

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS
to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the May 6, 2003/Vaisakha 16, 1925 (Saka)

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

Total number of questions—155

Synchronisation of flight and train timings

4642. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether flight timings of Indian
Airlines are fixed in coordination with the
Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact that evening flights
to Hyderabad from different cities are not
suitable to people wishing to catch train;
and

(c) what are details of steps proposed
to be taken by Indian Airlines to make its
flight arrivals and departures from
Hyderabad suitable for people wishing to
catch trains?

Customer-friendly services of IA

4643. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is revamping
its entire commercial systems and practices
to attract more customers;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian
Airlines is following old rules and old
systems in matter of sale of tickets,
extending validity of tickets and general
negative attitude by its duty managers to
requests from passengers;

(c) if so, in what manner Indian Airlines
propose to have a customer-friendly ground
and commercial services; and

(d) the improvements made in the last
six months to help customers with the
details thereof?

Imposition of tax on free passes on airline employees

4644. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed
a tax on free passes of all airline employees;
if so, what are the details of this tax;

(b) whether all airlines staff had staged
a *bandh* to press for withdrawal of this tax;
and

(c) how Government propose to tackle
this issue?

Concession to senior citizens on foreign travel

†4645. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will
the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering
to give some concession in air fares to the
senior citizens for going abroad in Indian
aeroplanes; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

IA's advertisement policy

4646. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the policy followed by Indian Airlines with regard to advertisements;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines ads are shown on FTV; and

(c) if so, the reasons for showing the ads on a channel which is polluting young minds and Indian culture?

Airport at Ajmer (Rajasthan)

†4647. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having any scheme to build an airport in Ajmer (Rajasthan); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the said scheme is going to be implemented?

Employment opportunity to AME engineers

†4648. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp increase in the number of AME diploma holders passed out from technical training institutes recognised by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide employment to such unemployed engineers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

Relocation of jhuggis clusters from sensitive airports

4649. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some areas in the security sensitive airports are encroached by jhuggi-jhoumpari clusters or squatters; and

(b) if so, whether Government have plans to relocate them somewhere away from the sensitive spots with the details of the proposed action plan?

Induction of indigenously built aircraft in IA's fleet

4650. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Aerospace Laboratories have rolled out its first indigenously designed and built passenger aircraft;

(b) if so, the salient features of this aircraft;

(c) whether Government have a plan to induct this aircraft into the fleet of Indian Airlines;

(d) if so, the date by when the proposal is likely to be materialized;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether Government have explored overseas markets for export of this aircraft?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Construction of helipads in States

4651. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct helipads in the States with the cooperation of the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government consider to implement any airline projects with the help of State Governments to improve tourism facilities?

Replacement of IA's upholstery

4652. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether faded upholstery of Indian Airlines fleet is proposed to be changed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target set for completion of the job?

New look of IA fleet

4653. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the upgradation and renovation plan of the Indian Airlines *vis-a-vis* competition from foreign and domestic carriers;

(b) the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the target for completion of the new look of IA fleet?

Development of Hyderabad and Bangalore Airports

4654. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred

Question 1369 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is also a fact that schemes like face-lifting of Vizag Airport were sanctioned for Hyderabad and Bangalore Airports also but have not taken off; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when these schemes are likely to be implemented?

Concession for senior citizens

4655. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the age limits prescribed for senior citizens (both male and female) and what are the benefits allowed to them for performing air journey;

(b) whether Government are aware that wait-listed tickets issued to senior citizens and others eligible for concessional tickets, are rarely confirmed and preference to confirm the tickets is given to those who pay full amount for the tickets; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and whether the existing norms for confirmation of tickets are proposed to be modified to benefit the senior citizens and others?

Aircrafts in the IA and AI

4656. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircrafts which are in operation in Air India, age-wise details;

(b) the number of aircrafts which are in operation in Indian Airlines, age-wise details;

(c) the number of sectors which are in profit and the number of sectors which are in loss in domestic airlines; and

(b) if so, whether this declaration was signed between the Commerce and Industry Ministers of both countries in the presence of the Prime Minister;

(c) if so, the main projects on which Singapore has agreed to invest in India;

(d) to what extent trade relations between the two countries have been further strengthened;

(e) whether India-Singapore bilateral trade earlier had been on a low key; and

(f) to what extent this agreement will improve trade between the two countries?

Increase in FDI limit

4663. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of increasing FDI limit in telecom, airlines, airports, publishing, IT, petroleum refinery, marketing, pipeline, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed FDI increase in the above sectors?

Demand of Indian Sugar Mills Association

4664. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Sugar Mills Association wants to retain taxes, excise/ additional excise duties on sugar and excise duty on molasses for at least two years;

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

(c) whether to bail out sick co-operative sugar units there is a proposal for conversion of incurred deficits to working capital/term loans repayable over five years; and

(d) if so, Government's decision thereon?

Action against M/s ICDS Ltd.

4665. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the action proposed against M/s ICDS Ltd., Manipal, a registered company, which has stopped payment of interest on debenture even to senior citizens since July, 2002?

Merger of IDBI and IIBI (Kolkata)

4666. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to merge IDBI and IIBI (Kolkata);

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

(c) what will be its impact on long-term financing of projects?

