

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 23, 2003/Pausa 2, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

Purchase of pipes by GAIL

*301. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

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

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India
Limited (GAIL) has invited tenders for
purchase of expensive longitudinally-
welded pipes for laying down its Dahej-
Vijaipur pipeline project;

(b) if so, what are the details in this
regard and whether GAIL is losing more
than Rs. 450 crores on the purchase of these
pipes ignoring the advice of its authorised
Belgium based Engineers Consultant; and

(c) whether Government would probe
the matter and if not, the reasons therefor?

Utilisation of Godavari water

*302. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-
CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of
WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra
Pradesh has entered into an agreement with
the Austrian Government for utilisation of
Godavari water in hydel and irrigation
projects;

(b) whether water going waste and
flowing into Bay of Bengal will be utilised
with the implementation of this agreement;
and

(c) by when the work on the proposed
projects is likely to be commenced?

Assistance to Assam from Social Security Fund

*303. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH
SHARMAH: Will the Minister of
FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released
financial assistance to Assam from Social
Security Fund;

(b) if so, the details of assistance
released to the State during the last three
years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Storage capacity of reservoirs

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the storage
capacity of major reservoirs of the country
has come down drastically due to excessive
silting;

(b) if so, the details of the storage capacity of various reservoirs at the time of inception and now with special reference to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether there is any proposal to dredge the reservoirs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Foreign exchange reserves

†*305. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign exchange reserves of the country has crossed the \$95 billion mark;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that maximum portion thereof happens to be in dollars; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking in view of the falling prices of dollar for the last three months as also of the apprehension of its further decline by about twenty five per cent in near future and to avoid financial losses the country is likely to suffer from?

Transfer of Red Fort to ASI

*306. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Army has already transferred portions of the Red Fort to the Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the complete charge would be handed over to the Archaeological Survey of India very soon; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to conserve and restore the past glory of the Red Fort?

Cauvery River Authority

*307. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Cauvery River Authority was established;

(b) what are the names of members of this Authority;

(c) the number of times the Authority has met so far, year-wise; and

(d) what are the main decisions taken by the Authority?

Modernization of Nagpur Airport

†*308. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether land ownership of Nagpur Airport is with the Ministry of Defence;

(b) whether modernization and expansion of the said airport has been contemplated;

(c) whether any correspondence has been undertaken with the Ministry of Defence in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Equity shares against Foreign Commercial Borrowings

*309. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed the companies to issue equity shares against all Foreign Commercial Borrowings; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Proposal for new urban banks

*310. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has rejected 88 out of the 90 proposals for new urban banks received in 2002-03;

(b) if so, whether the cooperative banking sector has been under Reserve Bank of India scanner for over last two years;

(c) whether in its report on trends and progress of banking in India in 2002-03, the Reserve Bank of India has given details of a mechanism put in place to streamline the cooperative banking; and

(d) if so, the other reasons for rejecting the 88 proposals?

Disbursement of crop loans in M.P.

†*311. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of disbursement of crop loans in Madhya Pradesh during 2000-01 by cooperative, commercial and regional rural banks;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of total percentage of crop loans (short term agricultural credit) about 73 per cent has been provided by the cooperative banks; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to increase the availability of agricultural credit by the commercial and regional rural banks?

Exemption of income tax

*312. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not issued notification exempting income from Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana from income tax so far as was stipulated in the budget speech when the scheme was announced; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay and by when the required notification is expected to be issued?

Allocation of funds to M.P., Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan

*313. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of amount allocated by the Eleventh Finance Commission to Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan;

(b) whether this amount has been earmarked on the basis of population, backwardness and urgent needs of each State;

(c) if so, the details of amount allocated in comparison to other States; and

(d) whether Government have received any request for more claim by way of reaction from above States and if so, the action taken till date thereon?

Concern over fiscal deficit of Centre and States

†*314. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ex-Governor of Reserve Bank of India has expressed concern over the increasing fiscal deficit of the Centre and States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has also advised to bring down non-productive

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

expenditure in order to decrease fiscal deficit;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that activities of public welfare are also affected due to increasing fiscal deficit?

International services from Ahmedabad Airport

†*315. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether his Ministry propose to introduce international flights by private airlines from Ahmedabad?

Excise duty on FPI products

†*316. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the excise duty on production under the Food Processing Industry is collected in the country;

(b) if so, the rates on which the said excise duty has been collected during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03; and

(c) the amount collected by Government during the above period, year-wise?

IRDA's delegation to United States

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

(a) whether top functionaries of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority are on a fact-finding mission to the United States; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the areas of interest of the mission?

Improvement of Guwahati Airport

*318. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th February, 2002 and State:

(a) the item-wise, details of achievements made and target set for implementation of two aerobridges, visitors' lounge and associated works like taxi parking lot;

(b) the operational status of international flights to and from Guwahati and implementation status of the proposal for making Guwahati a regional hub of North-Eastern states; and

(c) the details of existing operational schedule of ATR aircraft, proposed for future, indicating proposal to reduce the fare by ensuring subsidy from NEC?

Operations of GIC in foreign countries

*319. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether GIC and its subsidiaries have been carrying out insurance business in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount invested;

(c) whether the losses have been increasing sharply and if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the steps contemplated to run the business in profit?

**Damage to Buland Darwaja in
Fatehpur Sikri**

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Buland

Darwaja in Fatehpur Sikri has suffered grievous damage during the last three years owing to the repeated dynamite blasts in the surrounding hills;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more than 90 monuments are in danger because mining activity in the quarries had been going on despite a ban within a radius of 10 km. around the heritage; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to preserve those monuments?

NEW DELHI;
The 17th December, 2003
Agrahayana 26, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 308, 315, 318,
Finance	: 303, 305, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 316, 317, 319,
Petroleum and Natural Gas	: 301,
Tourism and Culture	: 306, 320,
Water Resources	: 302, 304, 307.