

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the December 3, 2002/Agrahayana 12, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

Night landing facilities at airports

1351. SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the airports where night
landing and navigation facilities are
available;

(b) the names of the airports, where
night landing and navigation facilities are
not available; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to make night
landing and navigation facilities available
at all the airports of the country?

Custodianship of cargo complex at Hyderabad Airport

1352. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra
Pradesh has requested the Central
Government to entrust the custodianship
of the "New perishable cargo complex" at
Hyderabad Airport to AP State Trading
Corporation it being in the business of
handling Imports and Exports of Air Cargo
Complex at Hyderabad since 1986;

(b) if so, whether Government would
agree to the request;

(c) if so, by when the new perishable
cargo complex would be entrusted to AP
State Trading Corporation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Fuel bill of Indian Airlines

1353. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) the annual fuel bill of Indian
Airlines;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian
Airlines has asked for a reduction in import
duties and taxes on ATF;

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

(d) whether Government will subsidise
the fuel bill of Indian Airlines; and

(e) if so, the details of plans in this
regard?

International airport near Pune

1354. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are
considering any proposal to have an
International Airport at Chakan near Pune;

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

Operating costs of AI and IA

1355. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines and Air India have been suffering operational losses on most of their routes as reported in the Statesman dated 12th August, 2002;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines have adopted any strategy to eliminate such losses; and
 (d) if so, the details thereof?

Airport at Greater Noida

†1356. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to develop an airport at Greater Noida for the operation of national and international flights;
 (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and
 (c) if not, what is Government's reaction thereto?

Vacant posts in AAI

†1357. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Chairman, Member (Operation), Member

(P&A), Member (Finance), Member (Engineering) are pending since long in Airports Authority of India;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) by when the said vacant posts are likely to be filled?

Phone numbers at AI office, New York

1358. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for Air India office at New York not having 1-800 phones when all other airlines have the facility of 1-800 numbers; and
 (b) whether Government will direct Air India to provide/consider, 1-800 number for improving the services to its customers?

Purchase of new aircrafts by Air Sahara

1359. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
 SHRI BHAGAT RAM
 MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received a proposal from Air Sahara for purchase of new aircrafts from various sources;
 (b) if so, what are the details thereof;
 (c) whether the aircrafts proposed to be acquired are on long-term dry lease or on some other terms and conditions such as purchase from Canada; and
 (d) the details of the proposal submitted by Air Sahara in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

IA's fleet expansion plans

1360. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance has objected to the fleet expansion plan of the Indian Airlines;

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

(c) the response of the Ministry of Civil Aviation thereto?

Security lapse on Delhi-Mumbai flight

1361. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a police sub-inspector carrying his service pistol with live rounds had almost boarded a Jet Airways unchecked on Delhi-Mumbai flight;

(b) what were the causes of the lapse together with the action taken to plug the loopholes;

(c) whether connivance of anybody else has been detected in the matter; and

(d) whether any foolproof system has been put in place to control such incidents?

Clearance for commercial flights of Pakistan

1362. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan wants India to give clearance for commercial flights too; and

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

International operations from Bangalore Airport

1363. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign Airlines which have requested to fly from Bangalore International Airport; and

(b) whether Government have considered their request, if so, the names of the Airlines which have been permitted to fly from Bangalore in the next one year?

Shortage of gliders

1364. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the country is facing acute shortage of gliders for training at Gliding clubs in India, particularly Delhi Gliding Club;

(b) whether Government are aware that one Aradhra Glider, which is being manufactured at the Technical Centre of the Director General of Civil Aviation for the last fifteen years has not been completed so far, if so, the reasons for this long delay; and

(c) by then the Aradhra Glider is likely to be test-flown?

Emergency check in Boeing aircrafts

1365. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Asian Age of September 15, 2002, that the US and the Aussies Airlines have ordered grounding and checking of the entire Boeing fleets to see if they suffer from

potentially defective flight control modules that could make the planes hard to control;

(b) if so, whether Government have also caused similar emergency checks on all the Boeings in operation with the Indian Airlines Corporation and also with the private airlines operating in and throughout India, if so, the results thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Maintenance of airports

1366. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh review has been made to assess the maintenance needs and improvements required at various airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with the time bound plans drawn up, if any, for each airport; and

(c) the details of major additional facilities proposed to be created at the international airports to make them more customer friendly?

Second International airport near Mumbai

1367. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to construct a second international airport in or adjacent to Mumbai;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) what is the current status of the project?

Postponement of fleet acquisition of AI

1368. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Air India has postponed its decision on fleet acquisition due to lack of time;

(b) whether some urgency and importance needs to be given to this longstanding case considering the fact that the decision has been pending for over ten years now; and

(c) if so, what action Government are taking on the fleet modernisation of Air India?

Development of Visakhapatnam Airport

1369. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop Visakhapatnam Airport;

(b) if so, the allocation made therefor; and

(c) by when the runway would be improved?

Strengthening of security at Hyderabad Airport

1370. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that security at the Hyderabad International Airport is not adequate;

(b) whether it is a fact that lack of vehicles for QRT (Quick Response Team), CISF (Central Industrial Security Force)

and shortage of walkie talkies etc., are some of the reasons; and

(c) if so, the measures Government propose to take to strengthen security at Hyderabad International Airport?