Moody's comments on fiscal deficit

4667. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Moody's investment analysis have commented that India will find it difficult to meet its fiscal deficit target for the year 2003-04 as a result of cut in taxes and stepping up spending on infrastructure sectors;

(b) if so, whether Moody's report also states that India is already having a huge and growing debt burden; and

(c) whether Government are considering to slash the debt burden in view of excess foreign exchange reserves held by it at present?

(b) if so, whether this declaration was signed between the Commerce and Industry Ministers of both countries in the presence of the Prime Minister;

(c) if so, the main projects on which Singapore has agreed to invest in India;

(d) to what extent trade relations between the two countries have been further strengthened;

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(c) whether Government are considering to slash the debt burden in view of excess foreign exchange reserves held by it at present?

FDI realisation rate

4668. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had recorded the highest ever FDI realisation rate (inflows to approval ratio) of 191.1 per cent in rupee terms during the year 2002; and

(b) the total FDI inflow in the country?

Guidelines for Asset Reconstruction Companies

4669. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has issued the final set of guidelines for Asset Reconstruction Companies;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines issued by RBI;

(c) whether the capital adequacy ratio has been specified for the ARCs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NPA's of Punjab and Sind Bank

4670. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued guidelines to all Nationalised Banks for settlement of NPAs on most attractive terms;

(b) if so, what are the details of these guidelines;

(c) whether Punjab and Sind Bank has given inadequate time to individuals to settle their NPAs and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether RBI would instruct the PSB to extend the time limit at least for three months *i.e.*, upto June, 2003 so that more and more individuals come forward and settle their outstandings?

Taking over of IFCI by PNB

4671. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked Punjab National Bank to take over IFCI;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether other Banks were also considered for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Indians Customs and Electronic Data Interchange System

4672. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when Indian Customs and Electronic Data Interchange System (ICES) was started to accept custom documents;

(b) the progress made till now and the time by when the project is likely to be completed; and

(c) the percentage of consignments being cleared within three days as stipulated?

Complaints against DCM Ltd.

4673. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints that DCM Ltd. has not been paying the fixed deposit money to their depositors for the last two years even months after the deposits have matured;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received and the amount involved; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take to prevail upon the company to return the money to the bonafide depositors and investors?

IMF report on poverty alleviation

4674. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent study done by IMF which has found that "Economic integration may actually increase the risk of financial crisis in the developing world", which may damage vulnerable economies, raising poverty rates and destroying the environment; and

(b) whether IMF funded projects have resulted in lowering of poverty in India and if so, to what extent?

Flow of institutional credit to farmers in A.P.

4675. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps Government have taken to substantially step up flow of institutional credit to farmers in Andhra Pradesh and rest of the country; and

(b) the response of banking sector in this regard?

Direct tax collections

4676. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the direct tax collections for year 2002-2003 have

surpassed the revised estimate of Rs. 44,700 crore in the corporate tax collection;

(b) whether the income tax refunds have grown by 67 per cent to Rs. 5,664 crore against Rs. 3,384 crore in 2001-2002; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Amount sanctioned to Department of Income Tax, Chhattisgarh

†4677. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes received from the Department of Income Tax of the Government of Chhattisgarh and the amount sanctioned for them during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) the quantum of amount that has been provided to the State Government out of the said amount so far; and

(c) by when, the remaining amount will be released?

Annual report of International Narcotics Control Board

4678. DR. A.R. KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Narcotics Control Board in its annual report expressed concern over the adverse socio-economic impact of vastly increasing illicit drug trade that accounts for 99 per cent of the entire drug business worldwide;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the report; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to remove the adverse socio-economic impact mentioned in the report?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Subsidy to power generation sector

4679. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidy being provided by Government in the power generation sector of the country; and

(b) the details of subsidy provided to the various power projects in the country during the last three years; year-wise/project-wise?

Auditing the accounts of District Councils

4680. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to each District Council during the last three financial years, year-wise details;

(b) whether accounts of District councils have been audited by CAG during the last three years;

(c) if so, the irregularities found in those accounts of each District Council; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Siphoning off foreign exchange

4681. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Macleods Pharmaceuticals, Vidyut Investments, Zee Telefilms have been involved in siphoning off foreign exchange;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the probe has been ordered by CBI; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome of the probe and what action is being taken?

Backlog vacancies in Central Revenue Control Laboratory, Pusa

4682. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Chemical Assistant from Grade-II to Grade-I, Chemical Assistant Grade I to Assistant Chemical Examiner and Assistant Chemical Examiner to Chemical Examiner were promoted during the last five year in Central Revenue Control Laboratory, Pusa, New Delhi;

(b) whether representation to SC/ST has been given to these category as per constitutional provision;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons for non filling up of the backlog vacancy of SCs/STs and by when it is likely to be filled up?

Generous sops to cricketers

4683. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Budget 2003 proposals bestow generous sops to our cricketers;

(b) if so, whether cricketers already earn millions by way of prize money, match fees, advertising/endorsement payments etc.; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider withdrawing the proposal?

