corresponding period last
year;

(b) whether the annual tourist inflow
has been around 2.3 Million till 2003;

(c) whether with the current growth
rate, the tourist inflow is likely to cross 4
Million mark in 2005;

(d) what steps, Government propose
to take, to improve other facilities in India
so that tourist inflow is further improved;
and

(e) what concrete steps Government
propose to take to provide security
to foreign tourists and also hotel and
other facilities in various parts of the
country?

New irrigation projects

*382. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the
Minister of WATER RESOURCES be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
start any new irrigation projects to provide
irrigation facilities to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have
announced any package for the farmers of
Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when this package is likely to be
given?

New opium policy

†*383. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will
the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to
state:

(a) whether Government have brought
into force a new rule of moisture in its new
opium policy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether as a result of this policy
the small farmers engaged in the cultivation

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of opium would suffer losses as they would be deprived of lease of land; if so, the number of farmers of the country who would suffer losses due to this policy of Government alongwith the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government would benefit as a result of this new opium policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons for formulation of this policy?

Check on influx of Afghani heroin

*384. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent seizures of narcotics, especially heroin by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence personnel in Delhi indicate that the contraband originating from Afghanistan is conduited to world markets *via* Delhi;

(b) whether the majority of offenders nabbed by the DRI are from Ghana, Nigeria and other African nations; and

(c) what steps are being taken to check the influx of Afghani heroin into the country for onward carriage?

Acquisition of new planes for Air India and Indian Airlines

*385. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finally decided to buy new planes for Air India/Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of companies which have been short listed

for acquisition of planes for both the airlines;

(c) by when the orders would be placed with the manufacturing companies and planes delivered to the airlines; and

(d) what is the total amount of expenditure involved in these deals and the present status of the same?

Loans to SSIs and agricultural sectors by public sector banks

†*386. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to provide loans to small scale industries and agricultural sectors through public sector banks at cheap rate of interest;

(b) what is the percentage of rate of interest at which loans to these sectors are provided currently;

(c) what are the terms and conditions and time limit for loans without security; and

(d) details of loans sanctioned to small scale industrial units by banks during the past three years, State-wise?

Autonomy to PSUs

*387. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to grant more autonomy to some Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of such PSUs, which are likely to be benefited?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rehabilitation package for sick co-operative banks

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has sought States' participation in rehabilitation package for sick co-operative banks;

(b) whether Government are asking States to extend a helping hand in the implementation of Rs. 14,839 crore rehabilitation package for ailing co-operative banks;

(c) whether National Commission on Farmers recommended for basic changes in the mindset for credit delivery;

(d) whether the panel in its second report formulated a new livelihood concept and called for its implementation through a proposed multi-crore budget; and

(e) if so, the States which have agreed to participate in the rehabilitation package of sick co-operative banks?

Findings of the probe into fire on ONGC platform

*389. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the probe made into the causes of the fire that engulfed an oil platform on ONGC at Bombay High on July 27; and

(b) the steps taken to minimize the damage, to salvage the ship, the equipment and machines involved in the fire and to prevent any further accidents of the type?

Stamp duty on green market transactions

*390. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation from the Association of National Stock Exchange Members of India (ANSEMI) stating that equal investors have to pay stamp duty twice on all green market transactions routed through terminals located outside Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of other issues raised therein;

(c) whether any intervention of his Ministry has prompted the State Government of Maharashtra to revise its earlier decision;

(d) whether Government are aware that Maharashtra Government has decided to revise its earlier decision in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Availability of LPG cylinders at Fair Price Shops for BPL families

*391. SHRINANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to issue orders permitting distribution of LPG cylinders to the Below Poverty Line families through Fair Price Shops by storing upto 7 cylinders in each F.P. shop at any point of time which could be distributed without any license, as 28 lakh BPL families who had been given gas connections, are not in a position to go to far-off places, where Agencies are located for Gas Refills; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

Amount spent by oil companies

*392. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the Public Sector Oil Companies during 2004-05;

(b) whether it is a fact that these oil companies have spent more amount than the budgeted; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of Indian tourism among East-Asian countries

*393. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating a 'Look East Policy' to promote Indian tourism among East-Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed policy; and

(c) by when the proposed policy is likely to be implemented?

Development of tourist infrastructure in backward regions

*394. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranks Fifth among world's tourist hotspots according to the latest survey conducted by Conde Nast Readers' Travel Awards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) which are the major factors that have favoured India as an attractive tourist destination; and

(d) what is the action plan of the Centre to develop the infrastructure in certain backward regions which have big tourist potential such as Orissa, to further add to tourist arrivals?

Closure of petrol pumps in Uttar Pradesh

*395. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that oil mafia is operating in Uttar Pradesh in a big way;

(b) if so, what Government are doing to ensure unadulterated oil and LPG supply in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether Government are aware that LPG is being mixed with water and such dealers have not been prosecuted yet;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) how many petrol pumps sealed in Uttar Pradesh and dealers prosecuted so far?

New technique on exploration of crude oil

†*396. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that with the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

invention of a scientific technique by a Norwegian Science and Technology University, Trondheien, recovery of crude oil from oil rigs goes upto 60 per cent; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and whether it is a fact that an agreement has also been reached between ONGC and the said institute in this regard?

Marketing of indigenously produced kerosene and LPG

*397. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted ONGC to market indigenously produced kerosene to non-PDS consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have also authorized marketing of indigenously produced LPG in the country by the manufacturers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Additional gas to Maharashtra

*398. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has been requesting the Union Government for supply of additional natural gas/LNG for Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the arrangements made by the Union Government for allocation of additional gas

for Maharashtra till the time the Dahej-Uran gas pipeline is completed?

Intrusion of unauthorized persons at airports

†*399. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents regarding intrusion of unauthorized persons into the airports, specially Delhi Airport during the last one year;

(b) the names of the persons found responsible for intrusion of unauthorized persons into the protected area of airports alongwith the action taken against them; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make the security of airports impenetrable in future?

Exploration of CBM in Damodar River Valley

†*400. DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that coal bed methane has been explored in the Damodar River Valley, from Jharkhand upto the city of Asansol of Bengal;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there will be increase in the availability of CNG in the country after this exploration; and

(d) if so, the additional quantum of CNG estimated to be available and since when commercial production of CNG is likely to commence in this sector?

NEW DELHI;
The 14th December, 2005

Agrahayana 23, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 385, 399,
Company Affairs	: —
Finance	: 383, 384, 386, 388, 390,
Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	: 387,
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