Clearance of approach to Patna Airport

1371. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government sorted the matter with the Forest Department and other relevant Department to clear the approach to Patna Airport;

(b) whether there are other such airports that are dangerous in approach or take-off in the country; and

(c) the action taken on ground by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to give utmost importance to safety in terms of airports?

Flights from Vienna to Hyderabad

1372. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government for introducing direct international flights from Vienna to Hyderabad in view of Austrian Airlines proposal to operate between Vienna and Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether Government would agree to the request;

(c) if so, by when permission would be granted to Austrian Airlines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Removal of aviation restriction by Pakistan

1373. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has lifted aviation restriction for India as a reciprocal gesture of opening up its airspace for over flights; and

(b) if not, the action proposed to be taken to close its airspace for Pakistani aircraft?

Committee on Management of Airports

1374. SHRI ABANI ROY: 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 such recommendations; and

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

NPA of banks

1375. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to RBI only 14 companies have so far defaulted Rs. 4904 crores from scheduled Banks as in September, 2001;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as on 31st March, 2001 there are 12,090 accounts which have defaulted Rs. 80,246,46 crores of rupees from Banks and Financial

Institutions; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government for speedy recovery of loans and interests from the defaulters?

Special package for Co-operative Banks

† 1376. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared a special package for the co-operative banks in the Budget;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not implementing the said package as yet;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action to implement the declared package immediately; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

New Health Insurance Scheme

1377. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LIC has brought out a new Health Insurance Scheme called Jeevan Raksha;

(b) if so, the purpose thereof and its terms and conditions;

(c) whether persons in the rural areas have been covered by this scheme;

(d) if so, what is their number State-wise and year-wise since the scheme was inaugurated; and

(e) if answer to part (c) above be in the negative, the steps proposed to be taken to give the scheme a push in the rural sectors?

Socio-economic reforms

1378. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) whether Government have any plan to introduce socio-economic reforms in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there has been any formal representation by any NGO in this regard?

Restructuring of IDBI

1379. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to restructure Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI);

(b) whether Government propose to repeal the IDBI Act; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

State Finance Ministers' Conference on basic perks of Government employees

1380. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues discussed during the recently held State Finance Ministers' Conference in New Delhi;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the States, which are on verge of bankruptcy, have strongly expressed their reservations on the Centre's munificent and profligate act of implementing the Fifth Pay Commission Report, forcing them to follow suit;

(c) whether the States have suggested curtailment of basic perks, lowering retirement age and a 2-year freeze on DA to tide over the situation; and

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

Guidelines for non-governance provident fund

1381. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-implementation of the Central Government guidelines for investments by non-governance provident fund in States and Centre has come to his notice;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the losses suffered by the employees; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to realise the money from defaulting companies?

Phasing out of Corporate Tax

1382. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to reduce and subsequently phase out Corporate Tax;

(b) if so, the reasons behind this move; and

(c) what would be its impact on the resource mobilisation effort of Government?

VRS in nationalised banks

1383. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to go for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in nationalised banks in the next two years;

(b) if so, the names of banks which will be offering VRS;

(c) the number of employees to be allowed VRS;

(d) whether this will affect the efficiency of these banks; and

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

Installation of system for reporting of frauds

1384. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has made mandatory for banks to install system for reporting frauds and sought augmentation of investment fluctuation reserve by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the N.L. Mitra Committee has made recommendation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

Downgrading of Indian guarantee rating

1385. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Standard and Poor has downgraded the Indian guarantee rating from "investment grade" to "Junk grade"; and

(b) if so, what impact it would have on the economy?

Per Capita Debt

1386. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita debt (both internal and foreign) of the country during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have noticed any slow down in economy during these years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Subsidy on postal services

1387. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to review subsidy on postal services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Excise duties on petroleum products

1388. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that crude oil prices are increasing day-by-day resulting in increase in petrol and diesel prices in the domestic market;

(b) whether Government have received a proposal from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for reducing the excise duty on petroleum products; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to reduce the prices of petroleum products?

Liquidity crisis in Co-operative Banks

1389. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of Co-operative Banks in the country are facing serious liquidity crises;

(b) if so, the details of those banks which are under the scanner for alleged financial irregularities, State-wise;

(c) whether the RBI has issued any guidelines for the smooth functioning of Co-operative Banks in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government against those banks which have been found involved in alleged financial irregularities and the steps taken to safeguard the interest of depositors of these banks?

Use of Agents by banks for recovery of dues from Credit Card holders

1390. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks and the trans-national banks are allowed to utilise the services of the collection agents to recover outstanding dues from Credit Card holders; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

Selling of BPCL and HPCL scrips

1391. SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that while the process of disinvestment of BPCL and HPCL was in progress, the surveillance system of BSE and NSE failed miserably to check the hammering of the

two navaratna scrips just one week before the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment on 7th September, 2002;

(b) if so, what are the names of sellers of BPCL and HPCL scrips during the week preceding the COD meeting; and

(c) whether Government agencies like SEBI and DCA will probe the hammering of these stocks when their fundamentals were strong and if not, the reasons therefor?

Recommendations of the OASIS

1392. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI KAILASH JOSHI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) what are the main recommendations of the Old-Age Social and Income Security (OASIS) Committee on pension;

(b) the details of the recommendations accepted by Government; and

(c) by when the recommendations are likely to be implemented by the Central and State Governments?

12th Finance Commission

1393. SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether Government have set-up the 12th Finance Commission;

(b) if so, what are the details of its composition including its Chairman and members;

(c) what are the terms of reference of the Commission;

(d) in what manner these differ from those of the 11th Finance Commission; and

(e) whether Government have fixed any time limit which the Commission is to submit its report?

