

## RAJYA SABHA

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### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the May 3, 2005/Vaisakha 13, 1927 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions —155**

#### **Civil Aviation facilities in hilly areas**

†4176. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed in the current Five Year Plan for the extension of civil aviation facilities in the backward hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the number of such air strips which are not being used for the regular flights in such areas, State-wise;

(d) whether his Ministry is going to take some steps to make these air-strips useful for the commercial flights; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Air services in Himachal Pradesh**

4177. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Himachal Pradesh has airports at three places but the Indian Airlines has no flight to these places;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his Ministry has any proposal for expansion of the airports and to start air services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Induction of new aircraft on Kolkata-Silchar route**

4178. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the old Boeing aircrafts which operate on the bi-weekly Kolkata-Silchar route are extremely dangerous and highly accident prone particularly in the monsoon season;

(b) whether there is an acute shortage of aircrafts in the Indian Airlines; and

(c) if so, whether Government would open the Kolkata-Silchar route for private airlines like Air Deccan, Sahara and Jet Airways and if so, by when?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Upgradation of Mangalore Airport  
into an International Airport**

4179. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for upgradation of the Mangalore Airport into an International Airport;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with allocations of funds made for the purpose;

(c) whether required land has been acquired for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the targeted date for completion of the project?

**Withdrawal of air services to Gulf  
countries from Thiruvananthapuram**

4180. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to withdraw the existing Air India Services to Gulf countries from Thiruvananthapuram International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of proposed reduction of flights and the anticipated loss to be sustained following the decision of national carriers; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the foreign airline services to Thiruvananthapuram in the wake of national carriers' decision?

**Air connectivity to historical cities**

†4181. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several States in the country have requested for new airports keeping in view the growing number of tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to extend the domestic flights to small and big cities keeping in view the rising number of air passengers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government are formulating any action plan to connect the ancient and historical cities in the country with air flights?

**Non-availability of baggage trolleys at  
IGI Airport, Delhi**

4182. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of non-availability of trolleys for baggage have been reported at the Indira Gandhi International Airport during peak hours of international flight traffic;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that incidents of charging money from passengers for use of trolleys have also been reported; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent such incidents?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Review of Civil Aviation rules to prevent air mishaps**

4183. DR. KARAN SINGH:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have pointed out that stringent norms for selection of pilots and helicopters and a review of Civil Aviation Rules enacted in 1934 can go a long way in preventing air mishaps like the one killing two Haryana Ministers recently;

(b) if so, whether Government are seriously considering to revise rules of 1934 and take necessary steps in preventing air mishaps which have been happening for the last several years;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard; and

(d) whether stringent measures of selection of pilots and helicopters have been considered and by what time they are likely to be in force?

**Compensation to passengers on cancellation of flights**

4184. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that so many domestic and international flights are frequently delayed and cancelled causing great inconvenience to passengers and also loss of precious time, energy and money;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the provision of compensation to the affected passengers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Sharing of software expertise of Indian companies as a customer support to stakeholders of Boeing aircrafts**

4185. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider at harnessing the synergy of purchasing Boeing aircrafts and the process of sharing the software expertise of Indian companies as a customer support to stakeholders; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed in this regard?

**Implications of opening up the aviation sector to foreign airlines**

4186. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the implications of opening up of aviation sector to the foreign airlines and private carriers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Linking payment of wages of employees of Indian Airlines to financial performance**

4187. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines have formulated various schemes for the payment of wages, allowances and productivity linked incentives to their employees without linking them to financial performance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the justification therefor?

**Non-existence of a helicopter  
inspector in the Ministry of  
Civil Aviation**

‡4188. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no  
helicopter inspector in the Ministry of Civil  
Aviation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Pending proposals for NOC of  
scheduled carriers**

4189. SHRI DHARAM PAL  
SABHARWAL:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI C. RAMACHAN-  
DRAIAH:  
SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the aviation  
industry in India is growing rapidly;

(b) if so, what are the details of domestic  
passengers who travelled on scheduled  
carriers, airline-wise during the last one  
year;

(c) whether some proposals of  
scheduled carriers for NOC are pending  
with Government; and

(d) if so, the names of such scheduled  
airlines, whose proposals are under  
consideration of Government and by when  
these carriers are likely to start operation?

**Training courses for helicopter pilots**

‡4190. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be  
pleased to state:

(a) the number of helicopters in the  
country which are providing air services;

(b) the number of trained pilots of  
helicopters in the country; and

(c) the details of the training and  
refresher courses of helicopter pilots?

**Air services agreement with  
Singapore**

4191. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL  
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Singapore had  
proposed to sign a pact on bilateral flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has now been  
turned down by Singapore;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

**Talks with China on air services**

‡4192. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will  
the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bilateral talks  
have been held between India and China to  
increase air services;

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

(c) the decision taken by the two  
countries as a result thereof?

**Expenditure on airport security**

4193. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether the deployment of CISF  
personnel for airport security costs

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government a monthly outgo of Rs. 16.00 crores;

(b) whether the cost of airport security mechanism in India is one of the lowest in the world; and

(c) whether Government propose to enhance the airport tax to absorb a major share of wages to CISF personnel?

#### **New air services**

4194. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities in the different parts of the country where new air services are likely to be started during the current year;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

#### **International air services from Madurai airport**

4195. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give permission for international flight operations at Madurai airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any request from any domestic/international carriers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

#### **Establishment of helicopter division under DGCA**

4196. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the fact that there are some 130 helicopters in operation in the country, there is no helicopters division duly set up with Government, nor is there any regular helicopter pilot training facility in place;

(b) if so, at what stage the proposal for setting up a helicopter division under the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has been pending and since when it is so pending; and

(c) whether following the helicopter accident involving the life of the former Lok Sabha Speaker Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, it was decided to hold refresher and training courses for Chopper pilots, if so, the steps since taken in that direction?

