

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the December 6, 2005/Agrahayana 15, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 155

#### Air connectivity to regional stations

1355. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to have regional stations also connected by the air routes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether one or more cities in Bihar will also come under this scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

#### Audit of Airports Authority of India

1356. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the regular aerodrome audits of Airports Authority of India certifying preparedness levels are done by International Civil Aviation Organisation;
- (b) if so, the details of last three years; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### Transfer of assets of Nagpur Airport

1357. SHRI CHITTABRATA  
MAJUMDAR:  
SHRI DIPANKAR  
MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry is considering transfer of assets of Nagpur Airport to State Government of Maharashtra at nominal cost in lieu of waiver of stamp duty and other taxes applicable to the modernisation of Mumbai Airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, outlining the value of assets of Nagpur Airport and estimated amount of tax exemption, offered by State Government of Maharashtra?

#### Expansion of runway in Tiruchirapally

1358. SHRI SU.  
THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to expand the runway in Tiruchirapally, Madurai and Coimbatore Airports;

(b) how many flights are operated in the said Airports; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to operate Indian Airlines flights from Chennai to Tiruchirapally?

**Air connectivity to Bodhgaya**

1359. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has made a request for routing of the Delhi-Bhubaneswar flight through Varanasi or Bodhgaya to help the Buddhist tourists to visit Orissa, which is a heritage centre of Buddhist tourism; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal and the time-frame within which it would be sanctioned to boost tourism of the State?

**Agencies involved in completion of Bangalore International Airport Project**

1360. SHRIMATI MOHSINA  
KIDWAI:  
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a deadline of 2008 for the completion of Bangalore International Airport has been stipulated by Government;

(b) if so, whether it would be possible to raise this massive infrastructure in the stipulated time especially when the existing airport handles only half a dozen flights a day, witnesses long queues of passengers and improper functioning of the conveyor belts;

(c) whether any specific agency or

consortium of agencies has been identified to under-take this job within the stipulated period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Survey of facilities at airports**

1361. DR. KARAN SINGH:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey rating conducted for his Ministry has revealed that both of India's premier airports of Delhi and Mumbai fell even below average for Asian airports;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has engaged an agency of International Air Transport System for survey;

(c) what are the detailed reports in the survey about facilities (availability of trolleys and parking etc.) service delivery, curtesy of airport staff, environmental factors, connectivity and navigation;

(d) whether Government have considered the proposals contained in the survey; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve these services at airports to make it at least at par with Asian airports?

**Privatisation of airports**

1362. SHRI DARA SINGH:  
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to privatise some of the airports in the country;

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

(c) the airports selected for privatization;

(d) the amount likely to be earned from this move; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of the employees likely to be affected by privatization?

#### **Operation of services to Gulf region**

1363. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has proposed to float an airline to operate flights to Gulf region during the year 2005;

(b) if so, the present status and the exemption of rules asked and granted if any;

(c) the steps taken in details to ensure that the travellers to the Gulf region do not face any problem in regard to the availability of seats; and

(d) the details of requests received from various sources for operating to the Gulf region and the decision taken in each case along with reasons for such decision, for the last three years, year-wise and category-wise?

#### **Air-connectivity in North-Eastern Region**

1364. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of air-connectivity in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) the number of flights among the North-Eastern States including the Kolkata airport;

(c) the number of these flights operated by Indian Airlines and by other organizations indicating the detailed break of flights, airlines-wise; and

(d) whether Government propose to increase the air-connectivity in this region?

#### **Development of Greenfield airports in Delhi and Mumbai**

1365. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received recommendation for developing new Greenfield airports in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to set up such airports in many parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Operation of Boeing aircraft**

1366. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Boeing aircraft operates from Kolkata-Silchar in Barak Valley twice a week;

(b) whether it is proposed to handover the sector to private airlines, if the airlines is short of aircrafts;

(c) whether it is a fact that fare reduction in air operation is given to other States of the country except North-Eastern States; and

(d) if so, what is the reason for such disparity?

#### **Expansion of Delhi airport**

1367. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to expand the Delhi airport;

(b) whether this would solve the problem of congestion at the airport; and

(c) how would Government tackle the problem of fog this winter and what steps the Ministry has taken to meet this problem this year?

#### **Aviation University at Madurai**

1368. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for setting up an Aviation University at Madurai, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the University would impart training to pilots, engineers, air traffic control personnel and in disciplines linked with aviation;

(d) if so, whether this subject was discussed at a recent meeting between Planning Commission and US Secretary of Transport;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when this University is likely to be set up?

#### **Handling of aircrafts at Delhi and Mumbai**

1369. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi and

Mumbai accounts for about 70 per cent of local air traffic; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that these two airports can handle only about 30 aircrafts an hour, compared with the global standard of over 75?

#### **Regional air services by IA**

1370. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is looking for regional flights in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, U.P. and Karnataka in collaboration with the respective States; and

(b) if so, what is the response of the State Governments for operating regional flights by Indian Airlines with their collaboration?