RBI's definition of defaulter Companies

†1394. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
"LALAN":

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

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has deliberately framed a new definition for the non-repayment of the loans taken from the financial institutions;

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

(c) the number of persons not repaying loans to the nationalised banks as per the new definition?

Assistance to financial institutions

†1395. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of shortage of funds in a number of financial institutions in the country, financial assistance has been extended to them by the Government to run their business during the last six months;

(b) if so, the names of such institutions togetherwith the amount of financial assistance extended to each of them; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what are the main reasons for shortage of funds in those financial institutions?

"Data on Offences" developed by Customs Department

1396. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

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

(a) whether the Customs Department has developed a software called "Data on Offences" to nab offenders involved in smuggling, evasion of customs duty and other offences;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Customs Department has already installed this equipment at various airports and if so, the details thereof, and offenders apprehended by the authorities after the installation of this equipment?

High Cost debt of State Governments

1397. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether State Governments have placed a demand before the Central Government to provide more relief to them in terms of retiring their high cost debt and swapping it with fresh low cost borrowings;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have cleared a diluted, back-to-back debt swap plan which seeks to retire Rs. 25,000 crore of high cost debt of State Government;

(c) whether Central Government have asked States to curb debt build-up through Medium Term Fiscal Reform Programme (MTFRP); and

(d) if so, to what extent State Governments have welcomed this move?

Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

1398. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that failure to enforce Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) laws entails huge revenue loss in the country, if so, the details in this regard;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to protect the manufacturers of genuine products and to save the consumer from duplicate products; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide training to judicial and police officers in all aspects of implementation of I.P.R. Laws; if so, the details thereof?

Payment of equity by PSUs

1399. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that all PSUs in power, oil and infrastructure sectors have been asked to pay 30 per cent of their Profit After Tax (PAT) on equity whichever is higher and in case of other PSUs the minimum 20 per cent of the PAT as dividends to Government for the current fiscal years;

(b) if so, the details of companies which have paid so far giving the amount; and

(c) what is the budget estimate and

estimated collection of dividend for the fiscal year 2002-2003?

Review of Mauritius tax treaty

1400.SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to review the Mauritius tax treaty to stop the one sided favour being bestowed to various Indian and foreign institutional investors using Mauritius as a conduit at the cost of revenue in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Accounting systems to ascertain FDI inflow

1401.SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI
VIRUMBI:
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that accounting system to find out FDI inflow in India is different from the usual practice of other countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

SEBI norms on pricing of public offers

1402.SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

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

(a) whether Government have sought a review of new SEBI norms on pricing of

public offers under the strategic sale rule of PSUs;

(b) if so, the details of the review sought by Government from SEBI; and

(c) what are the reasons for seeking such a review that will adversely affect the prospective buyers?

Restrictions on withdrawal in Nedungadi Bank

1403. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the customers of Nedungadi Banks are experiencing difficulties due to the restriction imposed on withdrawal;

(b) whether Government propose to initiate appropriate steps to safeguard the interest of depositors by lifting the restrictions on withdrawal;

(c) whether any decision is arrived at for the amalgamation of Nedungadi Bank with others nationalised bank;

(d) whether Government propose to initiate any enquiry on the matter which led to the collapse of the bank; and

(e) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

Criteria for posts of Chairman of RRBs

†1404. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the selection-criteria for the posts of Chairman of Regional Rural Banks;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the Department of Banking has agreed upon the selection criteria mentioned in the attached circular of national banks;

(c) if so, whether these criteria were followed in the pre-selection of Chairman, Regional Kisan Gramin Banks, Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh; and

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

Liquidation of sick companies

1405. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether liquidation of sick companies within six months of winding them up is proposed to be made mandatory; and

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

Bar on companies from raising cheap capital

1406. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Company Affairs has decided to set up a Committee to look into the demand of banks to bar companies from raising cheaper capital by accepting deposits;

(b) if so, the reasons for barring companies from raising cheaper capital by accepting deposits and accept the demand of the banks;

(c) whether Government would reconsider their stand; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Economic policy of RBI

†1407. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the economic policy which is declared by the RBI twice in a year has become a ritual to bring down the interest rate;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no positive effect is made on the market by these policies; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the economy is becoming more recession-oriented inspite of all the efforts being made by Government?

Transfer of proceeds under Small Saving Schemes to States

1408. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Expert Committee has recommended arrangements for transfer of entire net proceeds under Small Saving Schemes to the concerned State Governments;

(b) whether the views of the State Governments have been sought; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

World Bank assistance for water supply

†1409. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance provided by the World Bank during the last five years to bring about the improvement in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

water supply in various parts of the country;

(b) the State-wise allocations made;

(c) the State-wise details of the sanctioned schemes; and

(d) the details of achievements made by these schemes in Madhya Pradesh?

Tax evasion by Burman Transport Service

1410. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by the Income Tax Department to conduct searches to unearth tax evasion in Delhi;

(b) whether Government are aware that Burman Transport Service (BTS) engaged with Mother Dairy's (F&A) Plant, Mangolpuri, New Delhi is evading Income Tax to the tune of several lakhs per year with the help of Chartered Accountants;

(c) if so, the total Income tax deposited by the company during the last three years on yearly basis and the total income to the company during the same period; and

(d) what action Government propose to take against the company which has generated huge black money?