#### **Report of the Irani Panel on new Company Law**

4197. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether JJ Irani Panel has looked into modifications required based on the suggestions received from industry, regulators, institutions, experts, etc. on the concept of the proposed new Company Law;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations made by the panel;

(c) whether it is a fact that the penalty imposed in case of mis-statement in prospectus and fraudulent inducement to persons investing money is too cosmetic; and

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to strengthen this provision?

**Enforcement and genesis of VAT system**

4198. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Value Added Tax (VAT) regime has been enforced *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2005;

(b) benefits expected to accrue to consumers under the VAT regime;

(c) which other countries adopted VAT and years of their respective adoption;

(d) when did Government first proposed to introduce VAT in India and how the concept proceeded henceforth, particularly the details of the Committees/ Study Group/Task Force constituted, if any, their constituents, and summary of the observations/recommendations made by each of these entities?

**Handling of NPAs of farmers and small businessmen**

4199. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to carefully monitor the handling of NPAs of farmers and small businessmen in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the banks have been callous to the pleas of small businessmen to fairly settle their NPAs;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the banks have drawn distinctions between large NPAs exceeding hundreds of crores and small NPAs;

(d) to what extent is the RBI responsible for the state of affairs which

works against the small businessmen in the matter of NPAs; and

(e) steps proposed to review the specific issue of NPAs affecting small and medium enterprises?

**Amendment in the guidelines for NGOs receiving foreign aid**

4200. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent amendment to the guidelines for receiving foreign aid by NGOs from bilateral partners, mandates the beneficiaries to fill up and submit an additional proforma to the Department of Economic Affairs;

(b) whether the additional requirement brought about by the amendment, apart from FCRA stipulations, will delay the programme of work by the voluntary sector due to bureaucratic hassles;

(c) whether the NGOs have alleged that the new provision is against the very ethos of the voluntary sector; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

**Strengthening of NBFCs**

4201. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to strengthen the Non-Banking Financial Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the NBFC's have urged that provisions of Debt Recovery Tribunal Act and the Securitisation Act available to banks and housing finance companies be extended to NBFC's to protect their assets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Harassment of customers by private insurance companies**

†4202. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:  
SHRI PYARELAL  
KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that private sector insurance companies harass the consumers while making payments against their claims;

(b) if so, whether Government have issued guidelines to insurance companies in view of aforesaid complaints;

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken against these companies; and

(d) whether Government have constituted any Committee to monitor these companies?

**Measures to check stagnation in FDI inflow**

4203. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a recent analysis the FDI inflow into India during the last few years was stagnating;

(b) whether the basic malaise behind this reported stagnation is a plethora of taxes both by Central and State Governments, varying import duty rates and higher interest on loans; and

(c) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board and Foreign Investment Implementation Authority are presently working at cross purposes as also there is multiplicity of bodies for approvals of

investment proposals and if so whether Government would merge all these into a single body?

**Complaints against Central Excise Department**

4204. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been complaints of the Central Excise Department resorting to arm-twisting methods to meet excise collection targets;

(b) whether the excise authorities have sidelined the system of personal ledger account and are insisting on payment of whole excise duty upfront and treat the Modvat as credit for the future; and

(c) if so, steps being taken to end this anomaly?

**Opinion of ICAI on VAT**

4205. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAI has opined that VAT collected from customers should not be shown as sales;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

**Exemption to Sivaganga District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd. under Banking Regulation Act**

4206. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sivaganga District Central Co-operative Bank had applied for exemption upto 31st March, 2007 from Section 11(1) of the Banking

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Regulation Act before the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has asked the Sivaganga District Central Co-operative Bank not to accept or renew deposits and refund more than Rs. 1000 to deposit holders from their accounts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Appointment of officer/employee  
Director in the Board of  
Directors of RRBs**

†4207. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a provision for appointment of a Director in the Board of Directors of banks as a representative of the officers/employees working in the Nationalised Commercial Banks;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to make a provision for appointing an officer/employee director in the Board of Directors of the Regional Rural Banks on the lines of sponsor banks (Nationalised Commercial Banks); and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Levy of taxes by States**

4208. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present Constitutional provision with regard to levy of taxes by States;

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal to amend the Constitution with a view to divest the States of such power; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Insurance cover for reconstruction of  
houses damaged due to natural  
calamities**

4209. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether insurance cover is provided to the poor people for reconstruction of their houses damaged due to natural calamities like fire, floods, cyclone, Tsunami, earthquake etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Dialogue Forum for RRBs**

†4210. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Dialogue Forum at Central level for Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of India is a Union employer as per section 17(I) of Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, if so, who is vested with the powers relating to service conditions and pay fixation of the employees of Regional Rural Banks;

(d) whether sponsoring banks have agreed to the advice of Government for establishment of a dialogue-machinery for consultation and dialogue with Regional Rural Bank Employees *vide* circular issued by Government on 23rd April, 1998; and

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



### **Acceptance of foreign aid for Tsunami victims**

4211. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he on Pravasi Bharati Diwas celebration explained Government's policy about acceptance of foreign aid for rehabilitation of Tsunami victims in the context of India's refusal to foreign aid after the Tsunami disaster;

(b) if so, in what terms; and

(c) whether he clarified that India would be open to accessing multilateral funding for long-term rehabilitation working, if so, what has been the response of Pravasi Bharati representatives and foreign investors thereto?

### **Status paper on FDI**

4212. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring out a status paper with regard to Foreign Direct Investment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the status paper is likely to come out; and

(d) whether Government have recently permitted increase in FDI in any section and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Task force on revision of procurement norms**

4213. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force on revision

of procurement norms to ensure greater transparency, competition, fairness, and elimination of discretion in procurement of goods by Government had submitted its Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Task Force; and

(d) if so, the time-frame by which the recommendations would come into effect?

