

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the August 5, 2003/Sravana 14, 1925 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions—155**

#### **Losses suffered by airports**

1642. DR. ABRAR AHMED:  
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION  
be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of airports which are running into losses;
- (b) the accumulated losses in each case as on 31st March, 2003;
- (c) the main reasons for losses; and
- (d) the steps taken to minimise the losses?

#### **Revamping IA's functioning**

1643. SHRI B.J. PANDA:  
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION  
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that bad deals in IA had cost Rs. 32.15 crores on account of under-utilization of code share capacity and non-payment of dues by international airlines;
- (b) whether the lower revenue is attributed to frequent changes in flight

schedules, high rate of cancellation of tickets by agents, poor punctuality and operations on uneconomic routes; and

(c) if so, action plan of Government to control unabated loss and to revamp its functioning?

#### **Private sector participation in setting up of airports**

1644. MISS MABEL REBELLO:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION  
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to rope in private sector for setting up airports, if so, the details of the joint venture project;
- (b) whether Government have already listed architect firms for the design of new projects; and
- (c) whether this poses any kind of security risk?

**Request for more seats by  
Emirates**

1645. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Emirates Airlines has requested Government to increase its seats in the Indian Sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

**Regular flights to Kanpur**

1646. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps are being taken by Government to provide regular air flights to Kanpur, a commercial city of Uttar Pradesh; and
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Comprehensive map for  
development of civil aviation**

1647. SHRI ABANI ROY:  
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive road map for the development of civil aviation sector is being prepared;
- (b) if so, the outline thereof together with its present status;
- (c) the details of the areas identified for focussed attention and thrust to make air travel affordable and hassle-free and also to improve the operational efficiency of the aviation industry so as to face

competition from the private airlines; and

- (d) the steps taken/being taken to ascertain the views of the various concerned interests in formulating the new road map?

**Recovery of dues from travel  
agents**

1648. SHRI AMAR SINGH:  
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that failure of Indian Airlines to ensure proper and timely remittance of dues has resulted in a blockage of huge amount which runs into several crores of rupees with the Travel Agents authorised by the I.A.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof as on 31st March, 2003;
- (c) how much amount is outstanding against them for the last two years; and
- (d) what steps have been taken to recover the outstanding dues?

**New concession rules for Senior  
Citizens**

1649. SHRI N.R. DASARI:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that new rules have been introduced w.e.f. 7th July, 2003 for concession to Senior Citizens in Indian Airlines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that this new rule will restrict the air travels by the Senior Citizens for some pre-arranged tourist

purposes only and not for any emergencies; and

(d) if so, whether Government will consider withdrawal of the new rules?

#### **Restoration of air links with Pakistan**

1650. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI JANARDHANA  
POOJARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has sought an agreement with India to prevent any unilateral banning of overflights in future by either country;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has suggested a meeting of civil aviation officials of the two countries to ensure that one party would not be able to withdraw the overflight rights of the other;

(c) whether Pakistan had offered to restore only flight connections between the two countries and not overflights; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the final decision taken in this regard?

#### **Losses due to pilots' strike**

†1651. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilots suspended/dismissed due to their refusal to take flight towards the countries where cases of SARS have been reported;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have restored the services of all those pilots;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by Government due to the refusal of the pilots alongwith the loss suffered due to hike in the prices of air turbine fuel; and

(d) the efforts made by Government for making up the loss alongwith the outcome thereof?

#### **Utilisation of limited open sky policy**

1652. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 161 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd July, 2003 and state:

(a) the details of the countries and Airlines making use of existing policy and having commercial agreement with Air India;

(b) whether any of the countries and Airlines are debarred from utilising the limited open sky policy; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Losses due to poor maintenance of aircrafts**

1653. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines has lost heavily on account of various discrepancies in aircraft fleet maintenance and revenue loss of about Rs. 200 crores due to grounding of A-300 and A-320 aircrafts;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite having facilities for carrying out major checks on A-320 aircrafts in India, 12 such aircrafts were sent abroad for check up and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to avoid such losses?

#### **Availability of air services in U.P.**

†1654. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the cities in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh where air services are not available; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Threat to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport, Kolkata**

1655. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the nodal agency in charge of safety at Indian airports, has perceived a 'real' threat to the Kolkata's Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport from ISI agents and Myanmar-financed militant groups of the North-East; and

(b) if so, the details of security measures Government propose to take in this regard?

#### **Airlinks with Pakistan**

1656. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks with Pakistani counterparts have since taken place for resumption of airlinks with Pakistan;

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

(c) by when airlinks with Pakistan are likely to be resumed indicating the air-stations proposed to be linked, the frequency of flights and the likely volume of traffic between the two countries?

#### **Helicopter service to pilgrimage centres in Uttaranchal**

†1657. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether helicopter services have been introduced or are proposed to be introduced for the pilgrimage of some religious centres in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government are providing aid to the State Government for the construction of some helipads in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Implementation of Central Projects**

1658. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has tightened the noose on the implementation of all Central projects specially those in the infrastructure sector;

(b) whether any directives have been issued that project appraisals and formulations will have to be completed within 16 weeks from conceptualisation to tying up of funds; and

(c) if so, the details of the fresh norms issued by his Ministry in respect of projects specially social and infrastructure projects and the dates from which they are to be enforced?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Airport handling by IA**

1659. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines proposes to establish a wholly owned subsidiary to undertake airport handling and allied services;

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

(c) in what manner ground handling work is being carried out presently and what advantages are expected from the proposed subsidiary;

(d) whether private parties, including overseas entities would be allowed to invest in the subsidiary; and

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

**Expansion of air services from Belgaum**

1660. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to operate passenger flights to Bangalore, Mumbai and other places from Belgaum Airport in Karnataka?