Unclaimed amount of policy holders of LIC

1411. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how much unclaimed amount of policy holders is lying in the branches of LIC;

(b) what is the purpose of keeping such amount; and

(c) what steps are being taken to utilize the unclaimed amount?

Release of grants due to Bihar

1412. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under recommendations of the Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission, an amount of Rs. 458.69 crores has to be released by the Central Government to Bihar;

(b) whether he, in his speech in Rajya Sabha on 1st August, 2002 made an assurance to release the amount; and

(c) if so, whether the Central Government propose to release this grant to Bihar and if so, by when?

Expenses of SBIs Officers Associations

1413. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SBI virtually meets all the cost of organisational meetings of All India State Bank Officers Federation and Associations affiliated to it by holding bipartite meetings at every place where the Federation holds its meetings; and

(b) if so, what is the amount of travelling expenses reimbursed to the office-bearers of the Federation and Associations during the last three years for attending the bipartite meetings?

Alignment of Bank Saving and Fixed Deposit rates

1414. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating alignment of Bank Saving and Fixed Deposits rates;

(b) if so, in what manner and by when; and

(c) what would be the short-term and long-term effects of such an alignment on the country's economy in general and small depositors in particular?

VRS in Union Ministries

†1415. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of Voluntary Retirement Scheme being implemented by Union Government;

(b) the names of Sectors/Departments wherein the above scheme is being implemented;

(c) the Department-wise number of employees who have applied for availing benefits of the said scheme and number of persons who have already benefited by the above scheme for the last two years;

(d) whether Government have also accorded its approval to this scheme for insurance companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Loan to agricultural sector

†1416. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan provided by nationalised banks State-wise/bank-wise for development of agriculture during the last three years;

(b) the comparative percentage of the loans provided to the agricultural sector *vis-a-vis* industrial sector; and

(c) what effective measures are being taken by Government for improvement of agriculture?

Transfer of CCITs/CITs

1417. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of CCITs/CITs transferred from elsewhere to the Metropolitan Cities;

(b) the justification of above transfers; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the posts in questions were in the first instance created elsewhere?

Promotion in Income Tax Department

1418. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 49 officers have been promoted as Commissioners *vide* order dated 28th January, 2002 and designated as officers on Special Duty without assigning any work;

(b) if so, the reasons to issue such an order, to pay heavy salaries without assigning any work to these officers;

(c) whether the 49 posts of Additional Commissioners rendered vacant have been filled or not; and

(d) if not, the details of officers who were discharging the duties of the vacant positions especially in the months of January-February, the peak season of work load in Income Tax Department?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Investment in foreign debt securities
by UTI**

1419. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether UTI has planned to launch a new scheme for investing in foreign debt securities when the process of privatisation is in the offing;

(b) if so, whether UTI has necessary expertise in foreign debts funds;

(c) if not, what steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of the investors;

(d) what are the guidelines issued for such investments and whether Mutual Fund Industries have raised any objection in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Seizure of properties by DRT

1420. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases where the Debt Recovery Tribunal have passed orders to attach Government Properties after the Centre/State Governments failed to honour the outstanding loans and counter guarantee given by the Banks, financial institutions like IDBI and the IFCI; and

(b) if so, the details of bad debts of each of the nationalised banks and the reasons therefor for the last two years?

Guidelines for foreign banks

1421. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India to regulate the functioning of foreign Banks in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the R.B.I. exercises any effective control on these foreign Banks and if so, in what manner;

(d) whether the foreign banks are permitted to close down their business in India at any time without due notice to concerned authorities; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the R.B.I. in such cases to safeguard the deposits of the public?

**Opening of Kisan Vikas Patras to
cooperative societies**

1422. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the important postal saving schemes like the Kisan Vikas Patras and National Saving Certificates are not sold to institutions and organisations like cooperative societies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would like to review the existing practice and throw open these schemes to organisations and institutions and if not, the reasons therefor?

Decline in capital formation

†1423. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pichhle Paanch Varshon Mein Punji

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Nirman Mein Giravat Aayee" which appeared in Hindustan dated 8th October, 2002;

(b) if so, whether this decline is due to increasing foreign competition and open import;

(c) what type of positive steps Government propose to take to raise capital formation; and

(d) whether Government would take some concrete steps to upgrade domestic industries?

Waiver of interest on farmers loan

†1424. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to waive interest on the loans taken by the farmers due to drought;

(b) if so, whether any special Criteria have been fixed in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount involved in case Government provide the said relief to the farmers?

Fake currency notes

1425. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the circulation of fake currency notes is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the value of fake currency detected by the Reserve Bank of India during the last two years and the total value of currency in circulation as on 31st October, 2002;

(c) whether the economy of the country has been affected adversely on this account; and

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

Criteria for appointment of Chairman of SBI

1426. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the term of present Chairman of the State Bank of India and when the new Chairman is due for appointment;

(b) the eligibility criteria and the mode of selection process for the appointment of Chairman, SBI;

(c) whether selection is based on seniority-cum-merit or direct recruitment through interview;

(d) whether there is also a provision that a senior most officer of SBI having more than two years of residual service can be appointed as Chairman without following the selection procedure ignoring other senior officers of public banking sector; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Criteria for part-time directors of public sector banks

1427. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions for the appointment of part-time directors of the public sector banks;

(b) whether such directors have the right to submit their note of dissent to any proposal before the Board; and

(c) if so, the notes of dissent received by the banks/Government during the last two years and the action taken thereon?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Revision of pay scales of Income Tax Inspectors

1428. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to revise the pay scales of Income Tax Inspectors, ITOs, etc. in pursuance of CAT's decision is under consideration of the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the pay scales are likely to be revised; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Reduction in rural credit

1429. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nationalised banks have reduced credit for rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that Andhra Bank has sharply Cut down their rural lending in the last two years;

(c) whether any review has been done of this deliberate reduction of rural credit by such nationalised banks;

(d) the extent of rural credit given by Andhra Bank during the last two financial years; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that rural credit needs are met?

