

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the August 2, 2005/Sravana 11, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 155

Flights handled at major airports

799. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the international and domestic flights currently being handled at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata airports;

(b) the projected increase in the flights at these airports in the next three years; and

(c) the steps proposed for upgradation of the major airports for flight and passenger handling?

Expansion of runway at Patna airport

800. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that length of the runway of Patna airport is less in comparison to the runways of other national level airports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for the expansion thereof, so far?

Old aircrafts with AI

801. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the last time Air India ordered new planes for its fleet;

(b) the details of new planes bought by Air India in the last three years;

(c) to what extent Air India is using planes which exceed 15 years age;

(d) whether it is a fact that safety and speed are ignored by Air India; and

(e) the steps proposed to upgrade the fleet of Air India?

Decline in IA's market share

802. SHRI C. PERUMAL:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the market share of Indian Airlines has come down to 38.2 per cent when compared to the previous market share of 65.9 per cent in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

1997-98 due to competition by the private sector in aviation industry; and

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking to improve its market share in the coming years?

Operation of international services by AI

803. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the global civil aviation market and the tourist sector are poised to grow annually by 20 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Air India had taken a decision to operate international flights from cities other than Delhi and Mumbai;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Air India had chalked out ambitious plans to overcome shortage of planes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Liquidation of companies

804. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to quicken the process of liquidations of companies to protect the interests of stake holders;

(b) if so, the details of, the norms framed in this regard;

(c) the number of firms which are under liquidation; and

(d) the average time taken to complete the proceedings for such liquidation?

Development of support systems for air safety

805. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the movement of both the domestic and international aircrafts has tremendously increased during the last two years whereas development of support systems crucial for air safety has received little attention from Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not attending to support systems; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in that direction?

Parking space at airports

806. SHRI JANARDAN
DWIVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airports in metro cities are jostling for the space of aircraft parking;

(b) the no. of aircrafts which could be parked at the airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad; and

(c) the no. of applications which are pending with the Airports Authority of India in this regard?

Pilot training institutes

†807. SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDLWAL:
SHRI C. PERUMAL:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of pilot training institutes in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the above shortage, there has been acute shortage of trained pilots (Aeroplane and Helicopter) in the country;

(c) if so, the details of efforts being made by Government in this regard;

(d) the details of Government and recognised institutes operating all over the country;

(e) whether any proposal regarding opening of the above institute in Madhya Pradesh is pending with Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Evening air service between Delhi and Guwahati

808. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce evening flight from Delhi-Guwahati and Guwahati-Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the position in this regard; and

(c) whether any private airlines have been asked for such flights to Guwahati?

Project report on purchase of aircrafts

809. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any project report from Air India for the acquisition of more aircrafts for it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Air India requires more than 75 aircrafts in three years to meet its demand for operation; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Committee on management of airports

810. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Committee on the management of airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) what is Government's reaction to the recommendations; and

(d) whether all the recommendations made by the Committee have been fully implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

New airports for low-cost airlines

811. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of all Greenfield airport projects being planned by Government, alongwith the latest status and projected dates of completion;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government will consider additional new Greenfield airports exclusively for the use of low-cost airlines;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are mulling relaxation of norms to allow new airports to come up in both New Delhi and Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Airports in M.P.

†812. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of airports with Airports Authority of India in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) out of them the names of airports which are proposed to be made of international level; and

(c) the obstacles which are being faced to implement these proposals?

Development of airports in Madhya Pradesh

†813. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports for the development of which land has been given to Airports Authority of India by Madhya Pradesh Government;

(b) the number of airports out of them in which the development work has been completed;

(c) whether demand of 5.87 acre of land has been made by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh from the Authority; and

(d) the action Government are taking towards meeting this demand?

Indigenous pilot training

814. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of pilots in the next five years in the country and how will it be met by the Ministry; and

(b) the reasons for getting pilot training by Boeing and Airbus abroad and not in India?

New aircrafts in Gulf-Kerala sector

815. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of services which are being operated by Air India to Gulf sector from Thiruvananthapuram International Airport;

(b) the number of carriers on service in the sector which are age old and whether Air India deploy new aeroplanes in Gulf-Kerala sector;

(c) the number of foreign airline companies that sought sanctions to operate services to Gulf sector from Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, the reasons, if any, for non-granting of permission to other carriers; and

(d) whether Government consider to permit the international freight companies who sought permission to operate services in the Gulf sector from Thiruvananthapuram?

Helicopter services to religious places

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

(a) whether any proposal for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

introducing helicopter services to make smooth access to religious places and tourist sites located in remote areas is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the final decision is to be taken in this regard?

Cancellation of flights from Vishakhapatnam

817. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines or Alliance Air has abruptly cancelled flights in June, 2005 from Vishakhapatnam;

(b) the number of flights which were cancelled which touch Vishakhapatnam in an abrupt manner;

(c) the reasons for such abrupt cancellations of flights using Vishakhapatnam Airport;

(d) in what way did Indian Airlines compensate passengers who had booked travel and planned journeys much ahead of time;

(e) whether Government will take steps to reduce such abrupt cancellation of flights in the future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Pilots with AI

818. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign pilots recruited by Air India in the last three years;

(b) the reasons for recruiting foreign pilots by Air India;

(c) the wage and salary differentials between Indian and foreign pilots;

(d) the steps proposed to encourage Indian pilots by Air India; and

(e) the number of Indian pilots presently on the payroll of Air India?

