

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on

Tuesday, the November 26, 2002/Agrahayana 5, 1924 (Saka)

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

Total number of questions—20

Investment by UTI in Essar

*101. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Asian Age' dated 5th August, 2002 under the caption "Special audit finds UTI invested blindly in Essar";

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government would take any action on the findings of the Tarapore Committee in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Review of LNG projects

*102. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the impact of the gas discovered by the Reliance/NIKO

consortium on the viability of the LNG projects currently under finalisation and whether Government propose to review the LNG projects in view of the new found gas resources; and

(b) how much time would be required for commercializing the natural gas discoveries in Vizag and Surat?

Bansagar hydel power project

†*103. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to paucity of funds and grave irregularities, work on the ambitious inter-state Bansagar hydel power project costing about three thousand crore rupees remained stuck up for about 14 years and now a target of two more years has been fixed for its completion;

(b) whether it would be possible to ensure the completion of such an ambitious inter-state project during the stipulated time period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Priority sector lending for additional areas by FIs

†*104. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether Government are considering to include other additional areas in the priority sector for lending by financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details of these sectors;

(c) whether proposal for increasing the percentage of provision of 40 per cent lending to priority sector is also being considered alongwith this proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

International flights from Guwahati

*105. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is going to close the Bangkok flight from Guwahati;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to connect Guwahati with some other foreign cities by international flights?

Contingency plan of IOC for locating strategic oil reserves

*106. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

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

(a) whether Government are working on any contingency plan to deal with any eventuality including blockage of crude supplies from the Gulf;

(b) whether Government are thinking of locating strategic reserves of crude oil in some important locations of the country to maintain undisrupted supply of petroleum products;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation has submitted a proposal on the need for having a strategic oil reserves to Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Show cause notice against Reliance Industries

*107. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Company Affairs based on the findings of a limited inspection report has directed the Regional Director, DCA, Western Region to advise the Registrar of Companies to issue necessary show cause notice and other actions against the Reliance Industries and to file prosecution for violation of section 372A(2) of the Companies Act;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by the Regional Director, DCA, Western Region and by the Registrar of Companies; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

Scrutiny of balance sheets

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

(a) whether it is a fact that balance sheets of Ranbaxy, Cipla, DSQ Software, Padmini Polymers, Sham Technologies are under

scrutiny by the Department of Company Affairs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Tourist package from Vijayawada to Shirdi

*109. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to assist the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to develop new tour packages from Vijayawada to Shirdi to attract more tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Appointment of Consultants in IA and AI

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

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a major revamp exercise, Government have decided to appoint Consultants to prepare a 15 year business plan for both IA and AI to improve their performance;

(b) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) by when the consultants will be preparing the Business plan; and

(e) by when it is likely to be implemented?

Petrol and diesel prices

*111. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had recently first hiked petrol and diesel prices and then rolled back the same and then again hiked the prices within a span of one month or so;

(b) if so, whether Government have any intention to regularise petrol and diesel prices;

(c) if so, in what manner Government intend to do the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Kelkar Committee report on direct taxes

*112. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Task Force set up under the Chairmanship of Kelkar on direct taxes has submitted its report;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Task Force has recommended increasing the tax limit from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/-;

(c) if so, what are the details of the other major recommendations; and

(d) the action contemplated by Government on them?

Modernisation of Kolkata Airport

*113. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernise Kolkata Airport at par with the international airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of funds spent so far on the project; and

(d) the fund allocation for the said project in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Seizure of foreign currency

*114. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign currency amounting to rupees six lakh was seized in Delhi in August, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of such seizure since January, 2002 all over the country; and

(c) the special efforts made by Government to curb such smuggling and its outcome since January, 2001?

Task Force for inter-linking of rivers

*115. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has asked the Centre to set up a high level task force to workout the modalities for inter-linking of rivers within ten years and to bring consensus among the States for completion of the project; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

Fake currency notes

*116. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that fake Indian currency notes of Rs. 500 denomination worth several crores are in circulation in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether law enforcement agencies have recently busted a case involving fake currency notes amounting to Rs. 30 lakh in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what steps Government have taken to curb the circulation of fake currency notes in the market?

RBI concern over Government finances

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

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has voiced serious concern over the deteriorating Government finances in general and State Government finances in particular;

(b) if so, whether the Bank has noted that the combined debt has touched a high of 69.9 per cent of GDP in 2001-2002 from 61.7 per cent in 1990-1991 and on this, the States' debt-to-GDP ratio, which was at a low of 19.4 per cent in 1990-1991, has risen sharply to 25.6 per cent in 2001-2002;

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

(d) what steps are being taken in this regard?

Reduction of air fares by IA/AI

*118. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently there ensued a cut throat competition of offering reduced fares for air journys on various popular routes;

(b) if so, by what percentage did the Indian Airlines and Air India under-cut the fares, and what were the comparative figures of fare cuts offered by different private airlines, during July to October, 2002; and

(c) the extent to which the possible loss due to vacant space on flights has been made good thereby?

IOC's retail outlet in Centaur Hotel premises

*119. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC had a retail outlet in the Centaur Airport Hotel's premises;

(b) whether the same is on the land leased by the Airports Authority of India;

(c) whether the same has been transferred to the new promoter by Hotel Corporation of India during disinvestment;

(d) if so, whether valuation of the same was done by IOC and ownership changed with its consent; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Losses suffered by BRPL

*120. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) has been running in loss;

(b) if so, the losses suffered by it during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(c) what has been the capacity utilisation of both the units viz., refinery and petrochemicals during the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the functioning of BRPL and wipe out losses?

NEW DELHI;
The 20th November, 2002
Kartika 29, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 105, 110, 113, 118,
Finance and Company Affairs	: 101, 104, 107, 108, 112, 114, 116, 117,
Petroleum and Natural Gas	: 102, 106, 111, 119, 120,
Tourism and Culture	: 109,
Water Resources	: 103, 115.