World Bank loan outstanding against Andhra Pradesh

1430. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loan amount outstanding against Government of Andhra Pradesh to World Bank, IMF and various other International Financial Institutions as on date;

(b) the details of total interest or service charges amount per year, being paid and kept outstanding by Andhra Pradesh Government to these International Financial Institutions as on date;

(c) whether the Central Government have given counter guarantee to these International Financial Institutions on behalf of Andhra Pradesh Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Exemption to Agricultural Marketing Committees from IT Act

1431. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have requested Government to exempt Agricultural Marketing Committees and Boards from the purview of Income Tax Act;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has also made a similar request; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take steps to exempt the above Committees/Boards from the purview of Income Tax Act?

Siphoning of money by American companies

†1432. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rashtriya Sahara dated 30th July, 2002 captioned, "Aam janata ki kamai videshon mai chali jayegi kya tab chetegi sarkar";

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

(c) what action has been taken by Government in order to put a check on the money being siphoned off to foreign countries by American companies illegally, keeping in view the comment of the Delhi High Court; and

(d) what has been the outcome of the same?

Fiscal deficit of States

†1433. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether solution of the financial crisis of the States has been found;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government had expressed hope of finding a solution to the financial crisis of the States by the end of September, 2002; and

(c) if so, by when the solution of the financial crisis of the States would be found?

Sickness in co-operative sector

1434. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the co-operative sector banks in Gujarat are becoming sick because of embezzlement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for sickness; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to make these banks economically viable and the steps taken in this regard?

Revenue collection

1435. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for mobilisation of resources through Direct Taxes during the first half of the current financial year;

(b) whether the target has been achieved; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to mobilise additional resources?

Effect of economic reforms on agriculture

†1436. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner agriculture and small scale industries and rural economy have been affected by the second phase of economic reforms;

(b) the targets fixed by various banks and financial institutions for providing direct and indirect loans to agriculture sector;

(c) the achievement made in this regard; and

(d) to what extent the loans provided by the banks and financial institutions are profitable?

Ten rupee coins

1437. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to issue ten rupee coins;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether any new measures are being taken by Reserve Bank of India for withdrawal of soiled and mutilated notes from circulation;
- (d) whether issuing of coins through post offices is also being contemplated; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard?

Non payment of salaries of State Governments' employees

1438. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments are not paying salaries to their employees, including Board and Corporation employees;
- (b) if so, the details of State Governments which are not paying salaries for the past three years, State-wise; and
- (c) what are the details of the steps the Central Government propose to take to improve and regulate the financial health of the State Governments in the country?

Increase in salary of Chairman of SBI

1439. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether All India State Bank of India Officers Association has at its executive meeting demanded that the salary of Chairman of the State Bank of India should be increased so that it is brought at par with the salaries of his counterparts in other banks particularly of foreign banks; and

- (b) if so, what is Government's response in this regard?

Bogus plantation companies

1440. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of agricultural palantation companies have come up in the country collecting huge funds from the small investors promising most lucrative returns to the investors;
- (b) if so, the total number of such companies which are registered with Government, and their total deposits as on date;
- (c) whether Government are aware that most of these companies are bogus and their post dated cheques have bounced; and
- (d) if so, what institutional arrangements have been put in place to help the depositors in distress to recover their dues?

Reporting of cash transaction by banks

1441. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all banks have been issued instructions to report all cash transactions over Rs. 10 lakhs to the Reserve Bank of India;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether this will cause inconvenience to the general public as it could be misused?

Freezing of DA payment

1442. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen have expressed its concern over Government's move to freeze the payment of dearness allowance for the next one year; and

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

Investigation of balance sheet of M/s Glenmark

1443. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Glenmark are under the SEBI lens;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Department of Company Affairs is investigating the Glenmark balance sheet; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Investigation against Ranbaxy by U.K. Fraud Office

1444. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.K. Fraud Office has conducted investigation for overcharging against Ranbaxy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the U.K. Government has sought assistance of Indian Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government propose to take in this regard?

Visit of World Bank team to Gujarat

1445. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a top level World Bank (WB) team visited the State of Gujarat in October, 2002 to assess the progress of quake related projects funded by them;

(b) if so, what are the results of evaluation conducted by World Bank during their visit to Gujarat; and

(c) whether World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have found discrepancies in the financial assistance provided by them to the State Government and if so, the details thereof?

Functioning of M/s Mekaster Trading Corporation

1446. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s Mekaster Trading Corporation (projects division) 908, Ansal Bhawan, 16, K.G. Marg, New Delhi has been receiving deposits/loans from public;

(b) whether it has proper legal permission for the purpose; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has not been refunding money to public on maturity of deposit/loans; if so, the details thereof since 1998;

(d) whether it is violating statutory/regulatory rules/norms prescribed therefor; and

(e) if so, details thereof and action taken/proposed against it as per law to protect general public and the money being refunded by the company?