Safeguards against air crashes

†819. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of air crashes occurred during the last two years;

(b) the reasons for those air crashes; and

(c) the guidelines issued by Government to prevent such air crashes in future?

Sale of Centaur Hotel

820. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AAI has declared the sale of Centaur to Sahara as illegal as Batra Hospital had neither intimated nor sought its permission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had persuaded the AAI to lease out the land to Batra Hospital for 30 years at a low rent; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Exemption of parking fee

†821. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case is pending with AAI regarding the land of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

available hangers/buildings etc. for usage/in possession of his Ministry at Amousi airport, Lucknow having been provided to the said department on token licence fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has requested to exempt the charges of landing, parking and R.N.F.C. to their aeroplane at the said airport; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Central Government thereupon?

Average age of aircrafts

822. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average age of different types of aircrafts of the Indian Airlines Ltd. and Air India, separately; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to make the fleet younger?

Code of conduct on poaching of pilots

823. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are trying to create a code of conduct among airlines against poaching of pilots and technicians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Air services from Tuticorin

824. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce air service to and from Tuticorin;

(b) what are the non-metro airports in Tamil Nadu in which expansion works are going on at present or development plans are under consideration; and

(c) whether there are any proposals to introduce new flights between Madurai and other metro cities in India?

Availability of TV channels at airports

825. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only one television channel viz., Star TV channel is being shown at all the major airports throughout the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a monopolistic position of the Star TV;

(c) whether it is proposed to level playing fields to other companies also in this regard; and

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

Protection of investors' interest

826. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group under Justice M.H. Kania has made some important suggestions with regard to the protection of investors' interest under the SEBI Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken/proposed to be taken to give effect to the suggestions?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Status of Company Bill

827. SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 24 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st March, 2005 and state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce a new Bill on Companies Act during the Monsoon Session;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many individuals/organizations have demanded simplicity in the Companies Act; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Action against defaulting companies

828. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what measures are taken by Government towards the protection of the interests of small investors during the last one year and what has been the out come of these measures;

(b) the number and particulars of companies that have flouted the schemes of repayment of deposits approved by the Company Law Board in the last three years; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government against these defaulting companies?

Instruction to ICAI

829. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) not to approach Parliamentarians; and

(b) if so, what are the details including reasons for such decision?

Fair procedure in appointments in Competition Commission

830. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Competition Commission of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the appointments of the Chairman and Members of the Commission have been challenged under a writ petition before the Supreme Court; and

(c) whether Government propose to adopt a transparent and fair procedure in appointments in such regulatory bodies?

Functional autonomy for Competition Commission

831. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make rules, which ensures functional autonomy for the Competition Commission of India;

(b) whether there is any proposal before Government regarding engagement of foreign agencies for building capacity of the Competition Commission of India; and

(c) if so, how Government would ensure that the capacity building programme adequately reflects the development needs of the country?

Disappearance of companies

832. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR:
SHRIMATI JAYA
BACHCHAN:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of companies which entered the capital market from 1993 to 1995 have disappeared with a sum of about Rs. 1700 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite prosecution, proceedings and arrests in some cases, not a single rupee has so far been recovered and restored to investors;

(c) whether the prosecution agencies like CBI are now taking the plea behind various definitions of the terms like investors etc. and openly denying the possibility of restoration of invested funds to their investors; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Two separate funds for consumer protection

833. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are two separate funds available for consumer protection and awareness, one with the Department of Company Affairs (DCA) and another with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI);

(b) if so, to what extent, the DCA has utilised the available funds for the purpose for which it is meant;

(c) whether the Ministry is considering transferring the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) available with DCA, to the SEBI;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if so, by when?

Sale of Halcyon Castle to private hotel group in Kerala

834. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inquiry is initiated against the authorities who facilitated the sale of Halcyon Castle to the private hotel group in Kerala recently;

(b) if so, the present status of the above inquiry; and

(c) the details of loss to Government in the sale of the Halcyon Castle to the private hotel group and the proposal if any, to prevent such loss?

Excess supply of stamps

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Security Press has not taken remedial measures despite a number of instances and complaints about the packets dispatched by it containing stamps of incorrect denominations, excess and short supply; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that sample check of documents during 1996-2003 in 6 States has disclosed short supplies with aggregate value of Rs. 1453.75 crores and excess supplies of stamps of value of Rs. 687.89 crores?

Nationalised Banks branches in rural areas

†836. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new branches opened by the Nationalised Banks in the rural areas during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that bank branches have not been opened in several rural areas of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar as per their demand; and

(c) if so, by when bank branches are likely to be opened in the said villages?

Increase in external debt

837. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's external debt is rising continuously;

(b) if so, the details for the last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Defaulters of bank loans

838. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra, Delhi and Tamil Nadu are the top three defaulters of bank loans of about one crore as per the list compiled by All India Banks Employees Association;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Tamil Nadu alone constitutes Rs. 10,755 crores as bad loans which is 11 per cent of the total all India level; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to recover the loans from the defaulters?

