

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the August 23, 2005/Bhadrapada 1, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

Report of IWMI on depletion of ground water

*381. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the report of International Water Management Institute (IWMI) on depletion of ground water;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to improve ground water level based on the recommendations of the IWMI?

Outstanding amount of Government against different States

†*382. SHRIMATIPREMA
CARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount outstanding from

the Central Government against different States, State-wise;

(b) the details of the measures suggested by the Twelfth Finance Commission to do away with the revenue deficit of the States as well as to check the increased fiscal deficit and the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) what are the steps being taken by Government to encourage the States to do away with the revenue deficit and to check the increasing fiscal deficit?

Expenditure on India Shining campaign

*383. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRIMATIPREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government did not obtain the approval of the Parliament before incurring expenditure of Rs. 63.23 crores on media campaign styled as 'India Shining';

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government incurred the expenditure through diversion of funds although this activity was not contemplated in the annual budget; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Health tourism destination

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

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's private hospitals are all set to give the historical sites in the country tough competition, with the Government ready to lure foreigners to get an altogether different kind of tourism;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has finally decided to launch India as a health tourism destination;

(c) if so, what are the main points of the scheme;

(d) to what extent this scheme has been made applicable to all the tourist spots in the country; and

(e) to what extent it has been welcomed by the tourists?

Disinvestment of SCI

*385. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry approved disinvestment of the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) if so, how much of the total stakes would be disinvested; and

(c) the purpose of disinvestment in SCI?

Promotion of tourism

*386. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether new initiatives and marketing strategies have been formulated by Government for promotion of tourism during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for increasing the number of tourists and ensuring them safety in our country?

Development of surrounding areas

*387. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state, the percentage of profit made by Oil India Limited/ONGC invested for the all-round development of the area surrounding their project area in Assam?

Air services in North East

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of Tripura, particularly the students from Tripura pursuing studies in other States of the North-East are facing great troubles for not having air-flights between Agartala and Silchar and Agartala and Imphal;

(b) whether 50-seater air crafts will be deployed at least twice a week in the above sectors with an immediate effect;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Theft cases at IGI Airport, Delhi

†*389. SHRI PYARELAL KHAN-DELWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of theft registered at Indira Gandhi International Airport during the last one year; and

(b) the steps being taken to stop the incidents of theft at the airport?

Tapping of underground water by soft drinks MNCs

*390. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many soft drinks MNCs have been tapping underground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop the draining of country's water resources?

Senior Citizens Saving Scheme, 2004

*391. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of interest being allowed on interest earned under Senior Citizens Saving Scheme, 2004;

(b) if reply to above be in the negative the reasons for denial of legitimate earnings of such depositors;

(c) whether Government have discontinued periodical entries of interest in Pass Books issued to depositors, under Senior Citizens Saving Scheme, 2004; and

(d) if so, the utility of such Pass Books issued to depositors?

Outstanding loan of AI and IA

*392. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and Indian Airlines have in their books large outstanding loans from January 1989 to March 2005;

(b) whether the AI and IA stand committed to pay up the guarantee fee covering Central Government's guarantees of external borrowings; and

(c) if so, the quantum of accumulated outstanding of guarantee fee payable by AI and IA as on 31.3.2004?

Construction of International Airport at Chakan

†*393. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether MIDC is constructing an International Airport at Chakan near Pune;

(b) whether Government also propose to construct an international cargo hub in it;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Enhancement of eligibility limit for payment of bonus

*394. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to enhance the eligibility limit for payment of bonus from three thousand five hundred rupees to a suitable limit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Financial package to Himachal Pradesh

†*395. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has announced to give financial package to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, if so, amount of fund given;

(b) items and schemes for which fund has been released under the said financial package;

(c) whether any special assistance has been given for the annual plan of the State in this financial package, if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether the State has been given funds in addition to those given for annual plan in this financial package and if so, the details thereof?

Complaints of poor crisis management at Delhi airport

*396. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some passengers whose flights to Mumbai were diverted to Delhi have complained about poor crisis management at the Delhi airport and many of them could not be provided accommodation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the crisis in such a situation at the Delhi airport?

Subsidies on kerosene and LPG

*397. SHRI RAASHID ALVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has asked the Ministry of Finance to provide subsidies on PDS kerosene and domestic LPG in a transparent manner;

(b) whether he had asked the Minister of Finance to make higher annual provisions in the budget towards subsidising kerosene and LPG;

(c) if so, what are the other steps that the Ministry is considering to make oil subsidies transparent; and

(d) to what extent he has been able to achieve the aims?

World Heritage Sites

*398. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revenue earned by each prominent and World Heritage Sites and the amount spent for their maintenance and renovation every year;

(b) the steps taken by Government to attract more tourists, both domestic and foreign, to the tourist sites in the current year; and

(c) whether such steps have yielded the desired results?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Empowering ombudsmen to look
into complaints of credit card
holders**

*399. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of
FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ombudsmen working
under RBI;

(b) whether it is a fact that RBI propose
to empower ombudsmen to look into
complaints of aggrieved credit card holders
against banks indulging in unfair practices
like imposing service charges even when the
card is not used, etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Incredible India Campaign

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

Will the Minister of TOURISM be
pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of the "Incredible
India" campaign in attracting tourists;

(b) what is the enhancement in earnings
after the launch of the above campaign;

(c) whether in order to promote
tourism, Government are identifying new
destinations and circuits; and

(d) if so, the details of the circuits located
in Orissa and in other States?

NEW DELHI;
The 17th August, 2005
Sravana 26, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	:	388, 389, 392, 393, 396,
Company Affairs	:	—
Finance	:	382, 383, 385, 391, 394, 395, 399,
Panchayati Raj	:	—
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	387, 397,
Tourism	:	384, 386, 398, 400,
Water Resources	:	381, 390.