**Arrest of touts at Delhi Airport**

1661. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a conflicting claims by CISF and Delhi Police in regard to arrest of touts active at the Delhi Airports;

(b) whether the performance of CISF has been reviewed since it took over the security of airports all over the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Airport at Kanyakumari**

1662. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider setting up of state-of-the-art airport in Kanyakumari to boost tourism;

(b) whether there has been any proposal in this regard from the State Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**New Civil Aviation Policy**

1663. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to announce a New Civil Aviation Policy in the near future:

(b) if so, the contours of the proposed policy;

(c) whether the said policy would offer level playing field for all participants in the aviation sector including development of infrastructure; and

(d) by when the policy is likely to be announced?

**Upgradation of Madurai Airport**

1664. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of modernization/upgradation of Madurai Airport is under consideration of Government;

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

(c) whether Government would consider expanding the runway in Trichy and Coimbatore; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Disposal of IC-814 aircraft**

1665. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a policy decision to phase out Airbus-300s and keep only Airbus-320s;

(b) if so, the number of Airbuses that are lying with Air India and Indian Airlines for disposal;

(c) whether the IC-814 aircraft has not yet been disposed off since its process began in 1999; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Upgradation of Airports in Andhra Pradesh**

1666. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether upgradation work at airports in Andhra Pradesh has been undertaken to reduce traffic congestion;

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

(c) whether private participation is also there in such works; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Modernisation of communication system**

1667. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the modernisation of telecommunication system in Civil Aviation Department so far;

(b) the investment made therein; and

(c) the fund earmarked therefor during the Tenth Plan?

**Interest rate on agricultural loans**

1668. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the Finance Minister's announcement in the budget that the commercial banks would charge a lower interest rate on loans for agriculture, the proposal has still not been implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

**Attachment of properties of defaulting NBFCs**

1669. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to empower the Company Law Board to order unconditional attachment of properties of defaulting non-banking financial companies in a bid to ensure investors' protection against vanishing companies;

(b) if so, whether the attachment of properties of defaulting NBFCs is going to protect investors; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

**Unclaimed amount in banks in Andhra Pradesh**

1670. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 218 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd July, 2003 and state:

(a) what is aggregate of unclaimed amount lying in banks in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what are the main reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

#### **Credit limit of NABARD**

†1671. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for increasing the credit facility (credit line) being received by the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) from RBI from existing Rs. 6500 crores to Rs. 15,000 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

#### **Rationalisation of fire insurance policies**

1672. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has decided to rationalise fire insurance policies of buildings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue has been referred to the Tariff Advisory Committee; and

(d) if so, what are the recommendations of the Tariff Advisory Committee on the IRDA's proposal?

#### **Floating of Equity Shares by companies**

1673. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies which floated their equity shares with premium since 1994, year-wise;

(b) the number of companies whose shares are being traded below the par at the stock exchanges;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the proposal for premium was carefully vetted by the SEBI or it was shown as inflated; and

(e) whether Government propose to inquire into this racket which had the nexus among SEBI, DCA and companies and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Effect of private sector participation**

†1674. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the impact on the public sector insurance companies after participation of private sector;

(b) the details of business transacted by the public sector insurance companies during the last three years; and

(c) the details of insurance deposits accepted by insurance companies of public sector and private sector in the last financial year, due to competition with private sector?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Violation of MRTP Act by cold drink manufacturers**

1675. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of large scale violation of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 by cold drink manufacturers have come to the notice of Government from various parts of the country;

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

(c) the action taken by Government against such companies during the last three years, State-wise?

**RBI advice to shift from fixed to floating interest rate**

1676. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India has advised the companies to shift from fixed to floating interest rate debts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of companies to the advice of Reserve Bank of India?

**Protection of Indian Mutual Funds Industry**

1677. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the U.S. based Principal Financial Group is on a buying spree in India to dominate the Indian Mutual Funds Industry;

(b) if so, the details of their deals during the last two years and of their financial position in our country; and

(c) whether Government are considering proposals to provide protection to Indian Mutual Funds Industry facing tough competition from the above group?

**Structural adjustment loans for Maharashtra**

1678. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have received a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra to get a structural adjustment loan from World Bank to restructure its old high-cost debts with the new less expensive ones;

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

(c) whether Government have received similar proposal from other States during the last three years; if so, the action taken thereon?

**Enhancement of custom duty on old ships**

1679. DR. A.K. PATEL:  
SHRI BACHANI LAKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have enhanced custom duty on old ships from 5 to 15 per cent;

(b) whether Government have received representations regarding reduction in custom duty from Ship Breaker Association/Government of Gujarat; and

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



### **Non-acceptance of tied aid**

1680. DR. A. R. KIDWAI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had announced at G-8 Asian Summit that India will not accept any tied aid in future and simultaneously, it discontinued taking aid from all bilateral donors barring six countries; and

(b) if so, whether he had also declared that all outstanding debt due to all bilateral donors, except four countries will be paid back ahead of time?