Price Stabilization Fund

839. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to stop any further rise in the prices of essential commodities;

(b) whether Government propose to create a separate Price Stabilization Fund; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in prices of edible items

†840. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the year 2004-05, the prices of edible items have risen;

(b) if so, the average increase at national level;

(c) whether it is also a fact that at different places of the country a wide gap in this increase has been noticed; and

(d) if so, the places where this increase was the maximum and when it was the minimum and the reasons for this maximum and minimum increase?

Annual Information Returns (AIR) for third parties

841. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are only 80,000 assesseees, classified as high networth individuals with taxable income over Rs. 10.00 lakhs in the country;

(b) whether the Income Tax Department is working on Annual Information Returns (AIR) to be filed by third parties like Registrars of property, credit card companies etc. and whether these returns are reconciled with the personal Income Tax returns of high networth individuals; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the CBDT has targeted an increase in the number of assesseees in the high networth individuals category?

Value of scrap sold by Sterlite Industries

†842. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether value of scrap lying in BALCO was assessed at the time of its disinvestment;

(b) the value of scrap sold by Sterlite Industries so far; and

(c) the details of the value of scrap still lying to be sold in this industry?

Introduction of additional features in currency notes

843. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce some additional features in notes of denomination 50, 100, 500 and 1000 to make them photocopy-proof; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Loans for building of godowns

†844. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Co-operative institutions of Maharashtra have made plans of building 5000 godowns in rural areas of the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Nationalised Banks are not giving loans to these rural godowns promoted by Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite the issuance of directions to the banks for providing easy loans to agriculture sector, banks are not giving loans for building godowns;

(d) whether Government would issue instructions to the Banks in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Collection of taxes

†845. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have collected a revenue of Rs. 3,03,856 crores as a result of the collection of all taxes during the year 2004-05;

(b) if not, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of revenue out of above money which has been collected through taxes imposed by Government on all petroleum products including crude oil?

Guidelines for issuance of insurance policies at cheaper rate

846. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has issued guidelines for issuance of life insurance and non-life insurance policies at cheaper rates to people living below poverty line and the landless farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, by when such guidelines are likely to be issued; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) in case the guidelines have since been issued, the number of such policies so far issued, State-wise?

Increase in revenue collection

†847. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revenue is increasing continuously by collection of taxes for the last few years;

(b) the percentage of increase in the revenue consequent upon the collection of taxes in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 separately;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the quantum of outstanding amount through collection of fixed taxes has also increased during the above said period; and

(d) if not, the outstanding amount of taxes that could not be collected during each of the above said years?

Fresh incentives for implementation of VAT

848. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers on VAT has given fresh sweeteners to ensure easy implementation of VAT and also achieve convergence in VAT rates;

(b) if so, whether in the meeting held on April 2005, the Committee exempted certain items of mass consumptions like

salts and breads of all kind (branded and unbranded) and also those items under the PDS;

(c) the main items exempted from VAT and to what extent this decision has been helpful to the consumers as well as traders; and

(d) whether Committee has also agreed to reconsider further exemption of VAT in other consuming items?

Norms in banks for cheques written in Urdu

849. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH
KHAN AZMI:
SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the banks which entertain correspondence, forms and cheques written in Urdu and those which do not entertain;

(b) what are the instructions in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure uniformity in this regard in all banks?

Safety of investors money

850. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what precautions have been taken by Government for the safety of public money while granting greater operational freedom to State run banks which were involved in share scams previously; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Effect of VRS on banks efficiency

†851. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to computerization and reestablishment, implementation of VRS and imposition of undeclared ban on appointments and stopping of appointment on compassionate grounds in the Public Sector Banks, there is a shortage of staff due to which services in the banks are getting affected;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that with the implementation of VRS, about one lakh employees have been removed from the Public Sector Banks all over the country; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider removing undeclared ban immediately and making appointments on compassionate grounds?

FDI policy for PIOs in Aviation sector

852. SHRIMATI KAMLA
MANHAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer of Issue of Security by a person resident out side India) Regulations, 2000 and Foreign Exchange Management (Investment in Firm or Proprietary Concern in India) Regulations 2000, the provisions of the FDI policy in domestic aviation sector also apply to Persons of Indian Origin (PIO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as per regulations and the

prevalent policy of Government, the investment by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and PIO are treated at par as far as investments in domestic aviation sector is concerned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Income tax raids on builders of Mumbai

853. SHRI UDAY PRATAP
SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income Tax authorities had conducted search into the premises of leading builders of Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these builders are promoted by a large pharmaceutical company;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Income Tax authorities have tried to hush up the cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Financial autonomy for profit making PSUs

854. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to grant financial autonomy to the profit making public sector undertakings by allowing them to invest in joint ventures; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Fake TDS Certificates

†855. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Economic Offence Cell has detected embezzlement of crores of rupees by the Income Tax officials through fake Income Tax returns and fake TDS certificates in the Income Tax Department, Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of officials of Income Tax Department found involved in this racket;

(c) the amount found to be embezzled during the busting of the said racket;

(d) whether Government are considering to refund the above money to the concerned tax payers, if not, the reason therefor; and

(e) the action Government propose to take against the accused officials?

Audit norms for Urban Co-operative banks

856. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments, including Karnataka, have undertaken to introduce audit norms stipulated by RBI for Urban Co-operative Banks including its audit rating model as applicable to other banks;

(b) if so, whether these States have signed a MoU with RBI; and

(c) if so, whether these measures will help in restoring the confidence of banking public in UCBs, a few of which had closed down shutters in the recent past?

