

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 30, 2002/Sravana 8, 1924 (Saka)

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

Total number of questions—20

Norms for Maximum Permissible Bank Finance

*221. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH 'LIBRA': Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has laid certain norms for fixing the MPBF for the corporate customers taking into consideration the receivables of associate group of companies like investment made by the holding companies in the associate group of companies; and

(b) if so, what are the guidelines given to public sector banks for assessment of working capital finance of corporate customers/existing borrowers?

Utilisation of seized narcotics

*222. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) lights up narcotics seized by it; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not utilising some of them like Ganja for manufacturing medicinal drugs under Government supervision?

Areas having maximum/minimum rain water

†*223. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the areas of the country which have received minimum and maximum rain water during the last decade;

(b) if so, the details of the areas state-wise; and

(c) the percentage of these areas out of the total geographical area of the concerned States?

Smuggling of narcotic substances

*224. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past, there has been an increase in smuggling of heroin, opium and other prohibited narcotic substances into the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of heroin, opium, etc., seized by police in different States during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check this menace?

Bhagwan Mahavir Janma Kalyanak Mahotsav

*225. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount and the details of the Projects sanctioned from Rs. 100 crore fund allocated for 2600th Bhagwan Mahavir Janma Kalyanak Mahotsav, State-wise, till today; and

(b) what is the number of proposals which are still under consideration for approval?

Aircraft employee ratio in IA

*226. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines plans to shed 7,000 personnel as a cost saving measure to bring its aircraft employee ratio down to international standards;

(b) whether the ratio will still be double of what it is in Singapore Airlines where the ratio is as low as 161 per aircraft; and

(c) if so, in what manner the airlines plans to achieve this and what is the time-frame for its completion?

Relocation of petrol pumps on highways

*227. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Oil Companies National Highway Authority of India at loggerheads over relocating pumps on highways' which appeared in the Indian Express dated 25th June, 2002;

(b) whether oil companies have expressed their difficulties to relocate the existing pumps as it will imply an expenditure of anything between Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 2 crores for each pump;

(c) whether Government had convened a meeting on 5th July, 2002 with National Highways Authority of India in which oil companies were also present; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in the meeting?

Reduction in plane fare for Tripura

*228. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircrafts flying from Agartala to Kolkata in a week;

(b) the measures Government propose to take to increase the number of flights to cope with the rush of passengers; and

(c) whether Government are considering reduction of plane fare for the people of Tripura on account of geographical barriers of the State?

Export of foodgrains

*229. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of foodgrains exported to various countries during the current year alongwith the names of such countries; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned as a result thereof?

Procurement of tobacco from Karnataka

*230. SHRI M. V. RAJASHEKARAN: DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of tobacco purchased from tobacco farmers through Tobacco Board since 1998-99, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that Tobacco Board is acting in a partisan manner with regard to purchase of Tobacco from Karnataka farmers;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to purchase tobacco on the basis of the States' production capacity; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

Promotion of tourism in Gwalior-Shivpuri area

†*231. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his visit to Gwalior-Shivpuri area on 19th June,

2002, he had given an assurance to consider some schemes for the development and promotion of local tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the new schemes are likely to be implemented?

Realization of export proceeds

*232. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: DR. AKHILESH DAS:

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 26th May, 2002, captioned "crores in Indian export proceeds are still pending";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to realize the export proceeds at an early date?

Monitoring of banks' participation in farm lending

*233. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether RBI has decided to monitor banks participation in farm lending;

(b) whether this move is aimed at increasing commercial banks' increased participation in overall agri-lending;

(c) if so, the details of commercial banks which have agreed to participate in farm lending;

(d) whether this will give a great boost to the agriculture sector in the country; and

(e) if so, whether any concrete proposal in this regard has been worked out by the RBI?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Trade in psychotropic substances

*234. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED
KHAN (DURRU):

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports of On-line illegal trading of psychotropic substances, smuggling of drugs and opium;

(b) if so, the *modus operandi* adopted for such illicit trade in psychotropic substances and seizures, if any, made on the basis of investigations made into such reports; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the illicit trade?

Money mobilized by vanishing companies

*235. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of companies are vanishing over night after mobilizing crores of rupees causing immense hardship to investors;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the companies vanished during the last three years and money they mobilized;

(c) the action taken by Government to recover money from the promoters;

(d) the protection available for the investors from such companies; and

(e) in what manner these companies operated with impunity despite presence of so many supervising authorities?

Problems faced by coffee growers in Karnataka

*236. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the coffee planters in Karnataka are faced with the problem of declining coffee exports due to crash in prices globally;

(b) whether the recent notification of Central Board of Direct Taxes subjecting 25 per cent of the realisation from the sale of coffee to Central Income Tax has crippled them further; and

(c) whether Government would provide an exit option to the Coffee growers in Karnataka, 98 per cent of whom are small farmers to opt for Agricultural Tax (AIT) which is more rational and quantitative?

Entry of ONGC in retail sector

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has applied for authorisation to set-up retail outlets to sell petrol and diesel in certain States;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the details of the States in which ONGC propose to set up its outlets?

Payment of salary to the employees of NPCC

*238. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of various units of NPCC

Ltd. have not been paid salary for the last several months; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to disburse the arrears of salaries?

Duty Exemption Entitlement Schemes

*239. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether rampant misuse of scheme of Duty Exemption Entitlement Schemes (DEES) and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) have been detected; and

(b) if so, the efforts made to contain commercial frauds in bilateral/multilateral trade to push up exports?

Fake companies offering Jobs

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of fake companies are coming into existence in the country every other day and collecting crores of rupees as security deposit from the applicants in the name of providing jobs to them;

(b) whether Indian Informatics Infotech Private Limited, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, also collected crores of rupees from the applicants in May, 2001 which was later on confiscated under economic offence;

(c) whether Government would return the money to applicants from the amount confiscated;

(d) if so, the formalities in this regard; and

(e) if not, how would Government compensate the youths cheated by the companies?

NEW DELHI;
The 24th July, 2002

Pravara 2, 1924 (*Saka*)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

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