

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the May 23, 2006/Jyaistha 2, 1928 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

#### Creation of uniform force for Income Tax Investigations Wing

\*541. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering creation of a uniform force for the Income Tax Investigations Wing on the lines of Customs and Excise Departments to lend more authority and power for its field staff during surveys and raids;

(b) if so, whether a part of the force would be supplied with weapons; and

(c) whether Government would also fine tune its non-intrusive methods of investigations/surveys for betterment of tax collection?

#### Implementation of VAT in the country

†\*542. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:  
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date from which Value Added Tax (VAT) has been introduced in various

States of the country alongwith the names of such States;

(b) the issues on which there is opposition in those States where VAT has not been introduced; and

(c) the action being taken to have it implemented throughout the country?

#### Resettlement of families affected due to Sardar Sarovar Dam

\*543. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:  
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to raise the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam across the Narmada in Gujarat over 11 meters;

(b) if so, the number of villages/people expected to be affected;

(c) whether Government have taken necessary steps for resettlement and rehabilitation of those affected families; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**National Project for repair, renewal and restoration of water bodies**

†\*544. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Project started for repair, renewal and restoration of water bodies;

(b) the results of the pilot projects started for the same;

(c) whether Government are considering to enlarge the scope of this scheme to the whole country; and

(d) the measures Government have undertaken to ensure the proper implementation of the said scheme?

**Promotion of tourism in Maharashtra**

†\*545. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal to the Central Government to boost tourism in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what effective steps are being taken by Government to promote tourism in Maharashtra; and

(c) what steps are being taken to develop places of archaeological importance in Maharashtra as tourist destinations?

**Export of diesel**

†\*546. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian

Oil Corporation, a Public Sector Company, has recently decided to export five lakh tonnes of diesel;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether such export would impact the supply of diesel in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount of profit likely to be received as a result of such export?

**Rise in prices of essential commodities**

\*547. SHRI AMAR SINGH:  
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a steep rise in the prices of essential commodities recently and as a result thereof the lower middle class people are the worst sufferers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the abnormal rise in the prices and what steps are being taken to check it; and

(c) by when the prices are likely to come down?

**Loans to farmers**

\*548. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:  
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the release of Rs. 195.66 crores to enable farmers to get refinance facility from NABARD and renew loans to needy farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount released and utilized so far for various purposes?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Scheme for repertory theatre groups**

\*549. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:  
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND  
CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for supporting the repertory theatre groups in the country;

(b) if so, the number of repertory theatre groups are supported under this scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that a few leading theatre groups have not been receiving the grant for the last two years; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon?

**Shortfall in collection of education cess**

\*550. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revenue receipts from the two per cent education cess in the first eight months of current fiscal at Rs. 2,400 crore have been only a third of the budgeted yearly estimates of Rs. 6,975 crore;

(b) whether Government are of the view that such drastic shortfall will have a negative impact on successful conduct of elementary and other education programmes like 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan';

(c) if so, the details of any action contemplated to redress the shortfall of money; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Hike in rate of interest on home loans**

\*551. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public and private sector banks have hiked rate of

interest on home loans whereas rate of interest on term small saving has declined;

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

(c) what is the criteria for fixing the rate of interest for saving deposits, borrowings and lendings for banks and post offices; and

(d) whether the rate of inflation is considered while fixing the rates of interest?

**Revision in oil prices**

\*552. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:  
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the international crude oil price has reached 75 US Dollar a barrel recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to revise or increase the oil prices in view of this development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Increase in fiscal deficit**

†\*553. SHRI JAI PARKASH  
AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fiscal deficit of the country for the last three years till today;

(b) the reasons for continuous increase in fiscal deficit;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government so far to curb fiscal deficit; and

(d) whether Government have received certain requests or directions during said period from IMF alongwith other world level financial institutions to contain fiscal deficit and monetary crisis?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Land for expansion of Chennai airport**

\*554. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a delay in the land acquisition proceedings for the expansion of Kamaraj Domestic and Anna International Airports at Chennai;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the time schedule for completion of the airport expansion?

**Speedy clearance of outstation cheques**

\*555. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a mechanism for speedy clearance of outstation cheques by banks;

(b) if so, how Government propose to facilitate the process; and

(c) whether any amendment to the banking laws is contemplated?

**Air services to Srinagar**

\*556. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air traffic from Delhi to Srinagar has increased substantially resulting into wait-listed tickets in the Indian Airlines upto June, 2006; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Indian Airlines to operate additional flights from Delhi to Srinagar and *vice-versa* in the months of May and June, 2006?

**Rise in per capita indebtedness**

\*557. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:  
SHRI SANTOSH  
BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of rising per capita indebtedness in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the credit trends in last three years, sector-wise;

(d) what is the current ratio between per capita indebtedness and per capita income and whether such a ratio is sustainable;

(e) whether the steep rise in housing loans also include the borrowings under Government sponsored housing schemes for weaker sections in the urban and rural areas, if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the trends in the housing loans in rural and urban areas respectively?

**Construction of Narmada Dam near Kevadia**

\*558. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) when was the idea of constructing Narmada Dam near Kevadia conceived;

(b) when was the foundation stone of the project laid and by whom;

(c) when was the permission for construction of Dam granted and by whom;

(d) when was the clearance by the Ministry of Environment and Forests granted;

(e) what was the estimated cost of construction at the time of the commencement of the work; and

(f) how much amount has been spent for the construction of the dam and canals by the State Government of Gujarat and or the Central Government so far?

**Subsidy on petroleum products**

\*559. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of subsidy given annually on petroleum products;

(b) the quantum of petrol and diesel requirement annually;

(c) the quantum of petrol and diesel required for road transport on annual basis; and

(d) the steps taken to discourage use of petrol/diesel?

**Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline project**

\*560. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:  
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA  
BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether India has been effectively eased out of Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline as Pakistan-Iran signed the agreement on 30th April, 2006 in Islamabad to lay a gas pipeline with the higher off-take for Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether there would be nothing left for India to buy in the 3.2 billion capacity pipeline;

(c) whether India has refused to join on these conditions;

(d) whether Iran has also not taken decision on LNG deal which is pending for long; and

(e) if so, what is the reaction of Government on these issues?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 17th May, 2006*  
*Vaisakha 27, 1928 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

## **I N D E X**

**(Ministry-wise)**

<b>Civil Aviation</b>	:	554, 556,
<b>Company Affairs</b>	:	—
<b>Finance</b>	:	541, 542, 547, 548, 550, 551, 553, 555, 557,
<b>Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises</b>	:	—
<b>Petroleum and Natural Gas</b>	:	546, 552, 559, 560,
<b>Tourism and Culture</b>	:	545, 549,
<b>Water Resources</b>	:	543, 544, 558.