Popularity of Nepalese currency

857. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepalese currency is more popular in the cities touching Nepal border;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Nepalese currency in the cities is a legal tender and is interchangeable with Indian currency?

CAG's report on disinvestment of BALCO

†858. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Comptroller and Auditor General of India had objected on many points in its preliminary report on disinvestment of BALCO;

(b) if so, the details of the points objected;

(c) whether a charge for fraud of Rs. 320 crores has also been made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Loans to fishermen struck by Tsunami

859. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after four months since the Tsunami struck the Tamil Nadu coast and washed away a prosperous economy, the fishermen even now are unable to return to their profession as they have nothing to provide in the form of surety nor do they make any profits to pay back loans;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that although Government have offered assistance to fishermen in the form of loans, they are not coming forward to take loans for various reasons; and

(c) if so, the action proposed thereon?

Terms of World Bank loan for implementation of slum sanitation programme

860. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Urban Development have moved the Department of Economics Affairs, Ministry of Finance to approach the World Bank and inform the State Government of Maharashtra the terms and conditions for finance from the World Bank for implementation of slum sanitation programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken so far?

Weakening of Co-operative banks

861. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all Co-operative banks functioning at present in the country are in a weak position;

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

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to make the Co-operative banks strong in the national interest?

Loan facilities to small and medium scale industries

†862. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to increase loan facilities to small and medium scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target fixed for giving loans to small and medium scale industries during the year 2004-05; and

(d) the amount of loans allocated during this period?

Sanction of waiver claims from State Governments

863. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as a part of debt consolidation and relief facility set up for State Governments, Central Government have asked States to re-work water charges and bus fares, outsource some Government services and hire civil servants on contract, as part of measures to eliminate their revenue deficit by the year 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto;

(c) whether any monitoring Committee has been constituted to sanction waiver claims from State Governments; and

(d) if so, whether States have given their consent to these measures to earn debt write off?

Loan Council to supervise States' annual borrowings

864. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

up any independent body like a loan council to supervise States' annual borrowings from all sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the Constitution and functions thereof;

(c) whether the States like the Centre would decide their annual borrowings programme within the framework of their fiscal responsibility laws; and

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

Pension scheme for commercial banks

†865. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pension Scheme was introduced in the commercial banks in 1993, but owing to the provision of termination of previous services of the employees for unlawful strike, most of the bank staff turned to Provident Fund Scheme instead of the Pension Scheme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that above provision has been withdrawn from Pension Scheme Rules, but bank staff could not submit their acceptance because such option is granted only once; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider to grant another chance to the bank staff to opt for either of the schemes?

Shifting from LIBOR to MIBOR

866. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has directed banks, primary dealers and corporates to stop using London Inter-Bank Offer Rate (LIBOR) as the bench mark rate and opt for rupee benchmarks like Mumbai

Inter-Bank Offer Rate (MIBOR) for interest rate derivatives;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the existing interest rate norms were announced in 1999; and

(c) if so, the reasons for shifting from LIBOR to MIBOR?

Inquiry into sell-off deals of Centaur Hotels

867. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have caused an inquiry into the sell-off deals of the two Centaur Hotels in Mumbai, as per recent report of CAG;

(b) if so, at what amount the hotels were sold off and what was the estimated market value of each of these hotels; and

(c) at what level and through which agency the probe has been made indicating the outcome thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Outcome budget to discipline expenditure

868. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have unveiled an outcome Budget to discipline the spending by various Central Ministries and Departments;

(b) whether this would help in monitoring expenses towards the last quarter of the financial year;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has worked at setting fiscal budgets to correspond to the expenditure for the last two months; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) how far this budget would enable allocation of resources based on progress?

Guidelines to banks regarding NPAs

869. SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines to the Public Sector Banks to spell out to Government or to the Reserve Bank of India the details of their Non-Performing Assets (NPAs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines are being followed in letter and spirit; and

(d) if so, whether Government would furnish the approximate corpus of the NPA as on date and the efforts made to recover them together with the success achieved therein?

Guidelines for FDI in domestic civil aviation sector

870. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the guidelines for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Domestic Civil Aviation Sector permits 100 per cent investment by Non-resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs);

(b) whether the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) have also permitted NRIs and PIOs to investment upto 100 per cent of equity in civil aviation sector;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not granting permission to NRIs/PIOs and obstructing their cases;

(d) what are the reasons for delay in grant of NOC to NRIs/PIOs; and

(e) by when Government would clear their cases in the interest of growth of aviation sector?

Implementation of States Fiscal Reforms facility

†871. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provision has been made for granting incentive to States from years 2001-02 to 2004-05 for the implementation of State Fiscal Reforms in light of the recommendations made by the Eleventh Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the review and recommendations by the monitoring Committee constituted in view of implementation of fiscal reforms programme of the States?

Creation of Small Investors Protection Fund

872. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether creation of Small Investors Protection Fund has been recommended;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has accepted the recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Revision of salary structure of bank employees

873. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether salary structure of employees of Public Sector Banks have recently been revised and if so, what are the details of new pay scale given to each cadre in the Bank;

(b) the approximate monthly benefit given to them and since when; and

(c) what is the approximate burden on the exchequer on account of this revised pay scale?

