

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the February 25, 2003/Phalguna 6, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total Number of Questions—20

Use of Smart photo identity cards at airports

†*101. SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided
to issue new smart photo identity cards for
entry at all major international airports of
the country keeping in view the increasing
threat of terrorism, of hijacking and of
implanting bombs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when cards are likely to be issued;
and

(d) the estimated amount likely to be spent
on this work?

Fund for expansion of AI and IA

*102. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) the details of expansion plans for
Indian Airlines and Air India to increase
frequencies both in domestic and
International;

(b) what are the likely sources of funds
required for the purpose; and

(c) what will be the estimated share of
air travel of these airlines after the
enhancement of their fleets?

Delay in tax refunds

*103. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has
been drawn to the news item captioned
"inordinate delay in most tax refunds, shows
survey" appearing in the Economic Times,
New Delhi dated the 24th December, 2002;

(b) if so, the number of cases of refund
pending with the Income Tax Department,
Delhi as on 31st January, 2003; and

(c) by when all these refunds cases are
likely to be cleared?

Gas reserves at Andhra Pradesh

*104. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken
to tap the newly discovered gas reserves off
Andhra Pradesh coast by Reliance
Industries;

(b) whether an estimate has been made
of quantum of gas reserves; and

(c) by when commercial use of gas
reserves is likely to start?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Printing away of small investors in stock market

*105. SHRI SURESH PANCHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether small investors have drifted away from the stock market recently;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) what decisions have been taken by Government to build confidence of small investors in the stock market?

Commencement of production for explored locations

*106. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

- (a) the details of new oil and gas explorations both offshore and inland during the last three years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that production has not yet begun in the locations explored in the past;
- (c) if so, what is the present oil and gas production from these locations; and
- (d) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative the reasons therefor and by when production is likely to start?

Low foreign investment by US

*107. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the US Business Houses are invest in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) whether Government propose to make certain changes so that US are ready to invest in India?

Task Force on Operational parameters for corporate governance

*108. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a task force was constituted by Government to evolve a set of operational parameters for ensuring good corporate governance;
- (b) if so, the terms of reference of the Task Force;
- (c) whether the task Force has since submitted its report;
- (d) if so, what are the salient features of the report and if the likely to part (c) above the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken by Government on the Report and if not, the reasons therefor?

LPG Pipeline between visakhapatnam and Hyderabad

*109. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) is planning to convert its Rs. 490 crores exclusive LPG pipeline into a natural Gas transportation pipeline which runs from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad and Secunderabad; and
- (b) the details of the steps being taken to develop gas distribution network in Visakhapatnam, Amlapuram, Bhimavaram, Rajamundry, Kakinada and Secunderabad which are on the rout of the pipeline?

Explorations of Oil and Gas in Jawalamukhi basin in H.P.

*110. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of exploration of oil and Natural Gas in Jawalamukhi basin in Himachal Pradesh by ONGC;

(b) whether any headway has been made in finding oil and gas reserves in the basin; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Privatisation of public sector banks

*111. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government propose to privatise the public sector banks as the Tenth plan has advocated repeal of the Bank Nationalisation Act to enable banks to become ordinary companies operating under the Companies Act;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the suggestions; and

(c) if so, when final decision in this regard likely to be taken?

Bank funding of irrigation projects in Gujarat

*112. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has represented for revising the exposure limits to 40 per cent for a single borrower for bank funding of irrigation and water supply projects;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been considered; and

(c) by when will be accepted a decision is likely to be taken?

Earnings of Metro airports

*113. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA
CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to privatise four Metro Airports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these airports earn over Rs. 530 crores per year; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the decision to privatise the airports?

Recovery of dues under securitisation law

*114. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether action has been taken by various public sector banks to recover dues under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act;

(b) if so, the bank-wise details of the action taken and dues recovered/under the process bank-wise; and

(c) the details of the NPAs of each of the Nationalised bank as on 31st March, 2002?

Action against vanishing companies

†*115. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 69 companies out of 229 absconding companies identified by SEBI are still untraceable;

(b) whether as per the information of the Department of Company Affairs all these absconding companies had collected huge amount from the public during 1993 to 1995 and subsequently left the scene after closing their business suddenly; and

(c) if so, the details of much companies traced so far and the amount recovered and refunded to the public?

Expansion of insurance coverage in rural areas

*116. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Advisory Group on Insurance regulations headed by Shri R. Ramakrishnan has recommended for expansion of insurance coverage in rural areas through cooperatives;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the recommendation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Forts and Garphies in Bundelkhand in M.P.

†*117. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules for declaring a historical monument as protested one;

(b) what is the number of Forts and Garhies which are lying ignored in Bundelkhand; and

(c) the reasons for not protesting and declaring various ancient forts and garhies belonging to Bundelas and others in Bundelkhand sea of Madhya Pradesh as national heritage?

Apprehensions of NRIs against Kelkar Committee

*118. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether some of the non-resident Indians participating in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas had complained about the Kelkar Committee recommendations on taxes;

(b) if so, what were the main objections raised by them;

(c) whether the Kelkar Task Force had recommended that the very concept of Not-Ordinary-Residents (NORs) be removed and that the tax exemption they get be also withdrawn;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard; and

(e) whether this recommendation has not been accepted by Government in view of its opposition?

Funds for modernisation of airports

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Shadow over modernisation of airports"

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

which appeared in the Statesmen dated 8th January, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has asked for funds from the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs for the upgradation and modernisation of airports;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the plans of Government to modernise and upgrade airports during the current plan period?

Declaring Srinagar airport as and international airport

*120. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether clearance has been given to declare Sri Nagar airports as on International airport; and

(b) if not by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 19th February, 2003
Magha 30, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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