Funds transferred to NLCPR

4684. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total fund liable for transfer to the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources as per Government's policy decisions from the unspent amount out of

the 10 per cent budgetary allocation made for NER during each of last three years;

(b) the year-wise actual amount transferred to NLCPR, amount cleared by the Planning Commission for utilization in the NER from the NLCPR during the period;

(c) whether the entire amount is being utilized as per the policy decision;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

UTIs advertisement on SEBI mutual funds regulations

4685. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in February 2003 UTI released a 16-page advertisement in Mumbai for "Disclosure under Regulation 58 A of SEBI Mutual Fund Regulation" in regional newspaper hardly having sizeable circulation in Maharashtra, instead of releasing it on LOKMAT the leading regional newspaper of Maharashtra, thereby defeating the very purpose of keeping the regional investors informed; and

(b) if so, whether Government would ensure that investors' money is judiciously utilised by organisations like UTI while releasing advertisements by identifying largest circulated regional newspapers?

Guidelines for foreign companies

4686. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any fresh notification laying down guidelines for deciding the correct status of a company which is operating partly from Indian and partly from a foreign country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a case in this context is pending before the Supreme Court for a decision; and

(d) if so, the reasons for issuing guidelines on a matter which is *sub-judice*?

Reduction in customs duty on coal

4687. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has received any recommendation from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to reduce the customs duty on ENVIRON Coal; and

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

IRDA's report on pension reforms

4688. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) has submitted a report to Government on pension reforms;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of IRDA in this regard;

(c) whether Government have considered the Report and taken a decision on the recommendations; and

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

Import of refined edible oil as crude oil

4689. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

refined edible oil is imported as crude oil to evade high import duty;

(b) if so, the quantum of crude and refined edible oil imported and Import Duty collected during the last three years, year-wise separately for crude and edible oil;

(c) whether Government have initiated any mechanism to check such malpractice; and

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

Non-functional ATMs of State Bank of Indore

4690. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the branches of State Bank of Indore in Delhi having ATMs (Automated Teller Machines);

(b) whether it is a fact that at some branches, ATMs become non-functional frequently, thereby causing inconvenience to the users;

(c) the branches where ATMs remained non-functional with the durations thereof during the last one year ending 16th April, 2003, alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether action has been taken against the agency responsible for its maintenance, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Housing Scheme for senior citizens from LIC

4691. MISS MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of LIC's scheme of 'Housing for senior citizens;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when such a residential complex for senior citizens will be built in Delhi?

Demand supply imbalance in infrastructure services

4692. DR. M.N. DAS:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether persisting and growing demand supply imbalances in infrastructure services continues to cast shadow on industrial performance;

(b) if so, whether according to the Reserve Bank of India Currency and Finance Report for 2001-2002, supply declined to 2.6 per cent of gross domestic product during the 1990s from 2.9 per cent during the preceding decade;

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

(d) what steps Government propose to take to improve the situation?

Violation of foreign exchange regulations by MNCs

4693. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance has issued show-cause notices to 18 Multi National Companies for alleged violation of foreign exchange regulations involving over Rs. 170 crores;

(b) if so, the details of the companies to which show-cause notices were issued;

(c) the details of charges or violations made by the above companies, company-wise;

(d) the details of the explanation given by them in response to the show cause notices; and

(e) the progress of the cases filed against the above companies?

Cut down of funds of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

4694. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Finance Ministry has cut the funds of "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" meant for the universalization of education programme in every village;

(b) whether the Ministry failed to release money to the States for the purpose in 2002-03; and

(c) when would all the 65 villages be covered by the above programme?

RBI suggestions on fiscal deficit of States

4695. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether voicing concern over deteriorating State finance, the Reserve Bank of India has suggested that State Governments should tax services, fix user charges on the services they offer and move ahead with pension reforms;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have agreed to the RBI's suggestions;

(c) if so, how many States have so far taken legislative and other steps to tax the services as suggested by the RBI; and

(d) to what extent it will be helpful for the States?

Duty at different levels of production of crude oil

†4696. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government collects duty, cess, surcharge and royalty at different levels from the production and import of the crude oil to the production of petrol, diesel etc.;

(b) if so, the total amount collected through the said sources during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively; and

(c) the estimate amount during the year 2002-2003?

Increase in domestic loans

†4697. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount of the domestic loans has increased significantly till the end of the financial year 2002-03 in comparison to the financial year 1998-99;

(b) if so, the amount of the loan at the end of both the years separately; and

(c) the amount paid as annual interest on the said loans?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rate of inflation

4698. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the month-wise rate of inflation during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that for the week ending 1st May, 2003, the inflation touched the highest in the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a steep rise in the rate of inflation; and

(d) the method adopted to calculate the inflation rate?

Probe under Section 237 of Companies Act

4699. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Company Affairs has ordered probe under Section 237 of Companies Act in the affairs of M/s. HFCL, Macleods Pharmaceuticals, Zee Telefilms and ADANI Exports; and

(b) if so, what have been the findings and what action is being taken against the companies?

Taxation of RBI relief bond

4700. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring the investment in Reserve Bank of India Relief Bond, in the income tax net; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Financial aid to drought affected States from National Calamity Fund

†4701. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide financial aid from National Calamity Fund to drought affected States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have fixed any condition for providing financial aid?