Non-depositing of penalty earnings by SEBI

874. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2002, all sums realised by SEBI and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) by way of penalties and surplus funds are required to be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of collection and utilisation of surplus funds and penalty earnings by SEBI, IRDA and other regulatory authorities during last ten years; and

(e) the measures taken by Government to ensure crediting of surplus funds of various regulatory authorities in the Consolidated Fund of India?

Collection of Education Cess

875. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Education Cess amounts collected so far, since the date of imposition of Education Cess throughout the country State-wise; and

(b) details of the collected Education Cess amounts, which has been released so far to Ministry of Human Resource Development from the year of imposition of Education Cess in the country, year-wise?

Audit of expenditure by CAG for granting loans to autonomous bodies

876. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the time of sanction of loan/grants to autonomous bodies, Government insists upon audit of expenditure by CAG or other appropriate agency to ensure it has been used for appropriate purpose;

(b) how does Government satisfy itself about the money being properly utilised for the purpose it was sanctioned;

(c) whether any case of irregularity has come to Government's notice during the years 2002-04; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the defaulters?

Male staff in SBI, Parliament House Annexe Branch

877. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SBI, branch in Parliament House Annexe, was specifically opened as a ladies branch;

(b) whether Government have changed the status of this branch;

(c) if not, the reasons for posting the male staff in the said branch; and

(d) by when the said branch would specifically be converted into ladies branch?

Simplification of FDI approval procedure

878. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in September, 2004, Government simplified the FDI approval procedure to attract more FDI in the country;

(b) whether Government have not simplified the transfer of shares in financial services sector by a resident to a non-resident; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Debts written-off by banks

†879. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount written off as bad debts by Nationalised Banks during the last two years alongwith the details of the amount written off by each Bank;

(b) whether Government are aware that the same Banks have again extended loans to the defaulters; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Increase in rate of interest on home loans

880. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of interest of home loan has been increased by some banks and hence there are chances for further increase in the interest rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stabilise the interest rate for home loans?

Regulatory set-up for credit card usage

881. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for a proactive regulatory set-up for the credit card usage;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the credit card issuers and credit card users are a part of the banking regulation;

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

(e) the details of credit card issuers and number of credit card users for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise as on today?

Cut in rate of interest by banks

882. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Legislature has passed a resolution seeking Centre's intervention to bring down the interest rates charged by Nationalised, Rural and Scheduled Banks from the existing 8 per cent to 6 per cent taking into consideration successive drought; and

(b) if so, the action if any taken in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Merger of RRBs

883. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is planning to merge the Regional Rural Banks within a State in three months;

(b) if so, whether this step will not adversely effect the quality of banking facilities in the rural areas as the number of branches may come down thereby making existing "access" becoming difficult; and

(c) what is the percentage of rural population being covered presently by the existing banking facilities?

Utilisation of FDI in Orissa

884. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved FDI proposals worth Rs. 337 crores;

(b) if so, the details of share of the respective sector; and

(c) what is the share of health care sector and how much of this FDI will be utilised in Orissa?

World Bank loan to Andhra Pradesh

885. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank propose to extend a significant loan to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the projects that would be undertaken with this loan and the terms and conditions attached to this loan;

(c) whether similar financial help is also proposed to be extended by the World Bank to other backward cash-strapped States

such as Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand or Chhattisgarh for infrastructural development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Karnataka's economic restructuring plan

886. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has promised to release a loan of Rs. 250 Million US Dollars to the State Government of Karnataka as part financing towards the State Economic Restructuring Plan;

(b) what are the projects proposed to be financed under this plan with proposed outlays; and

(c) what is the time-frame for their completion?

Total sanitation campaign under Panchayati Raj

†887. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total sanitation campaign under the Panchayati Raj;

(b) the number of districts (Janpad) in Uttar Pradesh in which above campaign is being conducted;

(c) the names of districts for which State Government has requested the Central Government to release the next instalment of Centre's share under the above campaign; and

(d) the details of the decision taken by Central Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Fund sanctioned for rural development through panchayats

888. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crores of rupees are being sanctioned for rural development through Panchayats;

(b) if so, how many stages are involved before the money sanctioned by Central Government reaches Panchayats;

(c) the steps being taken to cut down the number of stages/levels; and

(d) the checks applied to ensure that the money given to Panchayats is spent for the purpose for which it was sanctioned?

Unconstitutional/illegal decisions by Panchayats

†889. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of unconstitutional and illegal decisions taken by several Panchayats in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken or being taken by Government to have control over such practices; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Strengthening of Panchayati Raj system

890. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate some action plan to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would be a Centrally sponsored project; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system in Orissa under the Centrally sponsored Panchayati Raj Project?

Caste panchayats in rural areas

891. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many caste panchayats are functioning in the rural areas in the country;

(b) what steps Government have taken to make these illegal panchayats non-functioning and powerless; and

(c) whether any member of elected panchayats are active in these caste panchayats and if so, what action is being taken against them?