### **Meeting of CMDs of non-life insurance companies**

1681. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had called a meeting of the CMDs of the four non-life insurance public sector companies and representatives of the unions in this sector on June 30, 2003; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the main purpose of the meeting and outcome thereof?

### **Call for strike by All India Bank Employees' Association**

1682. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Bank Employees' Association has declared their

intention to go on indefinite strike from July this year against bulging non-performing assets of banks and the move for privatisation of banks;

(b) if so, the extent of accumulated non-performing assets of nationalised banks as on 1st July, 2003, bank-wise; and

(c) the details of the other demands of Bank employees and the steps taken to avert the strike?

### **Investments by Japan**

1683. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is ready to do business with the Japanese;

(b) if so, whether for the last decade, Japan has not been able to make much investments in India;

(c) whether Prime Minister's recent visit to Japan has helped in improving the situation and more investments are coming from Japan to India;

(d) if so, whether Japanese companies are now keen to invest in India;

(e) whether any agreement between India and Japan has been reached for any joint investment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

### **Opening of branches of banks in rural areas**

1684. DR. M.N. DAS:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has

decided to adopt tough stand on banks' reluctance to open branches in the rural and semi-urban areas, as committed by them in their licensing agreements;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Finance has urged RBI to send a message to the banks to fall in line with the licensing condition under which each of them are required to have at least 25 per cent of their branches in the rural and semi-urban areas;

(c) the total number of new private banks opened in the country; and

(d) how many of them have followed this directive?

#### **Outstanding loans of States**

1685. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total outstanding loans of the State Governments including that payable to the Central Government during the first and the last year of the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) what is the present position of State Governments (State-wise) regarding all loans payable by them including the amount owed to the Central Government; and

(c) what action has been taken so far to reduce that burden of the State Governments?

#### **Deposits in Post Office Saving Bank Accounts**

1686. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total deposits as on 31st March, 2003 in the Post Office Saving Bank Accounts in the country, postal circle-wise, separately showing the deposits in rural

and urban accounts on which an interest of 3.50 per cent per annum is paid by Government;

(b) what percentage of and for what specific purposes the said deposits are used by the State/Central Governments, separately; and

(c) the rate of interest payable by the State Governments to the Central Government on these deposits utilised by them?

#### **Check on chit funds**

1687. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to combat the spread of Chit Funds to encourage small savings;

(b) the share of State Governments out of the funds collected through small savings; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to enhance the share of the State Governments for utilisation in different welfare programmes?

#### **Appreciation in value of rupee**

1688. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appreciation in value of rupee against US Dollar is market driven or RBI influenced one;

(b) whether the appreciation in rupee is beneficial to the economy;

(c) what steps are being taken to consolidate the gains made by rupee in the recent past; and

(d) what is its effect on Indian software industry and manufacturing industry?

### **Service tax on port service**

1689. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have imposed eight per cent service tax on services provided by minor ports;

(b) if so, whether any representation has been received by Government from Maritime Boards including Gujarat; and

(c) whether Government are reconsidering the issue; if so, the status thereof?

### **Information on tax payers**

1690. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income Tax Department is trying to collect information about some individuals whose net worth according to Income Tax Department is high; and

(b) how will it benefit the Income Tax Department when it is already mandatory for such persons to file Income Tax return?

### **Functioning of offices of Registrar of Companies**

1691. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various offices of the Registrar of Companies are showing very little interest in tackling the complaints of small share-holders and depositors in various companies under their jurisdiction;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to energise such offices;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the office of Registrar in Meerut is also very slow to react to such complaints;

(d) if so, the details of pending complaints in that area; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to activate such offices?

### **New foreclosure law for NPA**

1692. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new foreclosure law will enable bank to recover only around 12 per cent of their gross non-performing assets, as over 36.4 per cent of the bad loans would remain beyond ambit of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the unsecured NPAs is not covered under the new law;

(d) whether secured assets against the outstanding loans below Rs. one lakh cannot be attached; and

(e) if so, what would be the percentage of NPAs and what ways and means, Government propose for their speedy recovery?

### **Foreclosure of UTI schemes**

1693. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to foreclose seven major assured returns of Unit Trust of India including the Children Growth Fund;

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

(c) whether approval of the SEBI has been received for the proposed move; and

(d) by when the amounts invested in each of these schemes are proposed to be returned to the investors?

#### **Gupta Committee Recommendations**

1694. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri R.V. Gupta Committee which examined the problems faced by borrowers in agriculture sector had made several recommendations regarding the flow of agricultural credit through banks;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) what action Government have taken on each of these important recommendations?

#### **Waiver of interest on crop loans**

1695. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to waive 100 per cent interest on all crop loans in view of the unprecedented drought in the State; and

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

#### **Agriculture lending rate**

1696. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a separate Agriculture Lending Rate (ALR), on the pattern of Prime Lending Rate, available to certain other categories, in order to increase investment in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to provide adequate capital to farmers at reasonable rate of interest so that productivity of our agricultural holdings can increase to the level of developed countries?

#### **Interest on HBA of Government employees**

1697. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce floating rate of interest on existing and new house building and motor car advances of Government employees where recovery of interest has not commenced;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Non-acceptance of bank guarantees**

1698. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that despite RBI's directive certain agencies of the Government are not accepting irrevocable bank guarantees on par with letter of credit for extending benefits;

(b) whether RBI has directed that for the purpose of extending benefits, however no distinction may be made between bank guarantee and letter of credit as both are treated as securities for receivables;

(c) whether Government have clearly instructed DGFT to follow the RBI directives;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to remove this anomaly?