Promotion of officers of Customs and Central Excise Service

1447. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of officers belonging to Customs and Central Excise Service have recently been given *in-situ* promotion to Joint Secretary level, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many of them are presently on deputation; and

(c) whether any such officer who is presently on deputation in the Director's grade, can be given *in-situ* promotion as JS by the borrowing department without reversion to the parent department; if so, under what specific rules/regulations?

Cut in the bank rate

1448. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently announced a cut in the bank rate;

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

(c) what, according to Government's perception, would be its likely impact on the investment climate in particular and the economic scenario in general?

Impact of crude oil prices on domestic market

1449. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the extra amount to be spent by India due to spurt in crude oil prices;

(b) the impact of the increased international price on consumers; and

(c) the action proposed or measures taken to cushion the impact of the increased international price on consumers?

LPG distributors in Assam

1450. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of distributorships of LPG connections in the State of Assam;

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list for getting LPG connections with these distributors, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which the LPG connections are likely to be granted to wait-listed persons?

VRS in ONGC and BPCL

1451. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce revised VRS Scheme for ONGC and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the scheme is proposed to be introduced?

Export of LPG

1452. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been exporting LPG to Bangladesh and other countries;

(b) what is the quantum of exports to foreign countries per annum and the amount of foreign exchange earned per annum;

(c) whether it is proposed to double the LPG export to Bangladesh, as reported in the Financial Express of 17th August, 2002; and

(d) whether this will affect home consumption?

Acquisition land for hydrocarbon exploration

1453. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC and OIL have been acquiring land for exploitation, exploration and production of hydrocarbons;

(b) whether it is also a fact that works have been abandoned at many places due to full exploitation of the wells, uneconomical viability and non-availability of hydrocarbons;

(c) if so, whether the land so acquired has been returned to the original owner; and

(d) if not, in what manner such land would be put to use?

Panna Mukta and Tapti oilfields

1454. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the latest position for the full control of the Panna Mukta oil and Tapti Gas fields by ONGC?

Imposition of Motor Vehicle Tax

1455. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee under the Chairmanship of the Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has recommended the levy of an additional motor vehicle tax on all old vehicles;

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

(c) whether the proposed tax will be levied by the Central Government or the State Governments;

(d) whether the viewpoints of the State Governments have been obtained, in case it is levied by the State Governments, on the desirability and feasibility of the proposed levy; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

LPG dealership in Jashpore

†1456. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the district headquarters of Chhattisgarh which are devoid of LPG distribution centres;

(b) the name of the places which are reserved for the female freedom fighters;

(c) the number of places reserved for the above category and from when; and

(d) the reasons for not opening the same in the district headquarters of Jashpore town inspite of it being reserved for the category?

Constitution of Dealer Selection Boards

1457. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether any radical changes were made in the Constitution of the Dealer Selection Boards since 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the reasons for such changes; and

(c) in what manner it affected the nature and rationale of selection of petrol/LPG dealers?

Import of petrol and natural gas from Bangladesh

†1458. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import petrol and natural gas from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Reduction of manpower in ONGC and BPCL

1459. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to cut as many as 5600 jobs at the State run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL);

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

(c) in what manner Government are planning to implement this proposal; and

(d) the other steps taken to help the above companies to become competitive?

Oil refinery at Paradip

1460. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether IOC has deferred construction of the proposed oil refinery at Paradip for some years; if so, the reasons therefor and also the time by when construction would be resumed;

(b) whether this delay would escalate the cost of construction; if so, by how much; and

(c) the details of amount already invested in land acquisition and other preliminary civil works?

Re-structuring of ONGC

1461. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil production by the ONGC is falling since 1998 inspite of increase in manpower;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to review the lop sided-organizational structure of ONGC?

Appointment of judges in DSB

1462. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of retired judges appointed in the Dealer Selection Board since its inception alongwith the duration of their service in the DSB by each of these judges;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that many of these judges were replaced shortly after their appointments to the DSB;

(c) if so, the names of the judges replaced and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of parameters by which the selection of the members to the DSB was done?

Productivity allowance to ONGC employees

1463. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees in the ONGC—officers and subordinates;

(b) whether it is a fact that the officers of the ONGC are demanding five per cent of ONGC's profit as productive allowance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

LPG and kerosene dealers in Himachal Pradesh

1464. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG and kerosene oil distributorships in Himachal Pradesh pending with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas since 1998, district-wise;

(b) whether some more proposals to set up such distributorships in Himachal Pradesh are pending with the Ministry since 2000; and

(c) whether Government propose to take action in the matter, if so, by when?

Surplus manpower in ONGC

1465. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has more officers than workers resulting in unrest in certain categories; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to ensure transparency as well as to boost oil production which is dwindling inspite of adequate manpower?

LPG consumption

1466. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of households which are covered by LPG in the country as on date;

(b) the number of households which are in urban areas, semi-urban areas, rural areas alongwith the State-wise figures for the last three years; and

(c) the percentage of LPG coverage by Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum, other oil companies and private sector in the country alongwith the State-wise figures for the last three years?

Diversion of CNG to transport sector

1467. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether diversion of Compressed Natural Gas to meet the Capital's transport demand has led to closure of several industries and lay off of 1500 workers in the National Capital Region;

(b) whether this has been done in response to a Supreme Court Order in April, 2002 to the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to augment its supply of

CNG from one to two mmcmd per day solely for the use of transport sector; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views on this and the action taken to compensate the affected industries?