### **Outstanding debt of Tamil Nadu**

4214. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of debt arrears outstanding against the State Government of Tamil Nadu as on date;

(b) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has made any representation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the quantum of annual interest being paid by the State Government on these arrears?

### **Disinvestment of PSUs**

†4215. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises disinvested during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the names of Heavy industries and Public Enterprises, for which the disinvestments proposal is under consideration;

(c) whether any such proposal is under

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government's consideration to reconsider those Industries and Public Enterprises which have been disinvested during the last three years and to bring them again under Government's control; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Higher customs duty on fixed phone instruments**

4216. SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:  
SHRIMATI KAMLA  
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fixed phone instruments attract a higher customs and excise duty as compared to mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are considering lowering of customs and excise duty on fixed phones to encourage and promote the growth of fixed phones in India; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Service tax on insurance policies**

4217. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the service tax is chargeable even on various insurance policies including Life Insurance;

(b) if so, since when and the manner of its computation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are going too far and fast on bringing various items under the net of Service Tax Act and also its rate; and

(d) how Government propose to mitigate the hardship of middle class due to high incidence of personal taxes?

**Gupta Committee Report on capital restructuring of SFCs**

4218. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to implement recommendations of Gupta Committee regarding capital restructuring of State Financial Corporations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Decline in income in urban areas**

†4219. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that income in urban areas in several States has decreased last year in comparison to the National average in other years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

**Irregularities in the sale of CMC Ltd.**

4220. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Powered Committee of Government which was set up under his Chairmanship to scrutinise some cases of disinvestments of Public Sector Undertakings by previous Government has come across a series of irregularities both procedural and substantial in the sale of C.M.C. Ltd;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

#### **Smuggling of fake notes**

†4221. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the smuggling of fake notes on a large scale from across the border;
- (b) if so, the details of fake notes seized during the last year, State-wise;
- (c) the names of neighbouring countries in which press/units of printing fake notes are located; and
- (d) the details of talks initiated by Government with these countries?

#### **Special package to industries**

4222. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are contemplating to announce any special package to help the industries to compete in the international market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **World Bank aid for poverty alleviation Programmes**

4223. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether financial aid has been provided by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank to India during the last two years for implementation of Poverty Alleviation Programme in Gujarat;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of States which have utilised such funds?

#### **Financial assistance provided to States by the World Bank**

4224. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of financial assistance provided to the States by the World Bank;
- (b) the details of amount sanctioned by the World Bank for each project during the last three years, project-wise/State-wise;
- (c) the details of amount utilised by each State during this period; and
- (d) if not, what are the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto?

#### **Foreign debt**

†4225. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the amount of foreign debt is continuously increasing in the country for the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details of this amount in December 2002, 2003 and 2004 separately;
- (c) the amount in the form of interest paid by Government on the said amount of debt during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05; and
- (d) the average rate of interest during each of above said years?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**NPAs of banks**

†4226. DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of Non-Performing Assets in all the Public Sector and Private Sector banks in the country has gone down during the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details of the said amount and the percentage of this amount in comparison with the total loans provided by Banks; and

(c) the amount of loan provided by all banks during the year 2003-04 and the extent to which this amount was higher than the amount given as loans during the year 2002-03 indicating the average rate of interest on the loans provided during both of the said years?

**Recovery of NPA's of banks**

†4227. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Public Sector and Private sector banks in the country have recovered the amount of outstanding dues of their Non-Performing Assets accounts;

(b) if so, the amount recovered by each bank during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(c) the percentage of recovered amount out of the total amount of Non-Performing Assets for the whole year?

**Removal of sales tax consequent to introduction of VAT**

†4228. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the purpose behind introducing new tax-system in the form of VAT in the country is to increase the amount of tax in the average of Gross Domestic Product;

(b) if not, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that VAT is a substitute of the sales-tax in the States;

(d) whether it is a fact that certain conditions to remove 4 per cent sales tax levied by the Centre are still in force; and

(e) if so, the details of the conditions and the reasons for not removing Central sales-tax simultaneously while levying VAT?

**Share of States in Central allocations**

4229. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total outgo to States as a result of the recommendations of 12th Finance Commission would be around Rs. 30,000 crores a year;

(b) if so, the share of Orissa per annum;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Centre proposes to do away with the loans to the States and allow them to go in for market borrowings; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, brief details of their recommendations in the matter?

#### **Unearthing black money**

4230. SHRI LALIT KISHORE  
CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the High Powered Committee set up by him last year suggested solutions to draw money from black to white;

(b) what is the difference between the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme and the recommendations made by the above High Powered Committee;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Committee has also suggested to charge interest on each year of income concealed;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to issue zero per cent Interest Bond Scheme to unearth black money; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Tax Information Network (TIN)**

4231. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:  
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved setting up of the Phase-II of Tax Information Network (TIN) at a cost of Rs. 100 crores;

(b) when will the TIN become operational; and

(c) what are the salient features of this scheme and whether it will enable paperless filing of returns through the internet?

#### **Liberalisation of customs clearance procedure for exporters**

4232. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have liberalized the customs clearance procedure for exporters of textiles and garments during the post-quota regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other incentives Government propose to give to garment industry to boost their exports?

#### **Memorandum for rise in G.P.F. interest rate**

4233. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum dated 3rd February, 2005 from All India State Government Employees Federation demanding rise in G.P.F interest rate; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

#### **Status of NPAs of Nationalised Banks**

4234. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position of NPAs in different Nationalised Banks as on 31st March, 2004, Bank-wise; and

(b) the number of defaulters in each bank who have taken loan of more than Rs. 50 lakhs, Bank-wise?

#### **Closure of pre-merger branches of banks**

4235. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a policy which allows merged banks to close any of their premerger branches as they like;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are aware of the problems that will arise when branches close at a rapid pace in rural areas;

(c) what is the specific policy at present which deals with the issue of closure of branches of banks after two entities merge; and

(d) steps proposed to review the issue of closure of bank branches in small towns, rural areas and panchayats?

