

## 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 26, 2005/Sravana 4, 1927 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions — 20**

#### **Credit rating system for small and medium scale enterprises**

\*21. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has launched the first credit rating system for small and medium scale enterprises;

(b) if so, whether the move is aimed at ensuring higher availability of bank and institutional credit to the small and medium enterprises sector;

(c) whether the nodal agency for the project would be the National Small Industries Corporation; and

(d) if so, to what extent this rating system has been helpful for the small and medium enterprises?

#### **Establishment of repair facilities**

\*22. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a pre-condition to placement of orders for Boeing/Airbus, India has sought foreign investment in

civil aviation sector by establishing repair overhaul and maintenance facilities in India;

(b) whether Boeing Airplane Co. and Airbus Industrie have committed to invest around Rs. 1,000.00 crores on Indian facilities for maintenance, repair and overhaul of their aircrafts in India; and

(c) whether around 150 Boeing aircrafts are expected to be inducted by the Indian carriers over the next three years and if so, whether financial viability of establishing an MRO venture in India has been confirmed?

#### **US's concern over Indo-Iran pipeline project**

†\*23. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Pak-Iran pipeline project has reached the crucial stage now;

(b) whether United States of America has expressed its disagreement about the said project;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any talks have been held between him and U.S. Secretary of State in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome of talks?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Pench Mega Project in Chhindwara**

†\*24. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:  
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal of Pench Mega Project in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Central Water Commission for approval/release of investment amount for many years;

(b) if so, by when this scheme will be approved; and

(c) whether this scheme is getting aid from Indo-German Bilateral Development Co-operative through its various schemes?

**Committee to advise in cases against companies**

\*25. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:  
Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a committee to aid and advise in cases pending against 50,000 companies for various violations;

(b) what kind of advice the committee is expected to render; and

(c) whether any terms of reference have been drawn up in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

**Oil prices in international market**

\*26. SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:  
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the rapidly increasing international oil

prices that have already touched the figure of US\$ 60 per barrel;

(b) whether the international oil prices would further increase; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard and whether there is adequate oil reserve in the country to face any eventuality?

**Deduction of TDS from hospitals/  
nursing homes**

†\*27. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
SHRI JANARDAN  
DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deducting TDS from the payment to be made by big hospitals/nursing homes in private sector and coaching institutes to the doctors, teachers and professors is compulsory;

(b) the details of such big hospitals/nursing homes and coaching institutes which either did not deposit the same even after deducting TDS or did not deduct itself; and

(c) the action Government are taking to recover the amount of TDS from these institutions?

**Programme on improvement of oil  
sector**

\*28. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the  
Minister of PETROLEUM AND  
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive 17-Point programme has been drawn up to improve the performance of the oil sector to achieve long term oil security for the country; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of its implementation?

**Delay in supply of gas cylinders in Kerala**

\*29. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector companies reduced the distribution of number of refilled cooking gas cylinders in various districts of Kerala recently;

(b) if so, whether there was delay in receiving refilled cooking gas cylinders in various districts of Kerala in June, 2005 and thereafter;

(c) the reasons for the delay in receiving refilled cooking gas cylinders;

(d) the action taken, if any, to avoid delay; and

(e) the details including number of refilled cooking gas cylinders distributed for the last three years through various public sector companies in Kerala, district-wise, year-wise and category-wise?

**Crop insurance scheme for Orissa**

\*30. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crop insurance companies are showing little interest in Orissa resulting in a raw deal to it;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the mandate of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme is to restore the credibility of a farmer in the event of his crop failure, whereas a vast majority of the

farming community in Orissa has been left outside its ambit; and

(c) the action plan of Government to make the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme expand its coverage in Orissa?

**Central assistance to augment tourism to Karnataka**

\*31. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:  
Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sent a number of proposals requesting for Central assistance to augment tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that approval has not yet been given by the Central Government to these proposals;

(d) if so, the status of these proposals; and

(e) by when these proposals will be cleared?

**Cleaning of rivers and lakes**

†\*32. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to cleanse the big rivers and lakes of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the rivers identified for this purpose and the quantum of additional water likely to be made available in the country due to this plan; and

(c) by when this scheme is likely to be completed?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Alternative energy sources**

\*33. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND  
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fast depleting and drying oil reserves, not only in India but all over the world, India and China have begun considering practical long term proposals to diversify supply of energy resources and to loosen the grip of oil exporting nations on their growing economics;

(b) whether Government have taken stock of India's abundant alternative sources of energy, in the form of hydroelectric power potential, wind and water energy, natural gas, N-energy;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the new long term power policy, if any, evolved?

### **Protection of sub-soil water**

\*34. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:  
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that salinisation of sub-soil water is taking place in the coastal region and even in interior areas;

(b) whether Government have assessed the impact of this salinisation of sub-soil water in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to protect sub-soil water?

### **Discussion with Pakistan on pipeline project**

\*35. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether he visited Pakistan in the month of May to discuss core issue of import of LNG through \$4.16 billion Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of discussions held between two countries;

(c) what other steps were discussed and agreements reached between the two countries;

(d) whether he had also discussions regarding route of pipeline and transit fee with Pakistan; and

(e) if so, whether on this issue also final agreement has been reached?

### **Off-loading of shares of BHEL**

\*36. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to off-load 10 per cent of its share in Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether any share thereof has been set aside for the employees and the small investors; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be raised from this sell off and how the proceeds would be utilized?

**Bio-diesel fund**

\*37. SHRI B.J. PANDA:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to allot Rs. 1400 crore for bio-diesel fund;

(b) if so, which is the nodal department to monitor this project; and

(c) how far the use of the diesel has been found technically satisfactory in transportation?

Enterprises has recommended that boards of profit-making PSEs be allowed to reduce Government stake upto 51 per cent by raising capital from the market;

(b) if so, whether expert group has stated that any decision to reduce Government's equity to less than 51 per cent in navratnas, miniratnas and public sector enterprises with a three years profit making record should be taken only with the consent of the Parliament; and

(c) if so, what are the other steps Sengupta's panel has suggested and how its recommendations have been accepted?

**Revenue earned by oil refineries**

\*40. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petroleum refineries both in public and in the private sector in the country, including the products and by-products produced by the respective units along with installed annual capacity *vis-a-vis* actual production of each item for the last five years;

(b) the details of revenue earned by the respective refineries from these by-products during the period;

(c) the details of revenue, such productions at the refineries yielded to Government;

(d) the details of revisions of selling prices of these by-products effected by these refineries from time to time; and

(e) price revision on each occasion was attributable to what?

**River Water Integration Plan**

†\*38. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared full outlines of River Water Integration Plan; and

(b) the details of the plan including the target fixed therein?

**Reduction of Government's stake in Central PSEs**

\*39. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR  
SANGHI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an *ad hoc* group of experts on empowerment of Central Public Sector

NEW DELHI;  
The 20th July, 2005  
Asadha 29, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**I N D E X**  
(Ministry-wise)

|                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Civil Aviation</b>            | : 22,                             |
| <b>Company Affairs</b>           | : 25,                             |
| <b>Finance</b>                   | : 21, 27, 30, 36, 39,             |
| <b>Panchayati Raj</b>            | : —                               |
| <b>Petroleum and Natural Gas</b> | : 23, 26, 28, 29, 33, 35, 37, 40, |
| <b>Tourism</b>                   | : 31,                             |
| <b>Water Resources</b>           | : 24, 32, 34, 38.                 |