**Take over of Larsen and Toubro Ltd.**

1699. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to allow take over of Larsen and Toubro Ltd. by other Indian competitors through the support of various financial institutions;

(b) whether Government are aware that the take over of L&T Ltd. by other competitor may cause monopoly of one company in cement industry and cement prices may rise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to stop such practices to avoid monopolisation of cement industries in the national interest?

**Appointment of coin distribution agencies**

1700. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India pays a commission of about 10 per cent on private agencies distributing coins in exchange for currency notes of equal value;

(b) if so, on what basis and through what means such agents or agencies are appointed or allocated; and

(c) the number of such coin distributing agencies in the country and the amount of commission paid to agents during 2001-02 and the current year so far?

**International Credit Cards**

1701. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted residents/individuals to

obtain International Credit Cards issued by overseas banks and other agencies;

(b) whether Indian nationals are required to maintain foreign currency account in India to have such credit cards; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the scheme announced by the RBI and who are the beneficiaries of the scheme?

**Expenditure incurred by Ministries**

†1702. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been observed that various ministries/departments spend most of the funds only in the month of March of each financial year instead of spending it according to the prescribed procedure; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to make sure the observance of procedure/rules strictly in this regard and to minimise the avoidable wasteful expenditure?

**SLR bonds through KPFC**

1703. SHRIN.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought the permission of Central Government for the issue of SLR bonds through the Kerala Power Finance Corporation which is the joint entrepreneur of the State Government and the Kerala State Electricity Board;

(b) whether Government would consider to include the KPFC in the approved market borrowing programme list of the Central Government;

(c) whether Government would grant exemptions to KPFC of condition (ii) and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(iii) of the schedule 6 and 7 relating to NRI deposits; and

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

#### **Growth of health insurance sector**

1704. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the anticipated growth of health insurance sector in another five years from the present 2002-2003 premium amount of Rs. 1,000 crores;

(b) what is the share of the private sector companies in the health insurance sector and whether present measures are adequate to safeguard the interests of policy holders in the private sector; and

(c) whether there is any perceptible difference between the time-frame of settlement of claims by the State-owned and private companies?

#### **Expenditure on cultivation of opium**

1705. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much money is spent by Government annually on administrative machinery which controls and regulates the legitimate cultivation of opium;

(b) how much foreign exchange is earned by Government from sale of opium every year; and

(c) what is the approximate quantity of opium that is diverted to illicit market and how effective our mechanism is to control it?

#### **Merger of weak banks**

1706. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering merger of small and weak banks in the near future;

(b) whether Government's stake in such banks is also likely to be reduced; and

(c) what is Government's stake at present and what is the proposal in this regard?

#### **Widening of tax net**

1707. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Board of Direct Taxes is thinking of expanding the tax net so as to increase the tax revenue;

(b) whether Government are making it mandatory to furnish annual information return along with Income Tax return if any assessee enters into a financial transaction with another one for any big purchase; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Disclosure of financial statements by banks**

1708. 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 RBI has

asked all banks to prepare and disclose consolidated financial statement from the fiscal commencing April, 2002;

- (b) if so, the reasons for such a decision;
- (c) in what manner it would help the bank administration and customers;
- (d) whether Government have found any loophole in the present dispensation of submitting solo financial statement; and
- (e) if so, details thereof?

#### **Winding up of Co-operative banks in Gujarat**

† 1709. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Reserve Bank has directed the Registrar, Co-operative Societies to wind up some co-operative banks in Gujarat due to charges of non-compliance of banking provisions; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Pension insurance scheme for senior citizens**

† 1710. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to introduce pension insurance scheme for senior citizens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when this scheme is likely to be introduced; and
- (d) the number of persons likely to be benefited from the scheme?

#### **Income tax exemption to senior citizens**

1711. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the age fixed for a senior citizen to be eligible to get benefit under Income Tax Act and post office savings;
- (b) whether the age fixed for a senior citizen to get benefit of interest in Bank deposit or concession in rail reservation is 60 years; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for disparity and the steps taken to enforce uniformity of age as a senior citizen?

#### **Guidelines for establishment of commercial banks**

1712. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the latest guidelines for establishment of commercial banks in private sector;
- (b) the details of the commercial banks, both in the private and the public sector together with their total paid-up capital, deposits and disbursal, particularly to the priority sector, during the last 3 years;
- (c) the details of acquisitions and mergers of banks during the last three years with latest guidelines in this regard;
- (d) whether any more proposals for acquisition and mergers are in the pipeline; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard?

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Outstanding income tax and Central excise duties**

1713. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of income tax and Central excise duties outstanding against 10 big industrial and commercial units of the country for 2002-03; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to recover the dues?

Tax Assessing Officers at the first stage of assessment raise undue demands, which are quashed at the subsequent stages;

(b) whether it causes not only harassment to the assessee but creates additional work for the Income Tax department; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to make the assessing officers more accountable for their orders?

### **Circulation of currency notes/coins**

† 1714. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to stop circulation of some currency notes;

(b) whether Government have withdrawn the 5 and 10 paise coins from circulation; and

(c) the reasons for not accepting the 5 and 10 paise coins by businessmen in the market and the action being taken by Government in this regard?

