

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 29, 2005/Agrahayana 8, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

Increase in direct tax collections

†*81. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revenue of
the country from direct taxes has increased
during April-October 2005-06 comparing
to April-October 2004-05;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase
alongwith share of increase through custom
and excise; and

(c) the extent of increase of custom
through petroleum import comparing to
above said period?

Amendment of Competition Act, 2002

*82. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMPANY
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
amend the Competition Act, 2002;

(b) what steps Government propose to
undertake to ensure that the Competition

Commission will be run professionally; and

(c) whether Government have
undertaken any consultation process with
various stakeholders, if so, who are the
stakeholders consulted?

Subsidy on Kerosene

*83. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA
KIDWAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil
Marketing Companies subsidized PDS
kerosene by about Rs. 12 per litre and
combined with subsidies on domestic LPG,
the expenditure was about Rs. 18000 crore
in 2004-2005;

(b) if so, whether this subsidized PDS
kerosene was given to only targeted
consumers or there was siphoning of this
commodity to non-household users; and

(c) in what manner the Oil Marketing
Companies propose to subsidize as the
kerosene demand is expected to increase

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

by one percent annually and what is the estimated amount of subsidy every year?

Employees for ATR operations

*84. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds for operation of (ATR) Avion-de-Transport Regional flights were raised from the North Eastern States;

(b) the total strength of employees for ATR operations in North Eastern Region out of which how many are from North Eastern States; and

(c) whether Government propose to give more employment opportunities to the people from North Eastern Region in view of un-employment situation there?

Insurance of farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. has, since its inception, insured 18 million farmers; and

(b) if so, whether the Varsha Bima scheme is not getting any support from Government?

Open sky policy

†*86. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated open sky policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the aviation industry is likely to grow with the formulation of this policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Non-allotment of new LPG connections

*87. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of LPG cylinders in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that undertakings like Indian Oil and Hindustan Petroleum have directed its LPG dealers to stop allotting new LPG connections; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government?

Plan to control floods

†*88. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive plan has been made by Government for controlling floods in the flood-affected areas during monsoon; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Methane gas for industries

†*89. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the time expected to be taken to make available to industries methane gas received from Jharia & Raniganj blocks;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(b) whether Government is inviting foreign companies to exploit it commercially; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Enquiry into aircraft landing

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

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a Boeing 737 aircraft of an airline, which was operating on its scheduled flight from Kolkata, overshot the runway while landing at Mumbai airport and got stuck in mud for almost three days, thereby affecting normal operations to and from the busy airport, causing considerable inconvenience to the travelling public and also huge financial losses to the industry due to restricted air operations; and

(b) if so, the results of any enquiry made into the incident and the fresh steps initiated to avoid recurrence of such potentially dangerous incidents in future?

LIC scam in Voluntary Policy, 1999

*91. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has unearthed a premium scandal in Delhi office of LIC involving misappropriation of funds in five years Voluntary Policy launched in 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed;

(d) if so, the action taken against the culprits; and

(e) the steps taken to streamline the procedures to check fraudulent working in LIC?

Declining expenditure on social and infrastructure development

*92. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various State Governments are unable to spend much on social and infrastructure development of their respective States as they are facing acute financial crisis due to heavy loan amount and mismanagement of financial structure;

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

(c) whether Government are considering any structured and transparent approach to lessen the burden of debt on various States so that they can increase their expenditure and investments on infrastructure and social sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Unclaimed insurance dues

*93. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of unclaimed insurance dues in the last five years; and

(b) how have these resources been utilized or proposed to be utilized?

Inclusion of Orissa in Apex scheme

*94. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines has excluded Orissa from the Apex Fare except for Bhubaneswar-Mumbai sector;

(b) whether the State Government has requested for inclusion of Bhubaneswar-Delhi and Bhubaneswar-Kolkata sector as well in the above scheme with adequate justification; and

(c) if so, the status of the proposal and the time-frame within which it would be approved to help the air passengers from Orissa?

Rate of interest on home loans

*95. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India proposes to increase the rate of interest on home loans;

(b) if so, since when it is proposed to be increased;

(c) the extent to which it shall have an adverse effect on the persons who have taken such loans; and

(d) steps to be taken by Government to protect the common man from the builders?

Interest caps on deposit rates

*96. SHRI RAASHID ALVI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has suggested that Government could revise its policy of setting interest caps on deposit rates in respect of rural lending rates and floors on deposit rates because high transaction costs and collateral requirements were making banking unattractive for rural poor;

(b) whether they have also suggested that Government could relook priority sector lending since the prescribed quotas were not being fully observed by commercial banks and often circumvented through means such as subscription to NABARD etc.;

(c) whether Government have examined these observations made by World Bank; and

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

Cancellation of flights due to floods in Mumbai

*97. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights of Air India and Indian Airlines cancelled on account of recent floods in Mumbai;

(b) the quantum of losses caused to the two airlines;

(c) whether any damage was caused to domestic and international terminals in Mumbai on account of the said floods; and

(d) the details thereof?

New hijack prevention policy

*98. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Committee on Security has approved a new hijack prevention policy for India;

(b) if so, whether the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has prepared an aviation security manual that lists out procedures and identifies the strategic targets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Boost to small and medium enterprises

*99. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to boost small and medium sized enterprises, he has charted a four pronged strategy for sectoral development including bringing in a legislation and doubling bank credit to Rs. 1,35,000 crore in five years;

(b) whether he has pointed out that flow of credit to small scale industry and tiny sector was targeted to be doubled in five years;

(c) whether number of registration of small scale industry in the country between 1999-2000 and 2004-05 went up from 12.32 lakhs to 14.38 lakhs; and

(d) if so, to what extent all of them would be benefited in this scheme?

Overseas investment by ONGC

*100. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of investment made by ONGC Videsh, an overseas investment arm of ONGC in various countries, country-wise; and

(b) the benefits accrued or likely to be accrued to the country in the near future from these investments?

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd November, 2005
Agrahayana 2, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	:	84, 86, 90, 94, 97, 98,
Company Affairs	:	82,
Finance	:	81, 85, 91, 92, 93, 95, 96, 99,
Panchayati Raj	:	—
Parliamentary Affairs	:	—
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	83, 87, 89, 100,
Tourism	:	—
Water Resources	:	88.