

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the April 22, 2003/Vaisakha 2, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—20

Commencement of river linking project

***441. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-
CHARJEE:**

Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) by when the work on the Mega
Project of linking of northern rivers with
southern rivers is likely to commence;

(b) whether there are certain
apprehensions on the practicability of this
project in certain quarters in the country;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to remove doubts in
this regard?

Loans taken from financial institutions

†*442. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will
the Minister of FINANCE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan taken by
Government from financial institutions
alongwith the rate of interest payable on
this loan;

(b) whether Government have
formulated any scheme to repay the loan of
these financial institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Ban on discos in ITDC hotels

***443. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:** Will
the Minister of TOURISM AND
CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided
to ban discos at ITDC hotels and are
advising private hotels also to close their
discos and start promoting classical music
and dances on the plea that discos are against
Indian culture and are exerting bad influence
on Bharatiya Sanskriti; and

(b) if so, whether its impact on foreign
tourists has been taken into consideration?

Suspension of air services to Arabian countries

***444. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air
India had suspended operations to all the
Arabian countries near Iraq due to war;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total number of flights suspended due to this war;

(c) what has been the economic impact due to the suspension of operation by both Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(d) by when Government are considering to restart the operation in these countries?

Fluctuation in prices of petroleum products

†*445. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of crude-oil has come down in the international market during the America-Iraq war in comparison to the prices prevailing previously;

(b) if so, the average price of the same before and during the war;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of petroleum products were increased in India during the war; and

(d) if so, the details of the products for which prices have been increased and extent of the increase?

Foreign ventures of GAIL

*446. SHRI B. J. PANDA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the news "GAIL India sets sights overseas" as reported in media;

(b) if so, what are its proposed new ventures in the foreign fields; and

(c) the countries where the company is already having ventures in CNG and petrochemicals together with the annual earnings in foreign exchange from the existing ones?

Expansion of aviation facilities in Uttar Pradesh

†*447. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any projects for the expansion of civil aviation facilities in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far by Government to provide air services to and from Kanpur, the industrial city of Uttar Pradesh?

Entry to majority community to Bhojshala in M.P.

*448. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have advised the M.P. Government to permit the entry of majority community for full day and to carry puja material to Bhojshala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what arrangements have been made for the security of the monument?

Dovetailing the India Development Initiative Fund

*449. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 686 given in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the Rajya Sabha on 14th May, 2002 and state whether the Ministry has decided to dovetail the India Development Initiative Fund set up with a corpus of Rs. 200 crore with project export support provided by Exim Bank and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation?

Exemption to donation from tax in Gujarat

*450. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from Government of Gujarat to extend the time limit of exemption under 80(G) of the Income Tax Act for receipt and utilisation of donation made to the NGOs and charitable trusts for relief and rehabilitation to earthquake affected areas of Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been considered by Government; and

(c) by when the decision is likely to be announced?

Facilities provided to Haj pilgrims

†*451. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of concessions and facilities being provided to Haj pilgrims travelling by plane;

(b) the number of Haj pilgrims who availed this facility during this year;

(c) whether such types of facilities would be provided to Sikh, Christian and Hindu pilgrims also; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Ticketing system at Taj Mahal and other monuments

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

(a) whether any incident of reselling of tickets at Taj Mahal has come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the action taken against the personnels indulging in such acts;

(c) in what manner the ASI propose to streamline ticketing system at Taj and other important tourist places all over the country; and

(d) the details of the tiff between CISF and employees of ASI at Taj in December, 2002?

Difficulties in implementation of VAT

†*453. SHRI UDAI PRATAP SINGH: SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN 'DURRU':

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

(a) whether the ongoing controversies regarding the difficulties faced by the trade and commerce in proper implementation of the VAT have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have held discussions with the State Governments and the representatives of the various trade unions so as to ascertain the real problems in the implementation of VAT in different States and to arrive at a procedure to overcome its shortcomings;

(d) whether Government are considering to amend the VAT keeping in view the protest

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

by the traders against its implementation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Loss in forward deals by SBI Capital Market Ltd., Chennai

*454. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that SBI Capital Market Ltd., Chennai, incurred a loss of Rs. 16.25 crores in respect of four ready forward deals entered into with a private firm;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of private firm; and

(c) whether senior officer of SBI CAP was found involved in this matter and if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

FDI in Gujarat

*455. SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) Gujarat attracted Rs. 8,000 crore of foreign direct investment during last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main sectors in which the FDI has been made during the last one year?

Nationalisation of Water Resources

*456. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Government has

protested against the Kerala Government's reported proposal to build dams across some rivers flowing between the two States;

(b) whether the Central Government propose to consider a long-standing demand of nationalising the water resources in view of such disputes which have increased in the recent past; and

(c) if not, what other measures Government are contemplating to improve the situation?

Impact of Iraq war on economy

*457. DR. M.N. DAS:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 19 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th February, 2003 and state what steps are being considered by Government to overcome the impact of Iraq war on our economy?

Strike by employees of BPCL and HPCL

*458. SHRI PRASANTA
CHATTERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA
KALA PANDEY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers and employees including officers of HPCL and BPCL observed a three day strike commencing from 25th March, 2003;

(b) if so, what are their demands and the steps taken to avert the strike and decision taken on their demands; and

(c) whether Government propose to agree to revert the decision of disinvestment of these profit making Oil Companies?

Time schedule of Agartala-Kolkata flight

*459. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the schedule of flights of the Indian Airlines from Agartala to Kolkata and *vice versa* have been changed during the last six months;

(b) whether the inter-service arrangement of the aircraft connecting the capital cities of the North-Eastern States would be in force in reality;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) whether the State Government would be taken into confidence while making changes in the time-schedule of the aircrafts?

Documents pending with the Registrar of Companies

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

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of documents filed under the Companies Act, 1956 are pending in the offices of Registrar of Companies in the country;

(b) whether resignations of Directors filed are not taken on record for years and so certified copies thereof are not available U/s 610 of the Act; and

(c) whether this causes undue hardships to the Directors who have resigned, in the courts for penal action against them?

NEW DELHI;
The 16th April, 2003

Chaitra 26, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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