### **Clean note policy**

1717. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the clean note policy of Government;

(b) whether surprise checks by Reserve Bank of India have revealed that certain banks are not adhering to its 'clean note policy'; and

(c) if so, the action taken against these banks?

### **Tax exemption to political parties**

† 1715. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to exempt the financial receipts by political parties from income-tax; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

### **Appreciation of rupee**

1718. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rupee has significantly appreciated against American dollar during the last one year;

(b) if so, whether it has affected India's exports; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

### **Assessment of income tax**

1716. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income

### **Enactment of Service Tax Act**

1719. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for the enactment of Service

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



Tax Act to allow States to levy service tax on specific items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the viewpoints of various State Governments have been elicited thereon and if so, what is their reaction; and

(d) by when the proposed law is likely to be put in place?

#### **Loan to Directors by Urban Co-operative Banks**

1720. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has mooted a proposal to curtail extending of loan to Directors and their relatives by Primary Urban Co-operative Banks and if so, by when this guideline would come into force;

(b) whether the RBI has presently shelved the proposal under pressure from vested interests; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Financial aid to Tripura**

1721. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Tripura has initiated a proposal to set-up a gas-based power project in the State with financial help from an external agency; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal and the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

#### **Central Listing Authority**

1722. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted Central Listing Authority to help bring in unity in bourse listing process for corporates;

(b) if so, the details of the members of the Authority;

(c) the mandate given to the Central Listing Authority by SEBI;

(d) whether, the Ministry of Finance would think of setting up an investors' body to handle investors' complaints at all exchange levels;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Short term deposits from NRIs**

1723. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what precautionary measures have been taken by the RBI to curb inflow of "Hot Money" or "short term deposits" from NRIs;

(b) whether it is a fact that the minimum maturity period of fresh NRI deposits has been increased from six months to one year;

(c) what is the rate of interest given on NRI deposits for one, two and three years; and

(d) the details of NRI deposits during the last three years, year-wise?

**Taxation of new services**

†1724. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to bring some new services within the gamut of taxation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof together with those made tax free?

**Taking over of properties by IDBI**

1725. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has taken over possession of certain properties under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act; and

(b) if so, the number of properties whose possession has been taken over by the IDBI since the enforcement of above Act?

**Sale of coal-tar in Bihar**

†1726. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of petroleum companies selling coal-tar (bitumin) in Bihar;

(b) the annual consumption of coal-tar in Bihar ;

(c) the demand of coal-tar during the last three years in Bihar; and

(d) the details of quantity supplied as per the demand and the time taken in this regard?

**Supply of LPG to Assam**

1727. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 40 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd July, 2003 and state the quantum of LPG supplied to the State of Assam togetherwith its demand during the last three years?

**Auto fuel policy**

1728. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a comprehensive auto fuel policy to control pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the fuel standards; and

(c) the modalities and structure of the proposed authority to implement the policy?

**Losses due to change in dealership policy**

†1729. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various oil companies had directly appointed some dealers of diesel/petrol/kerosene oil during 2002-2003 and till now;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to sudden restriction on such appointments huge amount of various oil companies and dealers has got blocked; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Revision in prices of petroleum products**

1730. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times, prices of petroleum products were revised during the last six months;

(b) the price of each product during each revision; and

(c) the reasons for revising the prices?

**Fake gas cylinders**

1731. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that fake LPG cylinders are being manufactured in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which have been reported during the last one year so far; and

(c) the number of persons who have been booked under the Explosive Substances Act?

**Non-adherence of reservation policy by oil PSUs**

1732. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 per cent of Retail Outlets, Dealerships, LPG Distributorship and SKO Dealerships are reserved for SCs and STs;

(b) if so, whether all the Oil Companies have adhered to this reservation;

(c) if so, the details of dealership in each category, Oil Company-wise and out of

that allotted to SCs and STs separately; and

(d) what action Government propose to take where this reservation has not been adhered to by Oil Companies?

**Production of ethanol**

1733. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the production capacity of ethanol in the country, State-wise;

(b) the actual production of ethanol, State-wise;

(c) whether levies proposed to be imposed on ethanol by States are likely to make the use of ethanol non-viable;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to correct the situation?

**New policy on setting up of oil outlets**

1734. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any policy relating to locations where sister OIL PSUs can set-up diesel and petrol outlets in different States;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have given free licence to Oil PSUs to set-up petrol pumps and diesel outlets wherever they wish;

(c) if so, the details of this new policy giving absolute freedom to Oil PSUs;

(d) whether Government are aware that allottees of PSU petrol pumps will suffer grievously if there is no restriction in this matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Production of ethanol in Karnataka**

1735. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of anhydrous ethanol being produced by sugar factories in Karnataka;

(b) the details of the districts in Karnataka which have been covered by ethanol blended petrol so far;

(c) by when the entire Karnataka will be covered; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that all sugar factories in Karnataka produce anhydrous ethanol?

#### **Diversion of LPG cylinders for commercial purpose**

1736. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2121 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th March, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the particulars of LPG distributors found diverting domestic LPG cylinders for commercial use in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai were published in the local newspapers for the information of general public;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what specific penal action was taken against the guilty distributors and the number of cases in which agencies were withdrawn from such distributors during the last three years togetherwith the details thereof?