Amendment in Panchayati Raj Act

892. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain States have been demanding amendments in Panchayati Raj Act;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to bring amendments including providing for two tier system in local bodies; and

(c) by when the amendments are likely to be brought?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Constitution of District Planning Committees

893. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the State Governments to expedite constitution of District Planning Committees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that funds to augment income of Panchayats would be allocated to States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

MoU for computerisation of panchayats

894. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with State Governments for the computerisation of panchayats across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 35 to 40 per cent of panchayats would be computerised in the first year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Devolution of powers to Panchayati Raj institutions

895. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some fresh initiatives have been taken to vest the Panchayati Raj institutions with more powers recently and, accordingly, a plan

has been drawn-up to implement some 300 Centrally sponsored schemes through these institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the plan drawn up and its present status;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry have sent a list of 150 recommendations on the devolution of powers to the Panchayati Raj institutions, to all the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the views expressed, if any, by the States?

National panchayati portal

896. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for a national panchayati portal;

(b) if so, the details of panchayats that are having computer as on today, State-wise, category-wise;

(c) the details including the States marked for linking with the portal and the fund allotted to the States' panchayats for the above purpose, State-wise, category-wise; and

(d) the details of fund allotted to Panchayati Raj institutions during the year 2004-05, State-wise and category-wise?

CNG stations in Tamil Nadu

897. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CNG filling stations which have been established in Tamil Nadu for the use of automobiles and what are the places at which they are functioning;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of retail selling CNG stations; and

(c) if so, the places at which they are likely to be established in Tamil Nadu?

Promotion of LPG as auto fuel

898. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cities have been affected due to high vehicular pollution in the country;

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

(c) whether Government are considering to encourage use of CNG or LPG as a fuel for controlling the vehicular pollution in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are aware that a large number of vehicles are running on LPG without proper permission in the country; and

(e) if so, what are Government's views and the reaction thereto?

Information on bio-fuels

899. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2278 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd March, 2005 and state:

(a) the details of target groups identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh and provided information on bio-fuels during the last two years;

(b) whether detailed Project Report prepared by TERI has been placed before Planning Commission for its approval; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Foreign companies in oil exploration

†900. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA:

PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many foreign companies have applied for exploration of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

Demand for natural gas

†901. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for natural gas is increasing continuously in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the average annual increase in its demand for last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of gas as well as its demand have been on rise;

(d) if so, its price in the country in March, 2002 and during July 2005 respectively; and

(e) the names of the institutions which are engaged in the trade of gas?

Import of gas

†902. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

production of gas has been increased with its increasing demand in the country;

(b) if so, the difference between demand and supply of gas in the country from the years 2002-03 to 2004-05;

(c) the increase in terms of percentage in the domestic production of gas during the above period;

(d) whether the demand of gas met through import; and

(e) if so, the percentage of demand of gas met through import during the year 2004-05?

Production of petroleum products from new reserves

†903. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that petroleum and natural gas reserves have been found in the country recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of petroleum products produced so far from petroleum and natural gas reserves explored during the last three years?

National Bio-fuel policy

†904. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH
LODHA:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a proposal for formulating National Bio-fuel policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are going to consider this proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Component of retail price of petrol and diesel

†905. SHRIMATI SUSHMA
SWARAJ:
SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

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

(a) whether further enhancement in the prices of petrol and diesel has been effected from 21st June, 2005;

(b) the details of the enhancement of prices of petrol, diesel and LPG effected from time to time since May, 2004 on each occasion showing separately the changes in the component of duties and taxes therein;

(c) the total of Customs Duty, Excise Duty and Sales Tax components in the current retail selling prices of petrol and diesel respectively both in absolute term and percentage; and

(d) the reasons for the latest enhancement of the prices?

Production of petroleum products

†906. SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

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

(a) the quantum of production of petroleum products in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a decrease in the production of petroleum products in the country during the current year; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Pilferage of gas from cylinders

907. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale pilferage of gas from gas cylinders at distributors level before the delivery of cylinders to customers;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received and the action taken thereon during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of such cases of pilferage *suo-moto* detected by oil companies during each of the last three years through their inspection mechanism, State-wise;

(d) whether any proposal to replace the present aluminum/plastic seals of gas cylinders with tamper proof seals; and

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

AP's request for share in gas reserves

908. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently ONGC has found significant gas reserves in well No. GS-159 in KG Basin in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any demand or request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received for giving it some gas for its consumption;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action that has been contemplated on the demand/request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh?

Self-sufficiency in oil sector

909. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is running out of oil with 0.4 per cent of the world's oil reserves left in the country for 15 per cent of the world's population;

(b) what is the status of the oil reserves of other countries *vis a vis* their population;

(c) whether the self-sufficiency in oil has now become a distant dream, if so, what is the annual production in the country at present and projections for the next five years; and

(d) the steps Government are contemplating to address the situation?

CNG in Metro cities

910. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pollution in Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore is growing;

(b) if so, the details of planning formulated by Government for using CNG to control pollution in these Metro cities; and

(c) the steps taken to provide CNG in these cities?

Review of pricing mechanism

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating for a complete overhaul of the existing pricing mechanism for petrol, diesel, LPG and Kerosene;

(b) whether Government are moving in this direction due to increase in the crude oil prices in the international market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Production of oil from new find in Rajasthan

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

(a) whether the UK based Cairn Energy has offered a plan based on an oil find in Barmer District of Rajasthan, aimed at producing 1,25,000 barrel of crude per day by mid-2007;

(b) if so, the details of the plan offered; and

(c) Government's decision in regard thereto?