#### **Revenue raised through education cess**

†4236. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue raised by Government so far from education cess;

(b) the names of programmes on which the said amount is proposed to be utilized; and

(c) the provision made by the Central Government for the State of Madhya Pradesh out of the amount raised from education cess?

#### **Withdrawal of deposits by NRIs from banks**

4237. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Non-Resident Indians have been pulling out their deposits from the Indian banking system, as revealed by the latest RBI figures, highlighting that the NRI community has withdrawn \$1.3 billion from the commercial banks during April-December, 2004, as against a positive inflow of \$3.7 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons for the sudden reversal in NRI deposits; and

(c) what fresh initiatives are being taken to lure back the NRI community?

#### **NHBs Scheme for tsunami victims**

4238. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank has announced a concessional scheme to provide financial assistance to the people affected by tsunami; and

(b) if so, the details of the schemes implemented in tsunami affected States so far through the National Housing Bank?

#### **Effect of NPAs on the performance of banks**

4239. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of Non-Performing Assets of the Public Sector Banks individually for the last three financial years;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) what are the reasons for such huge NPAs of these banks;

(c) what steps are being taken to recover or write off these NPAs of the banks; and

(d) what is the effect of these NPAs on the performance of the banks?

**Closure of loss making rural branches of banks**

†4240. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of rural branches of Public Sector Banks running into losses in the National Capital Region of Delhi;

(b) whether Government propose to close down the branches which are running into losses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Operation of Senior Citizens Savings Scheme in Karnataka**

4241. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Senior Citizens Savings Scheme is being implemented in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the number of senior citizens who invested in this Senior Citizens Savings Scheme;

(c) the amount so far invested under this scheme; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to lower the eligibility age under the scheme?

**Collection of taxes/excise duty on tobacco products**

4242. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the total taxes or excise duties collected on all tobacco products in the last three years respectively;

(b) the break-up of such figures for the five major products;

(c) whether revenue or health is the criteria in fixing such taxes or their rates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Rate of interest on provident fund**

4243. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the rate of interest of Provident Fund/Public Provident Fund to 9.5 per cent as has been done by Government in the case of Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if not, why a different yardstick is being applied when in both the cases the beneficiaries are the employees of Government/Public Sector Undertakings, etc.; and

(c) whether Government propose to compensate Government/PSUs employees through some other method in view of this differential rate of interest in similar cases?

**Increase in savings and investment for higher growth rate**

4244. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how Government propose to stimulate savings, investment and employment in the manufacturing sector, widening the tax base by remodelling tax rates, removing barriers to the growth of agriculture, agro-processing and building infrastructure, so that Indian economy gets quicker boost;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the estimated GDP for 2004-05 has been achieved; and

(c) which are the major constituents which contributed significantly towards achieving higher GDP?

evasions against such institutions are pending; and

(c) what other proceedings have been initiated against private educational institutions?

**Pre-payment of high interest bearing foreign debts**

4245. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to make pre-payment of high interest bearing foreign debts considering huge foreign exchange reserve;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Draft guidelines on securitization of standard assets of banks**

4246. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has announced draft guidelines on securitization of standard assets for banks etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the guidelines would come into effect?

**Action against private educational institutions for tax evasion**

4247. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many private educational institutions are in Income Tax arrears for the last three years;

(b) how many prosecutions for tax

**Decline in the value of dollar**

4248. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sharp decline in the value of US dollar compared to Euro;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to readjust our country's exposure to the US dollar, in view of the changing global markets; and

(c) the changes in proportion of Indian foreign reserves held in major currencies over last three years?

**Coverage of professionals under the Service Tax**

4249. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of services on which Government have imposed Service Tax;

(b) whether it is a fact that professions like legal, medical, etc., have not been covered under the Service Tax net though they are also providing services to the people collecting money as fee, advice, etc.; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not bringing the professionals mentioned at (b) above into the Tax net of the country?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**RBI's control over liquidity management**

4250. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what instruments the RBI is using to manage liquidity in the system in the light of increased foreign institutional investment inflow;

(b) whether it is a fact that RBI had taken measures earlier to control liquidity management; and

(c) if so, the details of the earlier plans and the results thereof?

**Avenues of FDI from Mauritius**

4251. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Mauritius has opened up large avenues of Foreign direct Investment;

(b) if so, the details of FDIs from that country during the last five years and the annual average of FDI received; and

(c) how far it is likely to increase further and in what areas such FDI is expected?

**Constitution of Sixth Pay Commission**

†4252. SHRISURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Majdoor Sangh has demanded an early constitution of the Sixth Pay Commission for the Central Government employees in rally in Delhi on 4th April, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) by when the announcement of the constitution of the Sixth Pay Commission for the Central Government employees is likely to be made?

**Credit-deposit ratio of banks**

†4253. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the internal credit-deposit ratio of banks in various States, Percentage-wise;

(b) whether the credit-deposit ratio in some of the States is even lesser than our National average;

(c) if so, the names of such States;

(d) whether Government are considering to issue time bound directions for taking specific steps in order to enhance credit ratio due to the various banks working in these States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Meeting of Empowered Committee of State Ministers on VAT**

4254. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Empowered Committee of State Ministers on Value Added Tax has held its meeting in Delhi in the middle of April, 2005;

(b) if so, the deliberations made in the said meeting;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said committee was of the view that VAT rates are not uniform among the States; and

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Unfair means for recovery of dues  
against credit cards**

4255. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICICI Bank Ltd. is adopting third degree methods through anti-social elements to recover the dues against credit cards issued by the wing of the said bank;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Reserve Bank of India had already issued guidelines not to adopt these kinds of measures to recover dues against credit cards or loan amount; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to ensure that the operations of Banks are strictly performed as per the guidelines of RBI?