Non stapling of currency notes

†4702. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has issued instructions to all banks not to staple currency notes;

(b) whether public and private banks are not complying with these instructions;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any action against such banks that supply stapled notes to customers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Financial assistance by NABARD

4703. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD is providing financial assistance to the State Government for construction of roads and bridges;

(b) if so, the funds provided for this purpose during each of the last three years to Gujarat;

(c) whether Gujarat Government had asked for loan from NABARD for constructing metallic line roads in the rural areas;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the NABARD in this regard; and

(e) the number of roads/bridges for which construction work has been started/ is likely to be started with the assistance of NABARD in Gujarat?

Credit deposit ratio of banks in Kerala

4704. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present credit deposit ratio of the commercial and nationalised banks in Kerala;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Credit Deposit Ratio shows a backward trend when compared to the national average for the last few years; and

(c) whether Government intends to issue any specific directives to the commercial banks to increase the CD Ratio, compared to the national average?

Seizure of hotel property in Nasik

4705. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in November 2002 there was a report that State Bank of India has seized and sealed a hotel property in Nasik to recover its NPAs, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are considering the same yardstick to retrieve huge NPAs;

(c) what is the current NPA scenario; and

(d) the plans chalked out by Government to retrieve the same?

Government officials serving as carriers of Hawala dealers

4706. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the senior Government officials in our country are serving as carriers of Hawala dealers operating from Delhi and Dubai for several years;

(b) if so, how many cases have come to light; and

(c) what action has been taken to stop such illegal activities?

Incidence of subsidies in Government expenditure

4707. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of subsidies in Government expenditure has gone up upto 9.5 per cent in 2002-2003 from 7.4 per cent in 1994-95 to 1996-97 and this has contributed to lower capital expenditure and consequent lower investment rate in the economy; and

(b) if so, what are the short-term and long-term strategies being thought of to gradually reduce the incidence of subsidies and what is the perspective planning to bring it to zero level in foreseeable future?

Extension of relief to farmers by banks

4708. DR. DASARI NARAYANARAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI had recently advised all commercial banks to extend additional relief to the farmers

affected by drought in the districts notified as drought affected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the banks particularly public sector banks extended the desired additional relief; and

(d) if so, the details of relief provided by each Bank, State-wise and district-wise which were drought affected?

World Bank loan to Andhra Pradesh

4709. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank plan to give \$ 2 billion to various projects this year of which \$150 million will go to Andhra Pradesh for poverty reduction schemes;

(b) if so, what are the other projects proposed to be undertaken this year with this World Bank fund; and

(c) what are the terms and conditions of the grant of funds of \$2 billion by World Bank?

Banks lending to rural industries

4710. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently asked banks to reorient their policies to ensure more lending to the rural industries;

(b) if so, whether the banks in rural areas are still reluctant in providing loans to rural industries and to the people living in rural areas;

(c) if so, whether any strategy are to be adopted to make the loans to the rural people without any hurdles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Excise duty on grey clothes

†4711. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for imposing 10 per cent excise duty on the grey clothes manufactured in power loom industry under the 'CENVAT';

(b) the complaints received by the Central Government against the said duty and action taken on these complaints;

(c) whether Government propose to remove the duty in view of the strong protest by the powerloom industry; and

(d) to what extent powerloom industry would be affected by the implementation of the said duty?

Excise duty on powerloom products

4712. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Silk Weavers Federation have given call for a Statewide strike for indefinite period till the withdrawal of 10 per cent excise duty on power loom products;

(b) whether Government have received any representation or have met any representatives from Karnataka in the matter; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to meet the demands of the silk weavers of the State?

GDP on agriculture

4713. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of GDP on agriculture

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

during the Ninth Five Year Plan of the country's total GDP;

(b) what is the contribution of agriculture in the country's GDP;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to increase investment in agriculture in future; and

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

Non plan expenditure

4714. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spend on non plan expenditure during the current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the expenditure on this head is gradually increasing;

(c) if so, the details of the increase during the last three years;

(d) whether it is a fact that revenue on capital side is also being used to finance non plan expenditure; and

(e) what steps are being taken to minimise non plan expenses?

Pending applications in National Committee under Section 35AC

4715. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases for Income Tax Exemption under Section 35AC is pending with the National Committee for more than six to eight months;

(b) if so, the number of such cases pending State-wise and the period of pendency from the date of submission of the cases; and

(c) what steps are being taken to clear the applications in time?

Decline in collection of LIC

4716. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during first 10 months of last financial year, the Life Insurance Corporation witnessed a drastic fall in its premium income in comparison to the same period in the previous year;

(b) if so, extent of impact of private insurance players on LIC; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to protect the interests of LIC after entry of private insurance players?

Sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel

4717. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to treat sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to Air India and Indian Airlines for international operations as deemed export;

(b) if so, the likely loss of revenue to States on this account as due to it, the ATF will be free from levy of Sales Tax; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to compensate losses to States on account of Sales Tax?