Revision in dealers commission

913. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Petroleum Dealers Association for the increase in dealers' commission to make it economically viable;

(b) whether the dealers commission of private petroleum companies is higher than the dealers of oil PSU; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision on the issue of dealers commission shall be taken by Government to enable the PSU oil companies to compete with the private oil marketing companies?

Demand for petroleum products

914. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demand rate of petroleum products is increasing day by day in our country as compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to contain demand of petroleum products?

Losses suffered by oil PSUs

915. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil PSUs such as IOC, HPCL and PBCL have registered substantial losses in the current year; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the losses and the steps proposed to reverse the trend?

Transportation of gas from Myanmar

916. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final agreement has been reached with Myanmar for the laying of proposed pipeline for the transportation of gas; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement and the proposed date of commencement of work?

Co-operation with Romania in oil sector

†917. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Romania and India would co-operate in development and research in oil sector, engineering sector and construction sector; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Pipeline projects of GAIL

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

(a) whether in view of increasing consumption of Gas in the country, Public sector gas company, the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) have decided to lay four pipelines immediately;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cost estimated for laying the pipelines?

Agreement on supply of ethanol blended petrol

919. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil retailing firms and the Indian Sugar Mills Association are going to sign an agreement for supply of ethanol-blended petrol in some of the States;

(b) if so, the details of the States to which Government are going to supply ethanol-blended petrol; and

(c) the total ethanol produced in the country in the last three years, year-wise?

Subsidy for diesel for agricultural sector

920. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of petroleum products have been hiked steeply even after the assurance made by Government not to increase the prices;

(b) whether the price of diesel has also been hiked;

(c) whether Government have announced any subsidy for diesel for agricultural use; and

(d) if so, the justification for price increase and not giving subsidy for diesel for agricultural use?

Creation of monolithic oil entities

921. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to create three monolithic PSU oil entities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the indian oil companies indulge in destructive competition both at home and abroad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Violation of environment norm by private companies

†922. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given the contract to private companies for the exploration of oil at some new place in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the case of overlooking environmental and security standards by the private companies has come to the notice of Government?

ONGC's power project in Karnataka

923. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has expressed

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

reservations regarding ONGC taking up the 2000 MW gas based power project in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to permit ONGC to implement the proposed 2000MW power project in view of the current energy shortage in Karnataka; and

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

Expert report on strategic oil reserve

924. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Expert Panel has recommended for creation of strategic reserve of oil in the country;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been accepted;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

New marketing strategies of oil refineries

925. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the European countries are closing down their refineries due to rising environmental concerns coupled with high refining costs;

(b) if so, whether the Indian refineries, both in public and private sector, would be encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity for marketing our petrol, diesel and other petroleum products to European and other countries where export potential exists; and

(c) whether Government are making concerted efforts to capture these markets as the demand in our neighbouring countries as also in the middle-east, China, Africa, etc. is rising?

Price structure of petrol and diesel

926. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the price structure of petrol and diesel before last price hike (Basic price and tax components); and

(b) what is the present price structure of petrol and diesel (Basic price and tax components)?

Scheme for tour operators and travel agents

927. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has a scheme of approving travel agents and tour operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof such as criteria of according approval, qualifications and experience prescribed for applicants etc.; and

(c) what precautions are being taken by Government to ensure that tour operators and travel agents do not blur the image of India with foreign tourists?

Promotion of tourism industry

928. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has done any study analysing scope of making the

tourism industry more attractive for domestic and global tourists during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of various steps taken during 2004-05 to make tourism industry more attractive?

Development of tourism in Haryana

†929. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme or programme for the development of tourism;

(b) if so, the sites which would be developed for tourism in Haryana;

(c) the details of cost which would be incurred on this and by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) the details of the number of foreign tourists who would be attracted to these tourist places?

Development of Buddhist sites in Orissa

930. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that with an estimated seven million Buddhists dotting the South Asian countries, Orissa has a good potential for Buddhist tourism;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to lack of infrastructure development around Buddhist centres, the State cannot exploit its potential; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre to help the cash-strapped Orissa to develop Buddhist sites to improve its economy?

Development of websites for tourism in States

931. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central financial assistance on 50:50 basis is given to State Governments/Union Territories as a part of their IT initiatives for developing their websites, networking, computerisation, procurement of multi-media projection system etc. in the interest of enhancing tourism in India;

(b) if so, the details of financial assistance provided to different States/ Union Territories during last three years; and

(c) how far this assistance has been utilised by them and its impact on the tourism in the country?

Tourism projects for HP

932. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh had sent any proposal for developing tourism projects;

(b) if so, the names of the tourism projects and the amount sanctioned for each project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Promotion of domestic tourist circuits

933. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

year 2004 nearly 3.21 million foreign tourists visited India generating Rs. 21,828 crores in foreign exchange, while 5.5 million Indian tourists went abroad leading to an outflow of foreign exchange of Rs. 72,600 crores, thereby neutralising the foreign exchange earnings from tourism, as the Indian tourist, reportedly, finds visiting neighbouring countries locales of tourist interests cheaper than the Indian resorts; and

(b) if so, the details of fresh initiatives being taken to make the domestic tourism also cheaper and attractive to persuade the Indian tourists to explore the domestic circuit as well?