**Arm-twisting methods used to boost  
excise collection**

4256. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to meet excise collection in normal circumstances and excise department has been adopting arm-twisting methods to boost collections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps being taken by Government to curb coercive action being taken against excise payers?

**Use of UINs in stock market  
transactions**

4257. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Unique Identification

Numbers (UINs) have been issued so far;

(b) whether UINs are unique to every investor or does it change with every transaction of equity and Mutual Fund;

(c) whether UINs are issued by the companies whose equities are traded in the stock market or is it issued by the SEBI; and

(d) to what extent have UINs brought about transparency in the stock market transactions?

**Implementation of recommendations  
of round table conferences on  
Panchayati Raj**

4258. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Secretaries of Panchayati Raj of States and Union Territories was convened on 11th April, 2005 to review progress of implementation of recommendations of round table conferences, held last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress so far made in this regard;

(c) whether District Planning Committees have been set up in all the States, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether some deadline has been fixed for the States to complete the process of setting up of the functioning tiers at different levels of Panchayati Raj set up?

**Results of Round Table Conferences  
on strengthening Panchayati Raj  
Institutions**

4259. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA  
SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of  
PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the seven Round Table  
Conferences have been held on  
strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions  
in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the progress  
made in each of the Round Table  
Conferences;

(c) whether any consensus has been  
reached among the States in this regard;  
and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time  
by which the action is proposed to be  
launched?

**Non-utilisation of Central funds  
earmarked for rural  
development**

4260. SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:  
SHRIMATI KAMLA  
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI  
RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large chunk  
of Central funds earmarked for rural  
development have not been used because  
of inability of Panchayati Raj Institutions  
(PRIs) to identify different projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the  
reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount sanctioned or  
recommended by the 12th Finance  
Commission for Panchayats; and

(d) what will be the method used by  
the Centre to ensure that PRIs complete  
the activity mapping within a time bound  
programme?

**Wind Power Farms of ONGC**

4261. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND  
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC proposes to set up  
Wind Power Farms in various parts of the  
country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the  
places selected for this purpose; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to  
be incurred in such projects?

**Discovery of gas reserves**

4262. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will  
the Minister of PETROLEUM AND  
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas reserves discovered  
so far and the names of the States having  
the gas reserves;

(b) the quantity of gas in the stock of  
the reserves as explorable and the quantity  
estimated, but not explorable at present;

(c) the details of gas used as fuel and  
also as energy source of power; and

(d) whether Government have any plan  
to revive any quantity of gas being  
exhausted everyday?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Mixing of toxic octane-booster in petrol**

4263. SHRIDATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Euro-III emission norms have been introduced in Delhi and other metro cities *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that oil firms are using toxic octane-booster in petrol;

(d) whether this damages the brain and clogs the vehicle emission system; and

(e) if so, the measures taken by Government to ensure that oil companies do not at all use this toxic octane-enhancer?

**Measures to ensure delivery of subsidised kerosene/LPG to the targeted segments**

4264. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently an elaborate plan has been drawn up to stop the diversion of kerosene supplied through the Public Distribution System (PDS) for adulteration of diesel and petrol and to strengthen the distribution network of subsidised kerosene and domestic LPG so that these essential items actually reach the targeted segments of the population;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status; and

(c) the details of fresh steps outlined, if any, in the new scheme to address the problems/difficulties faced by the people inhabiting the far-flung areas of the country in getting these supplies?

**Complaints against LPG dealers in Bihar**

4265. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG distributors/dealers of various companies in Bihar;

(b) the names of the owners/distributors/dealers in each case;

(c) the category to which they belong; and

(d) the details of complaints received against such distributors/dealers during the last two years and the current year so far and action taken in each case?

**Production of oil from Bombay High Oil wells**

4266. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the oil production capacity at Bombay High oil wells;

(b) the present production per year;

(c) the cost of producing of oil on an average;

(d) whether it is a fact that it is rapidly becoming difficult to pump oil economically from Bombay High; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that costs of production of oil at Bombay remain economical?

**Acquisition of Oil fields in Latin American countries**

4267. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh Ltd. has

confined its overseas investment scope only to Russia and East African countries;

(b) whether India would consider acquisition of oil fields in Venezuela and other Latin American countries such as Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia that offer opportunities for acquisition of oil and gas assets by India; and

(c) whether Mexico with confirmed reserves of more than 54 billion barrels of crude yet to be explored offshore in Gulf of Mexico is opening up its energy sector for foreign participation and if so, whether India has already evinced interest in the Mexican offer?

#### **Investment in oil sector in Yemen**

4268. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has expressed its desire to invest in the oil sector of Yemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the current oil reserves of Yemen;

(d) whether any discussion has been initiated between the India and Yemenese Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Action on complaints of adulteration of Petrol/diesel**

†4269. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints

regarding adulteration in diesel/petrol at petrol pumps are received;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received throughout the country during the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, alongwith details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of the action taken thereon;

(d) the number of petrol pumps, permits of which cancelled on this basis;

(e) whether cooperation of public representative is being taken by Government to check the adulteration, State-wise or whether any committee of public representatives has been constituted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Opening of Petrol Pumps by HPCL on NHs in violation of prescribe norms**

4270. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the HPCL has installed a number of petrol pumps on NHs in Punjab and Haryana on such sites after 17th October, 2004 which are not meeting the norms of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and have submitted the false undertaking that sites meet the norms;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers found guilty; and

(c) if not, whether the details from the HPCL would be collected to verify the fact and violations?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Discovery of Gas Hydrates in Bay of Bengal**

4271. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether new gas reserves namely Gas Hydrates have been discovered in Bay of Bengal offshore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the rough estimate of gas hydrate reserves;
- (c) whether India has the technology to exploit the gas hydrates; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Cost of production of crude oil**

†4272. 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 production of the crude oil in the country is primarily undertaken by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, a public sector oil company;
- (b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment of the cost of production by this company;
- (c) if so, the average production-cost in the years 2000-01 and 2004-05; and
- (d) the maximum and minimum production-cost at various sites by this company during the said years?