#### **Refining capacity of refineries**

†1737. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the installed refining capacity of the crude oil refineries is more than the one required for consumption of the petroleum products;

(b) if so, the total installed capacity of the crude oil refineries by March, 2003 in the country; and

(c) the number of crude oil refinery projects under construction togetherwith their total refining capacities?

#### **Production of LPG**

†1738. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether LPG was produced in the public and the private sector during the year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the respective quantities of LPG produced in the public and the private sectors, separately, during each month of the year; and

(c) the quantity of LPG sold to the common consumers of the country by the selling companies?

#### **Proposal to raise LPG/Kerosene prices**

1739. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:  
DR. ABRAR AHMED:  
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil Companies have proposed to Government to raise the LPG and Kerosene Oil prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

#### **Categorisation of consumers**

†1740. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have categorised the consumers of the country for the sale of LPG and Kerosene Oil;

(b) if so, the categories of such consumers;

(c) the quantity and average sale price of LPG and Kerosene Oil sold to the consumers of each category during the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and

(d) the criteria adopted for fixing the price?

#### **LNG from Qatar**

1741. MISS MABEL REBELLO:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact India and Iran have agreed on 25-year gas investment deal, if so, the details of the project;

(b) whether India has similar agreement with Qatar; and

(c) if so, the expected time by when LNG from Qatar will reach our country?

#### **Incentives to LNG plants**

1742. MISS MABEL REBELLO:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to give special fiscal and other incentives to LNG plants, if so, the details thereof;

(b) in what manner this would help in raising its production; and

(c) how much it will benefit the consumers in the country?

#### **LPG godowns in residential areas**

1743. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:  
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that some godowns of LPG cylinders are situated in and around residential colonies in Delhi thereby posing threat to life and property of residents;

(b) whether any survey has been done to identify such godowns; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Implementation of Mashelkar Committee Report**

1744. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of Petroleum and Natural Gas has sent a note to the Ministry of Finance for implementation of Mashelkar Committee Report for a Comprehensive Auto Policy;

(b) whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has also sent a proposal to Government in connection with vehicular emission norms;

(c) if so, by when the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is going to introduce Euro-III norms in the country together with equivalent Euro-IV norms at least in some of the major cities of the country; and

(d) what are the details of the above proposals?

#### **Enhancement of Kerosene Quota to fishermen in Kerala**

1745. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Kerala for enhancement of kerosene quota of its fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken in this regard?

#### **Dealers for petroleum products in Kerala**

1746. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of petrol and gas agencies opened in Kerala during the last three years; and

(b) the details of SC/ST, General, Handicapped and Dependents of defence personnel out of these?

#### **Untimely supply of coal-tar in Bihar**

† 1747. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that untimely supply of coal-tar (bitumin) causes time-overrun in the construction of roads in Bihar resulting in cost-overrun;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to streamline the process?

#### **New Petroleum Product Pipeline Policy**

1748. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new Petroleum Product Pipeline Policy based on common carrier principle;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of oil companies which have shown interest on mutually agreed terms and the regulations regarding tariff to be charged for pipeline use;

(c) the names of projects which are likely to be benefited by the new policy;

(d) whether this new policy would benefit the common man in the country;

(e) if so, the details of such benefits; and

(f) by when this policy is likely to be implemented?

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **Study on seismic surveys**

1749. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in certain areas where earlier seismic surveys conducted by ONGC, OIL and others failed to locate presence of hydrocarbons have shown positive results by subsequent surveys conducted by private sector enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to go into the causes for the failure of earlier surveys;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Oil reserve at Kutch**

1750. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has struck oil reserves at Kutch in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the size of the reserve well drilled; and

(c) by when the commercial exploration is likely to start?

#### **Age criteria for oil tankers**

1751. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to ban the foreign oil tankers not meeting the age criteria defined by the Director General (DG) of shipping from 1st September; and

(b) if so, the details of the new guidelines set by Government?

#### **Promoting use of CNG**

1752. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to promote use of CNG by encouraging CNG driven cars;

(b) if so, whether necessary infrastructure has been created for this purpose;

(c) whether this facility is likely to be provided in all metropolitan cities; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

#### **Development of Bargasur fort in Uttaranchal**

†1753. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the ruins of the fort of Bargasur of the mythological era are still in existence in Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken for the conservation and protection of this place of historical and cultural importance?

#### **Funds for tourism in Jammu and Kashmir**

1754. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the projects being taken up jointly by the State and the Central Government to boost tourism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the amount sanctioned by Government for the various tourism related projects;

(c) the details of amount already released; and

(d) what is the status of the projects?

**Improvement of facilities at Vaishno Devi Shrine**

1755. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up major restoration and developmental projects in Jammu and Kashmir to promote tourism;

(b) whether religious Shrines are also included in the restoration projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any funds have been earmarked for improvement facilities in and around Vaishno Devi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Development of tourism in Rajasthan**

† 1756. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas selected by Government for development of tourism in Rajasthan during the current year; and

(b) the details of outline formulated by Government for the development of such areas?

**Financial assistance for tourist centres in A.P.**

1757. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has bagged 6 out of the 14 National Tourism Awards for the previous year;

(b) the details of the activities for which these awards have been given;

(c) whether the State of A.P. has demanded certain additional help to improve tourist centres in the State; and

(d) if so, Government's response in this regard?

