

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the July 6, 2004/Asadha 15, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—29

FDI in international airports

29. SHRIMATVANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the policy framed for foreign direct investment in building two international airports in Mumbai and New Delhi;

(b) what are the reasons for protests and *dharnas* by trade unions in this regard; and

(c) the measures proposed for a comprehensive look at all the airports that need to be upgraded?

Upgradation of airports

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

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade those airports which are not upto the standard of world class airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Modernisation of IA fleet

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to modernise Indian Airlines fleet;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines propose to acquire new planes;

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

(d) whether these planes will be acquired on Wet Lease system; and

(e) if so, the details of the financing for the acquisition of new planes?

Privatisation of airports

32. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether Delhi and Mumbai airports are also being considered for privatisation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the airports listed for privatisation together with the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Delhi and Mumbai airports are among the profit making airports in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Airports in the country

33. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in the country;

(b) the average number of passengers these airports handle annually, airport-wise; and

(c) the details of the annual revenue earned by each of the airports during the last three years, year-wise?

International airport in Hyderabad

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

(a) by when Government are going to give fast track clearance to international airport at Hyderabad;

(b) whether it is a fact that the basic issues have since been addressed in the recent concession agreement for Bangalore Airport Project;

(c) whether any specific date has been fixed by which international airport at Hyderabad is going to be cleared; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Institutional credit to farmers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers who committed suicide, mostly borrowed money from money lenders and not from institutional sources;

(b) the action taken for providing institutional credit to small farmers by adopting innovative methods to rescue them from the clutches of money lenders; and

(c) the measures proposed for a big push to public investment in rural areas to assist farmers in getting loan liberally?

Introduction of accounting standards

36. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board proposes to introduce accounting standards for preparation of financial statements to make the Central and State Government's accounts more transparent and user-friendly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Foreign aid to States

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

(a) the details of foreign aid received by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

various States in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the various heads under which foreign aid has been spent by the States and the benefits derived by people of these States;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the States do not utilise the foreign aid under the prescribed head and in targeted period; and

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

Board for payment and settlement systems

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India is in the process of constituting a board for payment and settlement systems;

(b) whether any draft legislation has been forwarded to Government by the Reserve Bank of India;

(c) if so, the salient features of the Bill;

(d) whether the draft has been sent to the Ministry of Law and Justice for its vetting; and

(e) if so, what is the opinion of the Ministry in this regard?

Check on money laundering

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

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has finalised a set of directives for banks to screen customers more stringently to check money laundering activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines/directives are part of the legislation passed last year on money laundering?

Foreign currency convertible bonds

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued guidelines for foreign currency convertible bonds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor?

Market stabilisation bonds

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering to launch market stabilisation bonds during the current fiscal year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh

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

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided by NABARD to Himachal

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) the areas where investment has been made and the extent thereof;

(c) whether there has been a continuous fall in the disbursement of loans under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) by NABARD despite increase in the fund every year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to raise RIDF?

Disinvestment policy

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

(a) whether Government have finalized the disinvestment policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when the new disinvestment policy is likely to be framed?

Foreign exchange reserves

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

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange reserves have swelled to over \$100 billion by the end of year 2003;

(b) if so, how Government propose to utilize this amount at the optimum level;

(c) whether Government would pre-pay outstanding loans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Merger of DFIs

45. SHRIS. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to merge all Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) into one single entity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the advantages of such a merger;

(d) whether any study has been done on this matter; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that trade and industry do not suffer by such mergers?

PAN cards

46. SHRIS. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PAN cards issued in the country as on date by the Income-Tax Department;

(b) whether Government are aware that the possession of a PAN card is bothersome to small income people; and

(c) the steps proposed to reduce harassment of fixed and low income people?

External debt

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

(a) what is the country's external debt at the end of the last financial year, *i.e.* 2003-04; and

(b) what steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken to reduce the external debt?

Tax on petroleum products

†48. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that money is collected through tax on petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of tax and cess collected over basic price on petrol, diesel, gas and kerosene; and

(c) the States where maximum and minimum rates on these products are being realised in the country?

Gas in Krishna Godavari basin

49. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

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

(a) whether ONGC has struck gas in the Krishna Godavari basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when production will start?

Export of diesel to Pakistan

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

(a) whether Government propose to export diesel to Pakistan for betterment of Indo-Pak ties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what route will be used for the export?

Price hike of crude oil in international market

†51. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of the loss suffered by the oil companies due to increase in prices of crude oil in the international market;

(b) if so, the assessment of the amount of loss upto the end of May, 2004; and

(c) the burden passed on by Government on itself, consumers as well as the oil companies in order to recover the loss?

Prices of petroleum products

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

(a) whether prices of petroleum products have been increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have carried out or proposed to carry out any study to reduce the production cost to recover a percentage of subsidy inherent in the selling of petroleum products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what steps are being taken to bring down the prices of petroleum products?

Pipeline between India and Nepal

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

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC is laying

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

a pipeline from India to Nepal to move petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed project;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed by India and Nepal in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the salient aspects of the agreement?

Tourists in India

54. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists, who visited India during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the year 2003 India has received the largest number of tourists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of tourists expected to visit India during 2004?

Promotion of tourism

55. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up major brand building exercise to promote tourism globally that would in turn generate nearly 10 million jobs and support tiny industry;

(b) if so, whether Government have set up an inter-Ministerial group on 1st June, comprising various Ministries to help the tourism industry to develop in a bid to provide additional push to the existing tourism project; and

(c) if so, to what extent this group has been helpful in improving the tourists industry and to improve various facilities in the country?

Irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government propose to assist Andhra Pradesh Government for 11 ongoing irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme; and

(b) if so, the amount to be released therefor and by when?

Project to connect the river

†57. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to consider afresh the project to connect the rivers for proper water management in the country;

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

(c) the action taken by Government on this proposal, so far?

NEW DELHI;
The 30th June, 2004

Asadha 9, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	:	29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34,
Company Affairs	:	—
Finance	:	35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48,
Panchayati Raj	:	—
Petroleum and Natural Gas	:	49, 50, 51, 52, 53,
Tourism	:	54, 55,
Water Resources	:	56, 57.