**Rise in crude production by ONGC**

†4273. 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 main function of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is to produce crude oil in the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there has been a considerable rise in the production of crude oil in the country by the said corporation during the last three years; and
- (c) if so, the quantum of crude oil produced by the said corporation during the years 2000-01 and 2004-05?

**Sale of crude to oil refineries**

†4274. 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 the crude oil produced in the country during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 has been sold by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation to oil refineries;
- (b) if so, the quantum of crude oil sold to oil refineries during the said years by both the corporations;
- (c) the quantum alongwith prices at which the said crude oil was sold during the each of the above years; and
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the prices of crude oil produced in the country

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

were hiked in accordance with the rise in the prices of crude oil in international market?

#### **Paradeep Oil Refinery project**

4275. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC propose to increase the capacity of Paradeep Oil Refinery and build it as a petrochemical-cum-oil refinery;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan;

(c) the present status of the refinery project; and

(d) the time-frame within which the capacity of the above unit would be scaled up?

#### **LPG users in Uttar Pradesh**

4276. SHRI LALIT SURI:  
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

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

(a) the percentage of population of Uttar Pradesh presently being served by LPG;

(b) by when entire population in cities and towns with a population up to five thousand and more in the State is likely to be covered by LPG; and

(c) the details of plans formulated by Government oil companies for the years 2005 and 2006 towards achieving the above objective?

#### **Exploration of gas and petroleum**

†4277. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reformulated any scheme for the exploration of gas and petroleum in the country;

(b) if so, the names of States where exploration work of gas and petroleum is in progress;

(c) the details of amount spent on the same during the year 2004-05; and

(d) the details of the locations State-wise where success has been achieved in the field of oil and gas?

#### **Import of petroleum products**

4278. SHRIMATI VANGA  
GEETHA:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that by 2025, India will probably be importing 86 per cent of its petroleum requirements compared to 70 per cent last year; and

(b) if so, the details worked out for such imports from different countries?

#### **Consumption of CNG and LNG in Bihar**

4279. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LNG and CNG outlets in Bihar;

(b) the names of the operators of such outlets;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the present consumption of LNG and CNG in Bihar; and

(d) the plans and schemes for future in this regard?

#### **Petrol and diesel outlets in Bihar**

4280. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petrol and diesel outlets of Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation in Bihar;

(b) the names of the owners/distributors/dealers in each case;

(c) the category to which they belong; and

(d) whether any malpractice of benami operation of such outlets has been noticed, if so, what action has been taken in those cases?

#### **Potential of setting up a new oil refinery in Andhra Pradesh**

4281. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at any time Government did any surveys or studies on the potential of setting up an oil refinery at Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study on the physical feasibility of setting up an oil refinery near the vast gas resources in the Godavari delta in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if not, the plans of Government to locate an oil refinery at Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of such plans which were at any time studied with regard to their potential and commercial viability?

#### **Review of subsidies on oil products**

4282. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed certain observations of the Asian Development Bank in its recent annual publication "Asian Development Outlook", highlighting *inter alias* that the State subsidies on oil products are doing great harm in India and some other South East Asian member-countries, inasmuch as they are poorly targeted, often distorting resource allocation, and urged upon them to scale back subsidies and align prices with the market; and

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

#### **Estimated oil and gas reserves in the country**

4283. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated reserves of oil and gas in the country as per the surveys conducted in the country so far;

(b) what steps are being taken to increase the local production of crude and gas in the country;

(c) whether Government are considering to give more exploration permits for crude and gas production in the country; and

(d) if so, how may such sites have been identified and what will be the quantity of crude and gas likely to be produced through such ventures?



**Petroleum and gas reserves**

4284. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where petroleum and natural gas were found in last three years;

(b) what is the estimated quantity of crude petroleum in the country; and

(c) whether there is a possibility of petroleum and gas in the Himalayan range?

**Strike by petroleum dealers**

4285. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of All India Petroleum Dealers called for closure of all petrol pumps in the country from midnight of April 17 to Midnight of April 18, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the major demands of the petroleum dealers; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

**Import of crude from Saudi Arabia**

4286. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Saudi Arabian kingdom has assured our Government that it will meet India's crude oil demands, however large, in future; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

**Tamper proof seal for LPG cylinders**

4287. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the woes of the people due to large scale pilferage of LPG before the delivery of LPG cylinder to the customer in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon;

(c) whether the present plastic seals are not tamper proof and that leads to pilferage of LPG;

(d) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard, State-wise and the steps being taken to fix tamper proof seals on the LPG cylinders; and

(e) what is the accountability of oil companies in ensuring tamper proof LPG cylinder particularly when they demand price increase often?

**GAIL's projects in Bangladesh**

4288. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has finalized gas pipeline projects in Bangladesh and has signed MoU with its counterpart Petrobangla recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether as a reciprocal gesture for consultancy services rendered by GAIL, the Government of Bangladesh will consider permitting a gas pipeline corridor for transmission of natural gas from Myanmar to India?

**Expansion of pilot projects on ethanol production**

4289. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has studied major global ethanol programmes whereby in Brazil the admixture of ethanol with petrol is as high as 28 to 30 per cent;

(b) whether Government would assure the Indian sugar industry of its long-term commitment to the ethanol blending programme to enable the industry to step up ethanol production solely dedicated to fuel blending purposes; and

(c) what are the reasons for Government restricting its pilot projects on ethanol production only to a few States?