Assistance to backward States under AIBP

†934. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal regarding amendment in the parameters for providing assistance to the backward States under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) is under consideration of Government;

(b) whether different parameters have been set up for the States situated in plains and hill States for providing Central assistance to them; and

(c) whether Government will ensure that there would be no discrimination between the parameters adopted for providing assistance to the backward States like Madhya Pradesh and the hill States?

Sharing of Krishna river water

935. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a dispute in the matter of sharing of Krishna river water between Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra and the State Government of Karnataka has submitted a memoranda to Central Government in that regard;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken by the Centre to resolve the dispute;

(c) whether despite the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court against construction of permanent structure for use of the surplus water, Government of Andhra Pradesh is embarking on such projects;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether the Centre has given clearance for construction of such irrigation projects; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

Implementation of river-linking project

936. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of implementation of river-linking project;

(b) whether objections against the proposed project are being raised by neighbouring countries;

(c) the names of the countries and the nature of objections raised;

(d) the forum(s) utilised by them to raise their objections;

(e) whether the basis of such objections have been examined; and

(f) if so, the outcome of examinations?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Indus Water Treaty, 1960

937. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that talks between India and Pakistan on Tulbul ended recently;

(b) if so, what is the final outcome of the negotiations;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan is not inclined to adhere to the Indus Water Treaty, 1960; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Water crisis

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

(a) whether Government are aware that some States in the country are facing increasing water scarcity year after year;

(b) what long-term plan Government have to assist such States to tide over the water crisis; and

(c) whether Government propose to devise short-term schemes to help the water scarce States for instant relief?

Water crisis in Rajasthan

939. SHRIMATI JAYABACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan seems to set for a spell of water crisis and consequently the riots; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to address the situation?

MOU for use of Yamuna river water

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

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi signed an MOU on 12th May, 1994 for the use of Yamuna river water;

(b) whether 1.119 BCM Yamuna river water allotted to Rajasthan was to be provided *vide* Okhla Barrage and Tajewala headworks;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to intervene and to instruct Haryana for signing an MOU for modernisation of canal system from Tajewala headworks to Loharu sub-branch and Gurgaon feeder in Haryana area;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

National policy on water sources

†941. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making any national policy regarding the sources of water resources;

(b) if so, whether Government are also considering for nationalising the sources of water resources so that they can be utilised properly;

(c) if so, by when it would be done; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

12th Finance Commission's recommendation for transfer of external aid to states

942. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Twelfth

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Finance Commission has recommended for transfer, with effective from 1.4.2005, all external aids received from agencies, like the International Development Agency and the Asian Development Bank, to States directly in the form it is received, i.e. loan or grant;

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

(c) the details of external aid released to the States currently with the details of such aid released in the shape of loans and grants during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and agency-wise?

Irrigation facilities in Tirhut Commissionerate in Bihar

943. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation facilities in Tirhut Commissionerate in Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that a lot of land remains unirrigated in that area; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government for ensuring adequate irrigation facilities there?

Revival and restoration of water sources

944. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether works for revival and restoration of traditional sources of water viz. well, pond etc., have been envisaged in Government programmes;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken, if any, during the last one year towards implementation thereof, including the number of traditional water sources revived and restored at the respective places, State-wise; and

(c) the expenses incurred on this account so far, State-wise?

Utilisation of waste surface water

945. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of surface water that flows waste into the sea annually;

(b) the quantum of water required to meet water scarcity in the country;

(c) whether Government have any plans to harness the waste flowing surface water to meet the demand for water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Rain water harvesting

946. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started rain water harvesting in Central Government buildings all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Governments for financial assistance to start rain water harvesting in Government buildings and particularly from Karnataka;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken in this regard?

Need of water harvesting

947. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken note of the suggestion made to make water harvesting mandatory for all States and what steps are being taken to make it a reality; and

(b) whether his Ministry has made any proposal to the Ministry of Urban Development to make water harvesting compulsory in all new buildings and residential areas and if not, the reasons therefor?

Sea erosion in coastal areas in Tamil Nadu

948. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the continuing sea erosion in coastal areas of Tamil Nadu is threatening the ecological balance in these areas; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Flood problems in Bihar

†949. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that interlinking of Koshi and Gandak rivers is the only practical solution and measure for permanent solution of flood problem in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details of positive steps taken by Government in this regard?

Funds to NE States/Bihar for repair of dams

†950. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to increase the allocation of funds to the North Eastern States including Bihar for the schemes related to flood, land erosion and dam repair etc. for 2005-06;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

Sharing of river water between AP and Orissa

†951. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in spite of an agreement reached between the States of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa in respect of sharing of water of the river Vasundhara, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh are bent upon constructing a canal and reservoir in its territory by taking a unilateral action thereby depriving the districts of Jagapati and Raigarh of the State of Orissa of irrigation; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to prevent Andhra Pradesh from taking such action and the results thereof?

Introduction of Roof Top Water Harvesting

952. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to introduce Roof Top Water Harvesting in the country;

(b) if so, the names of States where this system has been introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of funds under AIBP

953. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds under the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether under the new arrangement these funds have to be raised from the market by the State Governments;

(c) the amount raised by the State Governments so far during the current year; and

(d) the mechanism through which the Centre will make available to the States the grant element in this scheme?

NEW DELHI;
The 27th July, 2005

Shravana 5, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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