**Financial assistance for creating tourist hub**

1758. SHRI B.J. PANDA: MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether Government have drawn up an ambitious project to create great hub of culture, tourism and clean civil life in every State and UTs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would be a historical link-up of several sites from Haryana to Gujarat identified for excavation; and

(d) by when the entire venture is likely to be completed and whether any foreign assistance in the matter is proposed; if so, the details thereof?

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**U.N.D.P. assistance for tourism development projects in Orissa**

1759. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tourism development projects are being implemented with U.N.D.P. assistance;

(b) if so, whether any such project is being implemented in Orissa; and

(c) the details of other States where U.N.D.P. assisted tourism development projects are being implemented?

**Financial assistance for new tourism projects in U.P.**

† 1760. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Uttar Pradesh Government for providing financial assistance for the development of its tourist spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have approved any new tourism projects in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Preservation of caves in Vidarbha, Maharashtra**

1761. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Archaeological Survey of India has been drawn to set of rock cut caves belonging to Megalithic period in some Districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps taken by ASI to preserve these caves; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Dal Lake as a Hertiage site**

1762. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dal Lake in Srinagar is part of a precious Cultural Heritage; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to declare it as a Heritage Site and organise its conservation?

**Central assistance for tourism projects in Gujarat**

1763. PROF. ALKA BALRAM

KSHATRIYA:

DR. A. K. PATEL:

SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has submitted three proposals for sanction of Central assistance for tourism projects;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) by when the Central assistance for these tourism projects will be sanctioned?

**Maintenance of Taj Mahal**

1764. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Taj has lost its beauty and lustre;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tiles in the monument are cracking;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to keep the monument intact?

**Central assistance for infrastructural development in Orissa**

1765. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Central assistance released to the State Government of Orissa and other States for the development of infrastructure during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount earmarked for the infrastructure development in the tourism sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of allocation made so far, State-wise?

**UNESCO concern over safety of Hampi and Taj Mahal**

1766. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the policy for Cultural Heritage and Management;

(b) whether it is a fact that UNESCO is expressing concern over safety of some World Heritage sites in India, like Hampi and Taj Mahal; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken to ensure non-interference with the integrity of such sites?

**Financial assistance for Museums in Karnataka**

1767. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Museums being managed by the Karnataka Government;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has sought financial assistance from the Central Government to upgrade these Museums;

(c) if so, the amount sought for; and

(d) the details of the upgradation proposed?

**Funds allocated for tourism projects in Rajasthan**

1768. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds are provided to State Governments for tourism related projects including budget accommodation every year;

(b) if so, the year-wise fund released to Rajasthan during the last two years; and

(c) the names of projects for which it was given?

**Arrival of foreign tourists**

†1769. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which are visited by maximum number of foreign tourists;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the number of foreign tourists during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the scheme worked out by Government to improve the situation?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Development of Pushkar and Dargah of Ajmer in Rajasthan**

1770. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any special scheme for development of the Dargah area of Ajmer and 'Pushkar' in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the outline of the scheme; and

(c) by when work on this scheme is likely to start?

**Development of places related to Mahatma Buddha and Lord Mahavir in Bihar**

†1771. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding developing the places related to Mahatma Buddha and Lord Mahavir as tourist places in Vaishali, District of Bihar is under consideration or is being implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Development of tourist places in Jharkhand and Bihar**

1772. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken for identification of the places of tourist attraction and facilitating developments of such identified spots in Jharkhand and Bihar, where not only the ancient monuments, particularly of considerable spiritual importance are located but also

possess several sites with rich flora and fauna;

(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard; and

(c) the action plan, if any, made during the current Five Year Plan period?

**Expenditure on tourism projects in Maharashtra**

†1773. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects sanctioned for Maharashtra out of those sanctioned for the development of infrastructure in the tourism sector since 2001-2002;

(b) the amount spent on these projects, so far; and

(c) by when these projects will be completed?

**Renovation of Pushkar Brahma Temple**

1774. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pushkar Brahma Temple, is listed under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958;

(b) if not, what steps are being taken to declare it a monument of national importance; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken to renovate the temple and develop it as a tourist spot too?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Opening of Qutab Minar for public**

1775. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Qutab Minar, the heritage site, was to be opened for the public in July this year;

(b) if so, whether the monument has since been opened for public;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when it is likely to be opened?

### **Joint tourism project for A.P., Kerala and Rajasthan**

1776. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a joint tourism project for travel along Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan to attract foreign and domestic tourists;

(b) whether the connectivity by rail and air is proposed to attract tourists in those States; and

(c) the other measures taken to attract more foreign tourists?

### **Expenditure on Flood and erosion control in the North East**

1777. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expenditure made out of the Rs. 500 crore granted towards flood and erosion control measures in the North-East under P.M.'s special package 1996;

(b) the present status of the master plan prepared by Brahmaputra Board for

erosion/protection of Majuli Island in Assam;

(c) whether Central Water Commission (CWC) has cleared the plan; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and target set to complete the process?

### **Outcome of the meeting on Indus Water Commission**

1778. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the permanent Indus Water Commission had met in Islamabad in the first week of February, 2003;

(b) if so, whether it is a tribute to the 1960 Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan;

(c) whether the meeting follows repeated Pakistani threats to refer the project for third party arbitration as provided for in the treaty;

(d) whether the project is of particular significance for Jammu and Kashmir in the context of much needed power to the State; and

(e) if so, the broad features thereof?