Corruption charges against MD of Oriental Bank of Commerce

4718. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several senior officials of the banks have been charge-sheeted by the CBI recently on corruption charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chairman and Managing Director of Oriental Bank of Commerce has been appointed with the concurrence of RBI and charges of corruption against him have not been proved or investigated by the CBI; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to hand over the case to the CBI instead of having the concurrence of RBI, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Daily collection scheme of NBFCs

4719. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some major non-banking financial companies and residuary non banking companies have started a scheme of daily collection from the investors;

(b) if so, the name of the companies; and

(c) how these companies have been permitted to adopt the scheme which specifically belong to the banking sector?

Violation of rules of BIFR by banks

4720. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick companies under rehabilitation;

(b) what steps are being taken to revive potential sick companies as per the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR;

(c) whether Government are aware that M/s. Sri Rayalaseema Paper Mills Limited was taken over by a promoter as per the schemes sanctioned by BIFR;

(d) whether Government are aware that the banks have not obeyed the order of

BIFR resulting in closure of the company; and

(e) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to direct the concerned banks to strictly follow the orders of BIFR in the matter?

Single window service system for banks

4721. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the efforts being made by Government to computerise some major branches of the PSU banks the 'Single window service system' is still awaited in those branches which has resulted in rush in some particular counters and wastage of valuable time of the customers;

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

(c) by when, the 'Single window service system' is likely to be made effective in all the branches of PSU banks?

Review of Cooperative banks in Rajasthan

4722. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the working of the Co-operative banks functioning in Rajasthan in view of large number of cases of frauds unearthed recently;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been inordinate delay in framing charges on those frauds; and

(d) the details of frauds detected framing charges and prosecution in each case during the last three years?

Income tax refunds

4723. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system in the Ministry of Finance to issue income tax refunds in a time-bound manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what kind of modern tax administration the Ministry is thinking of introducing in the country for a hassle-free tax returns and other services;

(d) whether the Ministry is thinking of engaging private agencies in process of tax returns, etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Loan received from foreign countries

†4724. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan obtained by Government from various countries as on March 31, 2003, country-wise;

(b) the amount of loans paid off as on March 31, 2003, country-wise along with the interest paid thereon;

(c) whether loans obtained from some countries are lying unutilized;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and project-wise;

(e) the amount paid by Government as guarantee money on this; and

(f) the action taken against the States by Government for not utilizing the loan?

Direct loans to States from international financial institutions

†4725. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow State Governments to receive loan/assistance from international financial institutions directly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Asian Development Bank has now started the process of giving loans to the States directly; and

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

Redemption of UTI schemes

4726. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India has decided to redeem its N.I.P. schemes ahead of their maturity;

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

(c) whether the children growth scheme which is scheduled to mature beyond 2015 AD is also included in the list of foreclosures and whether full benefits will be given to the investors in case of early redemption?

Complaints of credit card holders

4727. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a US Consumer Court has ruled that Visa and Master Card should refund atleast \$ 500 million for poor disclosure of fees to card holders using such cards overseas;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether this ruling will compensate the card holders who have paid excess currency conversion fee and surcharge since 1996;

(c) whether there have been persistent complaints from credit card holders in India about clandestine accounting procedures adopted by credit card companies/banks; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect the interest of credit card holders?

Cadre management of IES

4728. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from January, 2003 till date regarding the cadre management of the Indian Economic Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government?

Collapse in joint ventures

4729. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Joint Ventures proposals received and cleared by FIPB during the last three years, year-wise, and sector-wise with FDI inflow;

(b) whether it is a fact that most JVs have collapsed or that MNCs now prefer setting up wholly owned subsidiary;

(c) if so, the details of JVs which have wound up and proposals received for setting up wholly owned subsidiary during the last three years, sector-wise;

(d) whether this trend is attributed to economic slow down and removal of FDI caps in most sectors by Government; and

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

FDI in Andhra Pradesh

4730. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), the Foreign Direct Investment in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last one year attracted Rs. 8000 crore of investment;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the main sectors in which the FDI has been received during the last one year?

Swaping of high cost debt

4731. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has drawn up a schedule to swap high cost debt to low cost debt to the tune of Rs. 30-40 thousand crores in the first quarter of 2003-2004; and

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

Corporate Debt Restructuring

4732. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new rules issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR);

(b) whether the CDR mechanism has been working efficiently; and

(c) how many CDR proposals have been finalised since the inception of the schemes?

Enhancement of crude oil reserves

4733. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any new plan to boost crude oil reserves to 45 days from the current storage capacity of 19 days to meet contingencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Explosion of LPG cylinders

4734. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not been able to get safe LPG cylinders designed in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to get safety experts or industrial designers to collaborate and ensure that leakages do not arise;

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that LPG cylinders do not explode;

(d) whether any compensation is paid by oil companies for such accidents in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Petrol pumps in tribal Districts

†4735. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no proper facility for petrol and diesel pumps is available in tribal Districts in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) whether petrol pumps are available in certain selected cities only whereas tribal people live in remote areas;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up petrol pumps in these remote areas under the consideration of Government and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Natural gas Processing Centres in Gujarat

4736. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural gas is being processed for production of LPG Vaghodia and Gandhar in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to provide LPG through pipelines in the nearby areas of these processing Centres in the State; and

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

Oil field near Bassein Gasfield off Mumbai

4737. SHRI R. P. GOENKA:

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has recently struck a major off-shore oil field near the Bassein gasfield off Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to integrate a number of recent small discoveries with the existing major facilities to make them commercially viable?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Mixing of Naptha with Petrol

†4738. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1319 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 2003 and state:

(a) whether there is a ban on the mixing of Naptha with Petrol in many places in other countries; and

(b) if so, the basis on which permission for mixing has been given by Government?

