

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 24, 2004/Bhadrapada 2, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

Hike in security deposit for new LPG connections

*401. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the public sector oil companies such as Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum have stopped issuing new LPG connections;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the oil companies have demanded a security deposit hike of Rs. 250/- for each new connection after the cost of steel went up from Rs. 17000 per ton to Rs. 28000 per ton ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Roof top water harvesting programmes

*402. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether roof top water harvesting programmes have been introduced in Rajasthan and Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of implementation of the project, district-wise?

Assistance to panchayats due to flood

†*403. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several panchayats of Gogri-block of Khagaria in Bihar have been affected due to flood; and

(b) what assistance has been provided by the Central Government to the affected panchayats so far and the steps being taken to construct platforms with roofs in the said panchayats?

Investor Education and Protection Fund

*404. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(a) the amount structure of the Investor Education Fund available with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI);

(b) to what extent SEBI has utilized the available funds for this purpose; and

(c) whether Government are considering transferring the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) available with the Department of Company Affairs to the SEBI?

Rural and urban share in bank deposits

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

(a) the rural and urban share in bank deposits, at present;

(b) the amount of loans provided by banks in rural areas;

(c) whether Government propose to provide more loans for rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Committee for proper water management

†*406. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a new Committee for suggesting proper management of water in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the said Committee is likely to submit its report;

(c) whether Government had received suggestions with regard to proper

management of water during the past years also; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

Farmer-friendly credit policy

*407. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring in a farmer-friendly credit policy during the current fiscal;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed scheme;

(c) whether Government would grant interest-free loans to certain categories of poor farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the action plan of Government to control suicides by debt-ridden farmers in the country?

Limited period open sky policy

*408. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to adopt a limited time (three-months) open sky policy starting November 15, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the special features of the proposed policy as against the similar policy announced during 2003-04?

Recovery of loans

*409. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite being armed with security laws, bank officials are not issuing notices to defaulters for not paying the loans;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the action taken by Government against such bank officials during the last three years;

(c) the details of the NPAs outstanding as on date, bank-wise;

(d) the details of the persons, companies, organizations etc. indicating their names, addresses etc. from whom NPA worth more than Rs. 5 crore is to be recovered; and

(e) the details of the properties etc. attached during the last three years to recover NPA?

Projects for tourism in Assam

*410. SHRIMATISYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourism projects proposed to be undertaken this year in Assam;

(b) whether any steps will be taken for improving the Kaji Ranga game sanctuary; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Issue of Kisan Credit Cards in Manipur

*411. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Kisan Credit Cards issued to farmers in both hills and valley districts of Manipur;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the performance of banks and response of farmers; and

(c) if answer to part (b) be in the

negative, how and in what manner Government propose to tackle and solve the problem?

Non-performing assets of ICICI bank

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

(a) whether Government have analysed the RBI inspection report on ICICI bank regarding non-performing assets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the banks where there is a difference in the assessment of bad loans done by the auditors and the RBI Inspection Committee?

Harassment to foreign tourists at Ajanta Caves

*413. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at the world heritage site at Ajanta Caves, foreign tourists are regularly harassed by unauthorised hawkers;

(b) whether it is a fact that at the caves, there are neither police staff nor officials from the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation or the Archaeological Survey of India which are the official caretakers of the monument; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in response to the tourists' complaints?

Benefits to Rajasthan from new oil reserves

*414. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several places in Rajasthan have reported having petroleum/oil reserves;
- (b) if so, the sources of such reserves, quantity-wise;
- (c) whether commercial exploration has been undertaken;
- (d) if so, the details of PSUs/Private MNCs engaged in such exploration; and
- (e) the amount of royalty accrued to Rajasthan Government and other likely benefits being provided/planned for Rajasthan?

Receding ground water level

*415. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of surveys conducted during the last 20 years *i.e.* 1983 to 2003, the Central Ground Water Board (CGB) has pointed out that ground water level has receded by more than 4 more metres in 306 districts of 20 States;
- (b) if so, the names of such districts, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the measures suggested by CGB to check receding of ground water level; and
- (d) if so, the details regarding implementation of the measures suggested

by CGB by the Central and State Governments?

Schemes for Panchayati Raj Institutions

†*416. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of awareness and training schemes run by Government for representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and members of Standing Committees of Gram Sabha;
- (b) the ratio of the share of Central and State Government in the funding of the scheme;
- (c) whether Government are considering to increase their share; and
- (d) if so, by when a decision will be taken in this regard?

Action plan for irrigation schemes in Orissa

*417. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that Orissa is a drought-prone area;
- (b) whether Government are also aware that the cash-strapped State is not in a position to upgrade its irrigation schemes to help the farmers of the drought-prone areas;
- (c) if so, whether the Central Government have drawn up some action plan to help the State to upgrade its irrigation facilities and for optimum utilization of its available water resources; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Difficulties of urban co-operative
banks in A.P.**

*418. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the RBI has been alert to
failing urban co-operative banks in Andhra
Pradesh;

(b) to what extent the RBI has alerted
its regional office to carefully study trends
of prospective difficulties of such banks;

(c) whether it is a fact that many such
banks have approached the RBI for help;

(d) if so, the details of such requests;
and

(e) the reaction of RBI to such requests?

**Appointment of Sixth Pay
Commission**

*419. SHRI N.K. PREMA-
CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of
FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would
consider appointing the 6th Pay
Commission for revising the pay and
allowances of Central Government
employees; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Unauthorised petrol pumps in Delhi

†*420. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has
been drawn towards unauthorised petrol
pumps operating in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such petrol
pumps detected, so far; and

(c) the action being taken against them?

NEW DELHI;
The 18th August, 2004
Shravana 27, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

INDEX
(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 408,
Company Affairs	: —
Finance	: 404, 405, 407, 409, 411, 412, 418, 419,
Panchayati Raj	: 416,
Petroleum and Natural Gas	: 401, 414, 420,
Tourism	: 410, 413,
Water Resources	: 402, 403, 406, 415, 417.