### **Water Conservation month**

†1779. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has suggested to observe July as "Water Conservation month" for creating awareness among people about water conservation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has also been suggested to offer voluntary service, conducting various seminars and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

workshops in schools, colleges and offices in the direction of water conservation during this month; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government so far for implementation of the said suggestions?

**Water storage capacity of newly constructed reservoirs**

† 1780. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is essential to store and utilize the additional rain water and rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of large reservoirs in the country whose construction work was completed till the end of Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the total capacity of water storage of these reservoirs?

**Demand and supply of water**

1781. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last 50 years India has been reduced from a water-rich country to a water scarce country?

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reverse the trend and take back the country to its original position and reduce the mismatch between the demand and supply of water?

**Renewal of ground water resources**

1782. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any perspective plan exists at national level for conservation and renewal of ground water resources to prevent possible water famine in the first quarter of the 21st century; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Depletion of water level in Ahirwal in Southern Haryana**

† 1783. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the constant depletion in ground water level in Ahirwal region of Southern Haryana;

(b) whether Government are in a position to evolve any policy regarding the non-implementation of SYL Canal by the State Governments; and

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Water supply schemes for Manipur**

1784. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes and amount involved for augmentation of District Headquarter Water Supply Schemes in Manipur under non-lapsable pool of fund;

(b) in what manner these schemes will be implemented;

(c) whether Government had any discussion or understanding with the State Government in this respect;

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (d) if so, the decision arrived at; and
- (e) by when the implementation of the scheme will commence?

#### **Cauvery River Authority**

1785. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) when the Cauvery River Authority was created;
- (b) the details of the sittings held so far by this Authority, year-wise;
- (c) the details of the decisions taken by this Authority, meeting-wise; and
- (d) the number of decisions taken by the Authority which have been implemented so far?

#### **Funds allocated for anti-erosion works in U.P.**

1786. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount released to Uttar Pradesh during 2001 by Government for the purpose of taking up critical anti-erosion works;
- (b) the amount demanded by the Government of Uttar Pradesh under the scheme of "Critical anti-erosion works in Ganga Basin States" during the years 2001 and 2002;
- (c) the details of the works carried out under this scheme and the amount spent on each work during the years 2001 and 2002;
- (d) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has demanded more funds to carry out the work under this scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Funds utilized by UP Government for maintenance of Gandak embankments**

1787. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the amount of Rs. 1.8 crore released by Government during the last three years to the State of Uttar Pradesh for maintenance of Gandak embankments in Nepal portion on the recommendation of Gandak High Level Committee has been utilized by the State Government for the said purpose;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Failure of civic agencies to use water**

1788. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether about 80 per cent of the 380 million gallons of water treated every day is released into the river as none of the civic agencies has the infrastructure to utilize it;
- (b) if so, what are the details thereof; and
- (c) the action Government propose to take to recycle this water for use by various civic agencies?

#### **Schemes for flood control**

† 1789. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether devastating floods occur due to the several rivers originating from the Himalaya and flowing through various parts of the country particularly Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam and North-Eastern region;
- (b) whether Government have any proposal/scheme to control such type of flood; and

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof including the details of the scheme formulated with the help of World Bank and other agencies for this purpose, State-wise?

#### **World Bank assistance to Rajasthan**

1790. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board is negotiating with the World Bank for advancing soft loans with a view to arresting the continuous depleting ground water tables in 14 districts of Western Rajasthan;

(b) whether the CGWB has also evolved schemes for the replenishment of the ground water table in the affected areas of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details in this regard indicating the amount of financial assistance sought from the World Bank; and

(d) the details of progress made in this regard?

#### **Employment opportunities through inter-linking of rivers**

1791. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the employment opportunities expected to be generated from the proposed inter-linking of rivers;

(b) the share of Rajasthan therefrom;

(c) whether any strategy has been worked out in this respect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Water conservation techniques**

1792. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that The Earth Care Foundation is seeking help of Government to participate in their programmes on water literacy and water sensitivity by demonstrating water conservation techniques in the country;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the campaigning of water conservation techniques in the country?

#### **New Water Policy**

1793. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new water policy gives proprietary rights over natural resources of water to private companies or multinational companies; and

(b) if so, the reasons for deviating from the policy of management of water resources by Village Panchayats and Urban Municipalities?

#### **Toxic pesticides in water in A.P.**

1794. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Scientists of the Central Ground Water Board have found alarming levels of highly toxic pesticides in agricultural wells in some villages of Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Board has conducted similar surveys in other Districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, what are its findings; and  
 (d) the precautionary measures suggested to protect the health of the people?

(c) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

**Pending River Water Projects of M.P. and Chhattisgarh**

† 1795. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of River Water Projects of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh which are pending;

(b) the details of cost overrun as a result of delay in completion of these projects; and

**Irrigation projects in Maharashtra**

† 1796. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects pending for implementation in Maharashtra during 2003-04 togetherwith the details thereof;

(b) the capacity of the said projects; and

(c) the details of expenditure made thereon, so far?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 30th July, 2003*  
*Sravana 8, 1925 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



## I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

<b>Civil Aviation</b>	: 1642, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667,
<b>Finance</b>	: 1658, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1697, 1698, 1699, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725,
<b>Petroleum and Natural Gas</b>	: 1726, 1727, 1728, 1729, 1730, 1731, 1732, 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752,
<b>Tourism and Culture</b>	: 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776,
<b>Water Resources</b>	: 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796.