Supply of gas by British Petroleum

4739. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Petroleum has offered supply of gas to India at affordable prices of \$ 3.00 per mmbtu for power plants;

(b) if so, whether the British Petroleum will be sourcing its supplies from Iran; and

(c) whether India has considered the offer in view of the on-going disputes between British Petroleum and ONGC/Reliance for operational control of Panna Mukta and Rawa fields?

ONGC's investment in oil recovery

4740. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exploration firm ONGC has decided to invest Rs. 12,000 crores in improving oil recovery from the existing fields in the next four to five years;

(b) if so, whether any concrete

(c) if so, the details of the same;

(d) by when they are likely to be implemented; and

(e) the latest position of improving the exploration fields?

Acquisition of Sudan oil fields

4741. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
SHRI K. B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether India has tied up with Sudan through acquisition of stakes in its oil field to secure its future crude requirements;

(b) whether India is also exploring to acquire the share in Sudanese crude supplies held by CNPC of China and Petronas of Singapore; and

(c) if so, the cumulative investment envisaged for all the above deals and to what extent these will take care of India's future crude requirements?

Crude oil price in international market

†4742. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether heavy fluctuation in the crude oil prices in the international market was noted from time to time during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002;

(b) if so, the minimum and maximum price of the crude oil in the international market during each of the said years

(c) the names of the months of each of the said years during which these prices remained effective and for how many days?

Price of imported crude oil

†4743. 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 the crude oil was imported at different prices in the country during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03;

(b) if so, the quantum of the crude oil imported every month during each of the said years and at what prices; and

(c) the names of the institutions by which the said import was made?

Production capacity of refineries

†4744. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether Government have periodically inquired the utilization of production capacity to assess the efficiency of oil refineries in public sector;

(b) if so, the number of oil refineries working during the year 2002-03;

(c) the names of oil refineries whose utilization of production capacity has been inquired; and

(d) the quantity of petrol, diesel, natural gas, naphtha, kerosene and other items produced from 10 tons of crude oil as per this inquiry?

Invitation to India for TAP Project

4745. SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

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

(a) whether India has been invited to join the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project (TAP Project);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Allotment of petrol pumps to dependants of police personnel

4746. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether there is a scheme for allotting petrol pumps, LPG and kerosene depots to dependants of deceased police and other agencies' personnel who have lost their lives while serving the country;

(b) if so, the details of such scheme and the number of allotments made to families of such deceased in the last three years;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government plan to include them in the same scheme as offered to deceased Army personnel since they have also laid down their lives serving the country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Processing cost of petrol and diesel

†4747. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether any assessment has been made by Government regarding the processing cost for the production of petrol and diesel from crude oil;

(b) if so, the average processing cost in the public sector companies separately; and

(c) the said estimated processing cost in the private companies?

Prices of petroleum products

†4748. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether consumer sale prices for diesel, petrol, naphtha, fuel oil, kerosene, LPG, etc. have been increased and decreased several times in the country between 1st April, 2002 to 16th April, 2003;

(b) if so, the dates on which these prices were increased and decreased along with the prices of each of the said items fixed at that time; and

(c) the price of the crude oil assessed in the international market for the fixation of the consumer sale prices?

Cancellation of agencies in J and K

4749. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of petrol pumps and LPG agencies were cancelled in the

country in general and J and K in particular during the last three years;

(b) the charges on which these petrol pumps and LPG agencies were cancelled; and

(c) the number of petrol pumps and LPG agencies which have been restored after cancellation during the above period with the details thereof?

Private oil refinery in J and K

4750. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to allow private sectors to set up oil refineries in the country including J and K State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

LPG agencies in Uttaranchal

†4751. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas agencies working in the Uttaranchal along with the district-wise location thereof;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal for opening more gas agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Supply of petroleum products from Vizag refinery

4752. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petroleum products being made available to Andhra Pradesh by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Vizag refinery of HPCL at present on monthly basis, product-wise;

(b) the other sources supplying petroleum products to the State, source-wise and product-wise; and

(c) what will happen to the supplies of HPCL to the State after the disinvestment of HPCL?

Exploration of gas reserves in Gujarat coast

4753. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Industries has found a gas reserves in Gulf of Cambay of Gujarat Coast;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of gas/petroleum reserves found there; and

(c) by when the commercial production in this area is expected?

CNG shortage in Delhi

4754. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of CNG in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof regarding supply and consumption;

(c) whether a large number of buses and autos are seen waiting in queue for gas near the petrol pumps from 6 to 12 hours on both sides of roads thus hampering the smooth flow of traffic; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to meet the shortage?

CNG station on National Highways

4755. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to set up a chain of CNG stations along the National Highways to facilitate CNG motorists without switching to petrol or diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have also shown interest in setting up of CNG stations along NHs; and

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

Short supply of Ethanol

4756. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been short supply of Ethanol in the country during the last two months;

(b) whether Government have postponed the deadline for supply of Ethanol-doped petrol in several states; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Exploitation of gas and oil in M.P. and Chhattisgarh

†4757. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps for exploitation of gas and oil reserves in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on the basis of reports of bio-scientific surveys, etc.; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred on the same and by when success is likely to be achieved in this regard?