**Stock of petroleum products**

4290. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the normal stock of petroleum and petroleum products held by the oil companies in the country;

(b) whether this stock has come down anytime during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Hiring of tankers by IOC and other oil companies for import of crude oil**

4291. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have granted permission to Indian Oil

Corporation (IOC) to hire tankers for importing crude;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) to what extent this move will allow IOC to cover its freight bill;

(d) by when the other public sector oil refining and marketing companies will be allowed to hire tankers; and

(e) how would the move affect the revenue of transchart, the Centralised Chartering Ship Wing of Shipping Corporation of India?

**MoU with Myanmar for co-operation in oil sector**

4292. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 96 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 2005 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has also signed an MoU with the Myanmar Government to enhance co-operation in the oil sector including upstream, down-stream and oil marketing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Reservation in allotment of petrol pumps**

†4293. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a system of reservation for the backward classes in the allotment of petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Promotion of religious tourism**

4294. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Central plan of action to promote religious tourism in India; and

(b) if so, whether her Ministry has any plan to develop the facilities in Ayodhya, Mathura, Ajmer and Agra to attract more National and International Tourists?

### **Tourism projects in Tamil Nadu**

4295. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance/progress of ongoing tourism projects in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years in terms of physical and financial targets set and achieved, State-wise;

(c) whether any new proposals have been sent by the State Government to the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposals are likely to be given approval?

### **Development of domestic tourism**

4296. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a detailed proposal has been formulated to give boost to the domestic tourism, as reportedly for every 80 foreign tourists visiting India there is only one Indian touring the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the fresh initiatives outlined to promote domestic tourism and present status of the proposal?

### **Hosting of WTTC Summit**

4297. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India bagged the proposal for hosting of the WTTC Summit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the basic things that have gone in favour of India;

(d) whether it is likely to attract a large foreign investment in tourism; and

(e) if so, the amount of investment likely to be made and what are the proposals in this regard?

### **Special package to boost tourism in Tsunami-hit States**

4298. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry has written to Government that the Island is losing Rs. 40 lakh daily because of fall in tourist inflow;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to announce a special package to boost tourism in Tsunami-hit States of India; and

(d) if so, by when and State-wise details thereof?

### Promoting night bazaars

4299. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start night bazaars in all cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether her Ministry has written a letter to the Chief Ministers of all States and Administrators of Union Territories to explore possibilities to start night bazaars;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the States and Union Territories to the said communication?

### Agreements with Italy on tourism

†4300. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Italy have recently signed agreements in the field of tourism;

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

(c) the terms of agreements signed by two countries?

### Central help for development of tourist spots

4301. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many important tourist spots in the country have not been developed due to resource crunch faced by the States; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to identify such tourist spots and provide

funds for developing them to attract more tourists?

### Arrangements for 2010 Commonwealth Games

4302. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has proposed for an additional 25,000 hotel rooms ahead of the 2010 Commonwealth Games;

(b) whether a task force has been constituted under the Ministry of Urban Development for setting up hotels in and around Delhi;

(c) whether there is a move to label the hotels, hospitals and services attached to the tourism industry in the capital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, the amounts to be spent and the time by which these rooms would be constructed?

### Development of tourist centres in Punjab and Chhattisgarh

†4303. SHRI DHARAM PAL  
SABHARWAL:  
SHRIMATI KAMLA  
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Punjab and Chhattisgarh identified by Government for the development of tourist centres during the current year; and

(b) the details of outlines drawn by Government for the development of these areas?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Development of Rural Tourism Hubs  
in Tamil Nadu**

4304. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have identified any sites in the State of Tamil Nadu for their development as Rural Tourism Hubs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps being taken for the development of the sites and by when they are likely to be opened for public?

**Development of Rural Tourism Hubs  
in Andhra Pradesh**

4305. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have identified any sites in the State of Andhra Pradesh for their development as Rural Tourism Hubs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps being taken for the development of the sites and by when they are likely to be opened for public?

**Development of infrastructure to  
boost tourism**

4306. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by the end of 2004, around 35 lakh tourists have visited India and it is the highest ever in history;

(b) whether as per estimates of Government, we would have over 2 million

visitors between November, 2004 and March, 2005;

(c) whether it is also a fact that nothing significant has changed in the infrastructural development to accommodate the rise in tourists; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address this issue?

**Constitution of National Tourism  
Advisory Council**

4307. SHRI C. PERUMAL:  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Tourism Advisory Council has been constituted;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) whether the National Tourism Advisory Council has held its meeting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the issues discussed and the decisions taken thereon?

**Under utilisation of budgetary  
allocations for tourism**

†4308. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budgetary allocation to the Department of Tourism for the financial year 2005-06 has been curtailed as against the provisions for the year 2004-05; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Department could not fully utilise its budget allocated during the last few years and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether responsibility of some officials has been fixed for non-utilisation

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of departmental Budget and if so, the action taken against them?

**Development of tourism in Maharashtra**

4309. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has submitted a special plan for development of tourism in the State to remove regional imbalance;

(b) if so, the salient features and the estimated cost thereof;

(c) the quantum of Central Government aid sought therefor; and

(d) what is Government's response thereto?

**Long term strategies to promote tourism**

4310. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the fifth tourist destination in the world;

(b) if so, what is India's position during the last three years; and

(c) what long-term strategies are proposed to be evolved to promote tourism?

**Plan to boost tourism industry**

4311. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan in collaboration with ASI to boost up tourism industry in the country especially in Delhi by developing

new tourist sites and by maintaining the existing sites; and

(b) whether Government are planning to start helplines and multilingual websites to provide information on Indian tourist sites?

**Round table conference of Tourism Ministers of BIMSTEC countries**

4312. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a round table conference of Tourism Ministers of BIMSTEC countries *i.e.* India, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan had been organized in India wherein it was agreed upon to establish an information centre in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Promotion of tourism in Tamil Nadu**

4313. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether festivals are being conducted by her Ministry in Tamil Nadu as a step to attract more tourists;

(b) if so, the names of the festivals organized in Tamil Nadu during the last three years; and

(c) the details of funds, if any, released to Tamil Nadu for conducting such festivals during the last three years?