Identification of gas reserves in the country

1468. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some private and public sector companies have been able to strike gas in various explorations;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of gas struck individually;

(c) whether Government plan to export LPG gas in view of getting satisfactory reserves of gas; and

(d) if so, by when it will be allowed for exports?

Development of Mangalore refinery

1469. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has any plan to develop Mangalore refinery to utilize its full capacity;

(b) if so, the details of the present utilization of the refinery;

(c) whether any target has been set for full utilization of capacity of Mangalore refinery; and

(d) the details of dates and schedule for such utilization?

Sharing of rise in crude prices

1470. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the State-owned oil marketing firms to share the burden of increased global crude prices and not pass it all to the consumers;

(b) if so, whether it has been pointed out that oil companies cannot increase the prices fortnightly by 25-30 paise in tandem with global prices to keep their rate of returns intact;

(c) if so, what are the other communications forwarded to these companies; and

(d) to what extent they have agreed?

Special dividend by ONGC

1471. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned ONGC may give Government Rs. 10,000 Crore special payout which appeared in the Economic Times dated the 12th November, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that ONGC is being compelled to announce the Special Dividend by Government through a Presidential Directive;

(d) whether it is also a fact that this payout would disable the company from executing its future plans, which include its equity in Sudanese oil companies and bidding in oil exploration blocks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Cut in import bill

1472. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a spurt in international crude oil prices resulting in increase in oil import bill;

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

(c) the details regarding the demand and supply position, actual revenue outgo and domestic collection in respect of petroleum products, during the last three years; and

(d) the proposal, if any, for minimising import bill?

Holding of events at heritage monuments

1473. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ASI does not have any guidelines for allowing holding of any events at heritage monuments;

(b) if so, in what manner monuments are being given out for holding cultural events;

(c) whether it is also a fact that USA does not charge any amount even though in other parts of the world events at monuments cost very high; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

Objections on expenditure by tourist office, Frankfurt

†1474. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in Rashtriya Sahara dated 30th September, 2002 captioned "Frankfurt mei bhartiya paryatan karyalya ne farzi niyuktiyon par karodo phunke";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto togetherwith the objections raised by the CAG in this regard;

(c) the details of persons found guilty and the action taken against them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Outcome of PATA Conference

1475.SHRI MOOLCHAND

MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether nearly 1000 delegates from 40 countries attended 51st annual conference on Pacific Asia Travel Association in the month of April, 2002 in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the main purpose of this Conference;

(c) the number of countries which participated in it; and

(d) the extent to which India has gained by holding this conference?

Beautification of Sindhu Durg

1476.SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the historic Sindhu Durg sea fort, a protected monument, situated on an island in Maharashtra is in a dilapidated state;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken for its rejuvenation under an on-going Central Scheme; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) how much amount is anticipated for its beautification?

Discovery of religious Adi Granth in British Library

1477.SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 17th Century Sikh religious relic, the Adi Granth was discovered in the collections of the British Library recently; and

(b) if so, the action taken to bring back the manuscript to India from London?

Funds allocated for Refurbishment of monuments in Andhra Pradesh

1478. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released Central funds to Andhra Pradesh for refurbishment of monuments in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the results achieved therefrom during the said period?

ITDC hotels

1479. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of ITDC hotels on the verge of being sold; and

(b) the number of hotels now with ITDC after the disinvestment?

Tourism projects for Rajasthan

1480. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken on priority basis any tourism projects of Rajasthan in consultation with the State Government during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) if so, the status of each project as on date?

Tourism under Concurrent List

1481. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken recently to bring the tourism industry in the Concurrent List from the present State List but some States have opposed it; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal as formulated, the objections raised by the opposing States and the present status of its consideration?

Pilgrim and spiritual tourism in Andhra Pradesh

1482. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are promoting pilgrim and spiritual tourism in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Rural Tourism

1483.SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal to start rural tourism in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for its implementation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Upgradation of tourist circuits in Rajasthan

1484. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRO-DIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received any proposals from any foreign country or agency to develop and upgrade the various tourist circuits in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds that would be allocated towards the same; and
- (d) if not, whether Government would consider initiating dialogue with some foreign country or foreign agency to develop and upgrade the various tourist circuits in Rajasthan?

Declaration of Sri Arunachaleswara Temple as a national importance

1485. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India has decided to declare Sri Arunachaleswara Temple of Tiruvannamalai as a monument of national importance;
- (b) whether the State Government has been informed of it;
- (c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) in what manner the Archaeological Survey of India propose to ensure that the worship in the living temple is not affected?

Recognised tourist spots in NE Region

1486. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the recognised tourist spots in the North-Eastern Region;
- (b) the names of tourist spots where new projects are planned on tourism in the North-East; and
- (c) the projects for which funds are allotted and those for which funds are not allotted with particular reference to the North-East?

Bharat Darshan Park in Bangalore

1487. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Council of Science Museums has signed any Memorandum of Understanding with the Karnataka Government for setting up a Bharat Darshan Park in Bangalore;
- (b) if not, whether Government are aware that a decision was taken earlier to set up a Bharat Darshan Park in Bangalore as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Indian Republic;
- (c) whether the Karnataka Government has earmarked land for this purpose; and
- (d) by when Government will sign MoU with the Karnataka Government in this regard?