Reduction of BPCL equity in NRL

4758. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the equity of BPCL in NRL, Assam will be reduced or withdrawn after the disinvestment;

(b) what will be the fate of NRL's PSU status after withdrawal or reduction; and

(c) whether the equity stake of oil India will be increased in NRL to make it viable in future?

IOC's marketing activities

4759. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has received representations protesting against their establishment of petrol outlets next to the outlets of other Oil PSUs;

(b) what is the objective of such marketing tactics by Indian Oil Corporation;

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation is doing such kind of marketing activity in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether Indian Oil Corporation will review such aggressive tactics against other PSUs in the field; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to review such tactics of Indian Oil Corporation in East Godavari district?

Inclusion of oil and gas in GATS of WTO

4760. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has suggested that India should ask for inclusion of the oil and natural gas sector as an independent classification under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) at the ongoing World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations; and

(b) if so, in what manner this would help the oil and natural gas sector?

LPG requirement of AP

4761. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly requirement of LPG in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what is the LPG bottling capacity of the State, Oil Company-wise;

(c) whether bottling capacity in the State fulfils the demand of the State; and

(d) if not, what alternative arrangements are being made to meet the full demand in the State?

Excess handling capacity at Demulgaon

4762. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC created excess handling capacity at Demulgaon in 1999;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether the existing facilities are sufficient for handling even its future production; and

(d) if so, the justification for making unnecessary expenditure?

Handing over of protected monuments and heritage sites to private agencies in Rajasthan

4763. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial allocations made to Rajasthan and other States for the preservation of protected monuments and heritage sites for the current financial year 2002-03 has been properly utilised;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for non-utilisation of the funds;

(d) whether Govt. propose to hand over these sites to private agencies on sponsored basis for the maintenance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

Protection to tourists

†4764. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in a small country like Thailand, safety and protection has been provided by the Government of that country to tourists;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any concrete steps to follow such policy to encourage tourism industry in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Soft loans by Japan for conservation of cultural heritage and tourism

4765. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has agreed to extend a major package of official development assistance to India in form of soft loans for seven projects in preservation of environment and conservation of cultural heritage and tourism;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) whether any details of the projects relating to tourism has been finalised; and

(d) if so, the total amount provided and the steps taken to implement them?

Historical and cultural sites

†4766. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that old historical and cultural sites in the country are maintained by 'AST';

(b) if so, the total number thereof;

(c) whether some of these sites have also been opened for worship;

(d) if so, the number of such sites in which worship has been allowed; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

New tourism projects in Rajasthan

4767. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any proposal from Rajasthan State Government to provide 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 there are any new tourism projects that have been approved by Government in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Removal of ship 'River Princess'

4768. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of orders being issued to owners to remove their ship River Princess by the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, it has still not been moved from its present location; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take now to ensure the complete and immediate removal of the said ship?

Slice of history at India Gate

4769. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to recreate a slice of history at India Gate for tourists coming from Britain and other European countries;

(b) whether the tourists are proposed

to be treated in Raj style; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Clearance to pending tourism projects of Assam

4770. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourism project undertaken by Government in the State of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the number of projects pending with the Union Government; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to clear and approve the above projects?

List of historical places in Maharashtra

4771. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of historical places under preservation by the Archaeological Survey of India in Maharashtra and the amount being spent thereon annually;

(b) whether excavation is going on to find out other places of historical importance there and if so, the details thereof and the amount spent thereon; and

(c) the names of cities/locations which have been added in the lists of historical places during the last three years?

Eco-tourism at Majuli Island

4772. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the implementation status of the Shilpagram projects at Guwahati showing

total outlay, allocation made, target set and implementing agency finalized; and

(b) the implementation status and Eco-Tourism resort project at Majuli Island showing total outlay, allocation made, target set and implementing agency finalized?

Rural tourism in Assam

4773. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the actual amount of money for the River Front Development along Brahmaputra and Development of Ethnic village at Bhalukpong during the year 2002-2003; and

(b) the projects for rural tourism in Assam other than Phumen Ingti?

Low budget tourists to India

4774. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who came to the country in 2002-2003;

(b) the State-wise break-up if any, where such tourists went;

(c) whether it is a fact that the majority of foreign tourists are low-budget tourists; and

(d) whether there is any effort to attract economically well off tourists to the country?

Legislation for protection of tourists

†4775. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any legislation has been

finalized for safety of tourists and providing other kind of protection to them in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

New tourism development projects for Orissa

4776. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourism development projects taken up in the State of Orissa with Central assistance during the last three years;

(b) the amount of Central assistance released for those projects and actual amount spent on these projects during these years;

(c) whether any new tourism development project have been proposed to be taken up in that State in 2003-2004; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Investment in travel and tourism sector

4777. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited International entrepreneurs to invest in travel and tourism in view of vast opportunities and Government priority to developing the multicore sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Chain of Science cities

4778. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a chain of science cities in different parts of the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof including cities to be selected and developed initially together with the funding pattern; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh had proposed years back that a science city be set up in Hyderabad similar to one functioning in Kolkata and if so, Government's response thereto?

