

## 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 23, 2002/Sravana 1, 1924 (Saka)*

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

### Total number of questions—20

#### Diversion of loans by Essar Group

\*121. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Asian Age dated 2nd July, 2002, under the heading 'Ruia's hived off units to get double financing;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the amount of loan received by Essar Group from the Financial Institution which had been diverted to its subsidiary; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

#### Promotion of bio-tech industry

\*122. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote bio-tech industry in the country;

(b) whether Canadian authorities are inclined to promote investment in bio-tech companies in India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### Supply of Piped Natural Gas to Delhi

\*123. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Times of India dated 17th June, 2002, captioned "Shortage of pipelines robs Delhi of gas"; if so, what action has been taken to speed up supply of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to the citizens of Delhi;

(b) the names of the areas which have so far been covered for supply of PNG and the other areas which are proposed to be covered in the next phase;

(c) by when it is expected to cover the entire Capital; and

(d) what are the advantages of Liquefied Petroleum Gas over the PNG, both from the cost and safety point of view?

#### NPAs of public sector banks

\*124. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:  
SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:

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

(a) the total amount of NPAs of Public/Private sector banks, till date, indicating the names of top-twenty industrial houses in the country which have failed to pay the due amount to such banks, Bank-wise; and

(b) whether Government have so far taken any steps to recover the same indicating the details of amount recovered during the last three years, year-wise from such industrial houses?

#### **Ordinance for recovery of trapped**

†\*125. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promulgate an Ordinance to recover the trapped loan amount of banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of total such amount till date?

#### **Strategy for boosting FDI inflows**

\*126. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of commerce and industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn a comprehensive strategy aimed at boosting foreign direct investment inflows;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the strategy will not only abolish most sectoral caps but also lay out a roadmap for image building and marketing the country as an investment destination; and

(d) if so, to what extent this strategy has helped to boost the FDI inflows to India?

#### **Studies by NWDA for water transfer links**

\*127. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Water Development Agency (NWDA) had completed pre-feasibility and feasibility studies for several water transfer links of National perspective plan;

(b) if so, the details of the links State-wise;

(c) the progress made in implementing the perspective plan; and

(d) the status of negotiations with the riparian States regarding the inter-basin water transfer?

#### **Vacant Board level posts in Banks/FIs**

\*128. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Board level posts in banks and financial institutions are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the dates from which they are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons for non filling-up these posts in each case where the vacancy was foreseen well in advance; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the process of filling-up the vacant posts?

#### **Problems and difficulties faced by NRIs**

\*129. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "We are treated like any other visitor: NRIs" which appeared the Asian Age dated the 18th June, 2002;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems and difficulties being faced by the Non-Resident Indias as highlighted in the above-mentioned newsitem?

#### **Indo-German bilateral development cooperation programme**

†\*130. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Germany has recently agreed to provide an assistance of Rupees 360 crore to India for various projects under the Germany-India Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects on which the said funds are likely to be spent?

#### **Uneconomic offices of AI abroad**

\*131. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some AI offices abroad have been identified as being economically unviable;

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

(c) what has been per month expenditure on AI's office in Washington DC during last two years; and

(d) how much it has earned during the above period?

#### **New VRS by State Bank of India**

\*132. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "SBI Plans VRS to lay off 40 per cent staff" which appeared in The Business Standard, dated the 26th May, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the scheme is likely to put in place; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that such a huge reduction in the establishment in the bank does not lead to a decline in the customer services?

#### **Export of agricultural products**

\*133. SHRI SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new strategy has been evolved to reduce export cost of agricultural products to provide direct assistance to farmers and make their products more competitive;

(b) if so, the details thereof and in what manner it marks an improvement over the earliest agri-exports strategy; and

(c) the improvement in agri-exports registered during the last three months as compared to the corresponding period last year?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Appointment of partners by IBP  
petrol pump in Delhi**

†\*134. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND  
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dealers who got  
permissions for appointing partners at  
various petrol pumps in Delhi from IBP  
Company between 1st January and 30th  
June, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said  
company has flouted rules while granting  
permission to appoint these partners;

(c) if so, whether Government would  
take action against guilty persons after  
conducting an Inquiry into this whole  
episode and cancel the partnership deals;  
and

(d) the number of persons who had  
requested to cancel such partnership during  
the said period?

**Memorial for Vignaneshwara**

\*135. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:  
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND  
CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorial for  
Vignaneshwara has been contemplated in  
Marthur village near Gulbarga in Karnataka;

(b) if so, what is its nature; and

(c) if not, whether Government would  
consider for the construction of a Memorial  
in honour of great author of Mitakshara?

**Entry of foreign agencies in Education  
and Vocational training under GATT**

\*136. SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO:  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND  
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the elements of the General  
Agreement on Trade and Services

concerning Education at Primary level,  
Secondary level, Tertiary level and  
Vocational Training;

(b) whether Government have signed  
any protocol approving the entry of foreign  
agencies in these sectors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether some schools have  
sought and obtained approval to be centres  
for foreign qualifications?

**Crisis in cooperative banks**

\*137. PROF. M. SANKARA-  
LINGAM Will the Minister of FINANCE  
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that  
a series of small cooperative banks in Tamil  
Nadu in particular and in other States in  
general are on the verge of collapse;

(b) if so, the steps taken to set right the  
situation to instill confidence in the  
depositors;

(c) whether Government have conducted  
any study to know the status of such small  
cooperatives and other private banks all over  
the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Promotion of beach and garden  
tourism**

\*138. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:

Will the the Minister of TOURISM AND  
CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plan to  
promote 'beach tourism' and 'garden

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

tourism' abroad through their tourism offices located in various countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have printed and distributed pamphlets and other promotional material with regard to 'beach tourism' and 'garden tourism' if so, the details thereof?

**Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy for Irrigation projects**

\*139. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy for the irrigation projects, which take away people's land, livelihood and rights;

(b) if so, the details, of the irrigation projects in which the above policy has been applied during the last three years, year-wise, state-wise, category-wise; and

(c) if not, whether steps will be initiated for a Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy for the irrigation projects?

**Water supply in Palakaad district of Kerala**

\*140. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1000 families including 300 tribals of Plachimada in Palakaad district of Kerala have found that the wells, ponds, two large reservoirs and paddy fields in the village have dried up and their water resources had been adversely affected;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps are being taken by Government to restore the water supply to poor villagers?

NEW DELHI;  
The 13th July, 2002  
*Asadha 22, 1924 (Saka)*

R.C. TRIPATHI,  
*Secretary-General.*

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