**Decline in foreign tourists due to terrorist activities**

†4314. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of tourists has continuously declined in the recent past due to terrorist activities prevailing in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have appealed to certain countries to lift the restrictions imposed by them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the percentage of decline witnessed in the income earned from tourists; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to promote foreign tourists and to bring about improvement in the negative image prevailing regarding security aspect?

#### **Packages offered by tour operators**

4315. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that attractive packages offered by various foreign airlines and tour operators are likely to witness an increase in the number of Indians travelling abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its impact on domestic tourism in India; and

(d) the steps being taken to attract more and more domestic tourists to different destinations in India?

#### **Desalination of sea water to produce potable drinking water**

4316. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering seriously to develop a cost

effective technology to desalinate sea water to produce potable drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the technology used for desalination of sea water will be cost effective as compared to other methods used for producing quality drinking water?

#### **World Bank assistance for Tank Management Programme in Karnataka**

4317. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sought World Bank assistance to rejuvenate 700 tanks under the Community based Tank Management Programme in the backward taluks on the borders of the State;

(b) if so, the amount of World Bank assistance sought for; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to place the proposal before the World Bank?

#### **Single window system for approval of irrigation projects**

4318. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to set up a single window system for approval to irrigation projects; and

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

**Contaminated drinking water in various States**

†4319. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that various diseases are spreading due to the use of contaminated drinking water in Haryana, Punjab and Delhi and the fluoride content in water in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the concerned States made several attempts but they could not get success due to the lack of proper techniques; and

(c) whether Government would consider an effective National Policy in this regard and if so, the outline thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Financial assistance for reclamation of water logged areas**

4320. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals of State Governments seeking financial assistance for reclamation of water logged areas are pending with the Central Government;

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

(c) the reasons for keeping the proposals pending; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Central Government to clear those pending proposals?

**Clearance of Pench Vrihad project in Madhya Pradesh**

†4321. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Pench Vrihad" project of Chhindwada district in Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Central Water Commission;

(b) if so, by when the clearance for investment in this project is likely to be granted;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this project is assisted by Indo-German bilateral (development) cooperation; and

(d) by when this project is likely to be sanctioned?

**Ganga Water Plans**

†4322. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water of Ganga has become so contaminated that Government have to spend lakhs of rupees daily to make it potable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan for its permanent solution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Task Force on Flood Management and Erosion Control**

4323. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force on Flood Management and Erosion Control has

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



recommended levy of one to two per cent on new infrastructures such as roads, building and power plants in the flood prone States for creating a revolving fund of around Rs. 50 crores for emergent flood management schemes;

(b) if so, whether they have pointed out that fund may be kept at the disposal of Ministry;

(c) whether the Task Force was set up at behest of PM to examine causes of recurring floods and erosion in Assam and other neighbouring States;

(d) whether this Task Force has submitted its report; and

(e) if so, what are the main recommendations made and what steps are being taken to implement them?

#### **Central assistance to Rajasthan for potable drinking water**

‡4324. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan falls under the category of the State with acute shortage of drinking water;

(b) whether there is acute shortage of drinking water in Rajasthan and several districts of the State are facing problem of polluted drinking water having flouride content in it;

(c) whether Central Government have any plan to provide special economic grant to Rajasthan to provide clean drinking water to the people of Rajasthan by granting special status to Rajasthan under National water policy in respect of drinking water crisis in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Decline in ground water level in Rajasthan**

‡4325. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are aware of the fact that ground water level has fallen too much in Rajasthan due to constant famines and the severe drinking water crisis has arisen there;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Central Government are considering to provide special assistance to the Government of Rajasthan to tackle such a situation; and

(c) if so, the quantum of funds which would be given to Rajasthan under NCCF and by when it would be given indicating the details thereof?

#### **Desiltation of Tungabhadra Dam**

4326. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that due to accumulation of silt in Tungabhadra Dam in Karnataka, the storage capacity has decreased;

(b) if so, what is the estimated quantity of silt accumulated in the dam;

(c) to what extent it would affect the dam;

(d) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal to take up desiltation programme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what steps are proposed to be taken to help Karnataka to take up desiltation programme?

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Accumulation of sand on the river bed of Godaveri**

4327. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has carried out any survey on the extent of sand on the river bed of the Godaveri river between Rajahmundry and Bhadrachalam;

(b) if so, the quantum of sand in this area in the River Godaveri;

(c) the annual accretion to the existing sand bed every year in this stretch of the River Godaveri;

(d) whether the CWC have any objections to the removal of the huge quantities of sand which has accumulated on the Godaveri river bed in this stretch; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to study the phenomena of sand accumulation in the River Godaveri?

**Central assistance to Karnataka for irrigation projects**

4328. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to augmenting its irrigation potential, the State Government of Karnataka has sought Centre's clearance/assistance for some of its irrigation projects, like the Markandeya Project, Upper Tunga Project, Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme, Singatalur Lift Irrigation Scheme, Uduthurehalla Project and Varahi Project, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status in respect of each of the above and also such other pending proposals?

**Dams on Kosi and Bagmati rivers**

†4329. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed multipurpose dams on the Kosi and the Bagmati rivers and their tributaries;

(b) whether it is a fact that the floods in the above rivers result in loss of life and property worth crores of rupees in North Bihar each year;

(c) if so, the details of steps Government are taking to control this loss; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Schemes for development of water resources**

4330. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has been approached for a heavy loan for development schemes in the water sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any scheme for development of water resources in the NE Region, particularly in Assam, is likely to be financed by the World Bank loan; and

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

NEW DELHI;  
The 27th April, 2005  
Vaisakha 7, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
Secretary-General.

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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