Supply of water to Delhi by Haryana

4779. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi is not being supplied full quota of water by the Government of Haryana as per the directive of the Hon'ble Supreme Court;

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

(c) whether the water supplied by Haryana has been found highly contaminated laced with ammonia and industrial waste; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure supply of full quota of quality water of approved quality is released to Delhi by Haryana?

Imbalance of water

4780. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of the prohibitive cost and long gestation period, river linking project has not yet been cleared; and

(b) the steps proposed to re-orient water management policy linking it with the poverty alleviation programme to save regional imbalance of water?

Tribunal for sharing Krishna waters

4781. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a petition to the Centre for constituting a Tribunal on sharing of Krishna waters;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government on this request?

Per capita availability of water

4782. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations has lately prepared the first ever World Water Development Report;

(b) if so, whether India despite its rich river water resources ranks 120th of the 122 countries in terms of water quality and 133rd among 180 in terms of water availability;

(c) what is the per capita availability of water in India, State-wise, and the highest and lowest per capita availability in any country; and

(d) what steps are taken to increase per capita availability and quality of water?

**Prevention of flood in Assam due to
Brahmaputra River**

4783. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed to prevent frequent flooding in the State of Assam due to Brahmaputra River;

(b) whether Government are aware of the loss to the farmers and common people due to flood in the State during the last two decades; and

(c) whether any concrete proposals have been formulated in this regard, if so, the details there of?

Save water campaign

4784. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the World Water Day on 22nd March, 2003, the people's movement for water conservation has been intensified in Madhya Pradesh and other States;

(b) if so, whether under this campaign, people in every village and town would be encouraged to contribute voluntary labour for water conservation till March, 28;

(c) if so, the names of the States where this campaign had taken place;

(d) whether this save water campaign which was launched in 2001 still continues in 2003 also;

(e) if so, the programme initiated by these States; and

(f) to what extent it has been helpful?

**Funds allocated for rain water
harvesting in Rajasthan**

4785. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided funds to State Governments for development of rain water harvesting schemes in their States;

(b) if so, the amount of funds allocated to Rajasthan in the year 2001-2002 and the funds approved for 2002-2003; and

(c) the number of rain water harvesting schemes of Rajasthan approved by Government for the year 2002-2003?

Water scarcity

4786. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisations has pointed out that although there was no global water crisis, there were serious water and food security problems in some developing countries;

(b) if so, whether in the report, India also has been considered as one of the scarcity threat of water nation;

(c) if so, the main reasons mentioned in the report;

(d) the other countries where shortage of water will continue; and

(e) what steps are being taken to meet the water scarcity in the coming years?

Contaminated water

†4787. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many harmful chemicals such as arsenic, zinc etc. have been found in water in various parts of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that people are not only falling ill due to the consumption of such contaminated water but they are also suffering from other fatal diseases; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government for treatment of water in the country?

Middle level irrigation scheme in Uttaranchal

4788. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide adequate financial aid to Uttaranchal Government for middle level irrigation scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to sanction the said project at the earliest by providing hundred per cent aid for Indira Lift Scheme; and

(c) if so, by when this scheme will be materialized?

Completion of irrigation projects in Orissa

4789. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects in Orissa targeted for completion during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the progress of these projects;

(c) whether all those targeted projects have been completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Clearance of pending irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh

4790. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether major, medium and minor irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh are pending for clearance with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the project-wise reasons for delay in giving clearance?

France offer in the field of water management

4791. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France has recently offered to extend its expertise and technologies to India in the field of water, waste and environment management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that similar expertise has been extended by France in related disciplines for four other research projects already in progress in Chennai and other research Centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, including an evaluation of the projects being implemented?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rehabilitation of displaced persons in M.P., Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra

†4792. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of main dams of the country under construction and expenditure incurred on rehabilitation of the people displaced;

(b) the number of people displaced or being displaced due to construction of such dams along with the number of such displaced people of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra; and

(c) the steps taken for rehabilitation of people affected due to such construction and number of people rehabilitated?

Incomplete irrigation projects

4793. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incomplete irrigation projects in the country;

(b) the amount required for completion of these projects; and

(c) whether Government propose to complete the pending projects, before taking linking of rivers in the country, if not, the reasons therefor?

Financial assistance to Orissa for rain water harvesting

4794. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated measures for rain water harvesting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance has been given to the State of Orissa to promote rain water harvesting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Contaminated ground water in Delhi

4795. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint study conducted by the Central Ground Water Board and the Central Pollution Control Board has brought out that Delhi's ground water contains excessive salinity, nitrate and flourosis, causing extensive damage to the health of the inhabitants of the city; and

(b) if so, the details of short term/long term steps taken to identify the basic causes of the contamination and to ensure supply of clean drinking water to the capital?

Flood prone areas

4796. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise flood prone areas in the country recorded in each plan period from First to Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether dams on the rivers are causing dryness/silting of all river beds thereby causing floods; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 30th April, 2003
Vaisakha 10, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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