**Facelift of national monuments in
Tamil Nadu**

1488. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in The Indian Express dated the 12th October, 2002 captioned ASI wakes up-Delhi monuments are getting a facelift;

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

(c) whether Government have already considered giving a facelift to other national monuments in different parts of the country in general and Tamil Nadu in particular to promote tourism; and

(d) if so, the details of such blueprint?

Protected monuments in Delhi

1489. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of monuments which have been recently added to the list of protected monuments in Delhi;

(b) whether some parts of the Red Fort and Salimgarh Fort, which were under the control of Ministry of Defence have since been taken over by his Ministry; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to develop them as a hub of tourist attraction?

Fleecing of foreign tourists

1490. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign tourists are being fleeced by an organized gang-hotellers-jewellers-taxi drivers-travel

agents etc. and this has adversely affected the tourism sector;

(b) if so, the number of such gangs booked so far during the last one year and how many have been actually penalized by the courts with a view to revive the confidence of prospective foreign tourists; and

(c) what were the earnings in foreign exchange from tourism during the last three years and whether it has shown any declining trend?

Diversion of water from Pampa

1491. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) favours Tamil Nadu for using Mekkara Dam as regulating reservoir to divert water from Pampa and Achencoil rivers of Kerala to Vaiper Canal;

(b) Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the NWDA and Centre for Water Resources Development Management (CWRDM) conducted any study relating to the water position of Achencoil and Pampa rivers;

(d) if so, the outcome of study;

(e) whether there is any proposal for the eastward diversion of water from Pampa and Achencoil rivers to Giriya project in Tamil Nadu; and

(f) Government's reaction thereto?

**Rain water harvesting in new
constructions**

1492. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made rain water storage and rain water harvesting mandatory in all the new constructions made in the country to replenish the ground water; and

(b) if so, to what extent Government have been successful in this regard?

Construction of projects on Krishna river

1493. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka is authorized to utilize only 11.5 tmc of Krishna water but the construction of projects on Krishna river would entail the State to utilize nearly 25 tmc of water; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to halt such steps to prevent desertification of certain districts in Andhra Pradesh?

Clearance to irrigation projects in Assam

1494. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects of Assam awaiting clearance from Government; and

(b) the details of projects proposed to be formulated and implemented in the State during the current financial year?

Clearance to Dayadhula lift irrigation scheme on Godavari

1495. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in clearance of the pending irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) by when Dayadhula lift irrigation scheme on Godavari river will be cleared; and

(c) the action taken to expedite clearance of the projects?

Clearance to pending irrigation projects in Orissa

1496. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects pending for implementation in Orissa as on date;

(b) the details of these irrigation projects;

(c) the irrigation potentials of each of these projects;

(d) whether any of these projects are being executed during 2002-2003; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Water conservation scheme for U.P.

1497. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new techniques for water conservation are being developed and tested in laboratory keeping in mind the environmental feasibility of all dry States; and

(b) if so, the details of such techniques which are under process especially for Uttar Pradesh?

Completion of Farakka Barrage Project

1498. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answers to Unstarred Question 1052 and Starred Question 30 given in Rajya Sabha on 27th November, 2001 and 25th July, 2002 respectively and state:

(a) the status of implementation of seven schemes under short-term measures at an estimated cost of Rs. 130 crore through Farakka Barrage Project Authority to check erosion caused by Ganga;

(b) the amount spent so far; and

(c) the tentative date of completion of each scheme?

Utilization of rain water

1499. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed as to how much rain water in percentage can be retained and utilized for the purpose of uses by man, animals and plants including irrigation;

(b) if so, what is the percentage; and

(c) what steps Government are going to take to increase the percentage of its utilization?

Regulation on withdrawal of groundwater

1500. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a news-item appearing in Indian Express dated 26th September, 2002, the situation of ground water level is not very encouraging this year;

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

(c) whether Government are thinking of bringing in a regulation on the amount of water to be withdrawn;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the efforts taken to use rainwater since January, 2001 in different parts of the country so far?

Private entrepreneurs to complete unfinished irrigation projects

1501. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the States have sought private help for unfinished irrigation projects;

(b) if so, what are the total unfinished project in various States;

(c) whether Government have allowed them to take help from the private entrepreneurs to complete these projects; and

(d) if so, by what time the private entrepreneurs will provide help and assistance to the States for completion of the unfinished irrigation projects?

Utilization of rivers water

1502. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent of the river water in India remains unutilized while China like other advanced countries is utilizing the full potential of its rivers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a time has come when we must take up mega-multi-purpose water resources projects at an accelerated pace in order to solve our multi-farious problems; and

(c) if so, what are Government's plans in this regard?

Cauvery River Authority

1503. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) when the Cauvery River Authority was created;

(b) the number of sittings held by this Authority year-wise so far;

(c) the decisions taken by this Authority meeting-wise; and

(d) the number of the decisions taken by the Authority which have been implemented so far?

Report on safe drinking water

1504. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the report published by Third

World Academy of Science on 'Safe Drinking Water';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that India has to face severe water scarcity as per the report; and

(d) if so, the action proposed by Government to deal with the situation?

Irrigation facilities in Assam

1505. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for providing irrigation facilities in the State of Assam during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of financial assistance proposed to be granted to Assam during the current financial year for the said purpose; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken by Government to achieve the targets as fixed for agriculture development in the State?

NEW DELHI;
The 27th November, 2002

Agrahayana 6, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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