#### **Growth rate of air passengers at Madurai airport**

1371. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the growth rate of air passengers at Madurai airport;

(b) what new facilities have been provided at Madurai airport for the benefit of the passengers; and

(c) what is the stage of expansions proposed at Madurai airport?

#### **Decongestion of passenger/cargo traffic at Madurai airport**

1372. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unused airport at

Vagaikulam near Tuticorin will be put to use in order to decongest the passenger and cargo traffic at Madurai airport; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to start reusing the Salem air strip in Tamil Nadu?

#### **Improvement of infrastructure of Indian Airlines**

1373. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how does Indian Airlines compare with private airlines in India and Air India with other international airways in terms of safety, cost effectiveness, technology and service;

(b) what are the major hurdles for Indian Airlines to match with other airlines;

(c) whether it is a system failure or human failure or both; and

(d) what are the major steps proposed or taken to improve in terms of infrastructure, manpower and management?

#### **Merger of IA with AI**

1374. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the merger of the Indian Airlines with Air India;

(b) if so, what is the basis of the proposal and what are the expected advantages;

(c) whether Government have consulted the trade unions and employees associations on this matter; and

(d) if so, what is their opinion?

#### **Mountain airlines for North-Eastern Region**

1375. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been mooted to establish a mountain airlines to cater to the specific needs of the North-Eastern Region which is always susceptible to vagaries of the weather;

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

(c) the details of plans drawn up, if any, to acquire suitable planes and also to create or upgrade the existing infrastructural facilities required for providing dependable air travel facilities in the ever changing weather conditions of North-East?

#### **Wastage of fuel**

†1376. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the number of times aeroplanes had to keep flying in air waiting for landing due to non-availability of space on runway since 1st January, 2005 and the amount spent on wastage of fuel due to this reason?

#### **Expansion of air services to Gujarat**

1377. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Indian Airlines, Mumbai-Rajkot flights are discontinued;

(b) the reasons for closing down Mumbai-Bhuj and Mumbai-Bhavnagar flights also;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that demand to start Rajkot-Surat-Delhi flight was made in the past; and

(d) whether Government are considering to introduce such flights in Gujarat connecting Porbandar-Rajkot, Bhavnagar to Mumbai and Delhi?

#### **Contracts for snack bar at airports**

1378. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for awarding contracts for snack bar outlets in Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi;

(b) the competent authority for fixing rates for snacks etc.;

(c) whether Government are aware that the rates of standard items are sold at double the rates at these outlets;

(d) whether it is a fact that these outlets do not display rate list at the counters; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

#### **New air services in Rajasthan**

1379. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals to start new air services to certain tourist destinations in Rajasthan (like Chittor, Nathdwara, Ajmer etc.) where no air services are available; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when such new air services would start?

#### **Increase in civil air traffic**

1380. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a substantial

increase in civil air traffic in the country during the period 2001-2005;

(b) if so, the details of the increase reflected at major airports and the projected air traffic during the next five year, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the infrastructural demands at the major airports for handling the air traffic?

#### **Revamping of Hyderabad airport**

1381. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the proposal to revamp Hyderabad airport;

(b) the steps taken by Government in this connection so far; and

(c) whether funds have been allocated for this project?

#### **Expansion of air services from Hyderabad**

1382. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce more direct flights from Hyderabad to Delhi and other major cities to tide over the ever increasing demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Cancellation of flights due to fog**

1383. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many flights are cancelled or rescheduled due to fog every year which causes huge losses to revenue; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to see that flights are operated normally?

#### **Rescheduling of flights due to fog**

1384. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether international airlines have decided to fly only during day time during the ensuing winter season in the capital;

(b) if so, the details of such international airlines in this regard;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to remove the fog from the IGI airport to avoid fog related delays and cancellation; and

(d) what facilities shall be provided to the passengers in case of delay or cancellation of the flights?

#### **Hike in domestic airfares**

1385. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic airfares were hiked during early November, 2005 without any reason or rationale, just to exploit the surge in Diwali demand; and

(b) whether the price of Aviation Turbine Fuel has come down by about 3 per cent in the same period and if so, why the airlines are not passing on the benefit to the customers?

#### **Recovery of Government dues from private airlines**

†1386. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether private airlines operating

on domestic routes have to pay certain amounts due to Government;

(b) if so, the number of such airlines along with the amounts due on them and since when; and

(c) the steps taken for the recovery of these dues along with the steps to be taken in future to deposit these dues to various Government authorities at the earliest?

#### **Funds for acquisition of aircrafts**

1387. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India propose to raise finance for the acquisition of aircrafts of its fleet without Government guarantee going into the money market; and

(b) if so, what is total amount of money Air India propose to raise through the market for purchase of aircrafts?

#### **New airport at Jaipur**

1388. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a proposal has been formulated to establish a new international standard airport near Jaipur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the locations, identified for the new airport, and its present status?

#### **Sweeping changes in Company Law**

1389. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that J. J. Irani Committee has recommended that one

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

third of the Directors on the Board of Listed Companies should be independent Directors;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Committee has *inter-alia* recommended for sweeping changes in the Company Law to make it simpler and provide single window clearance mechanism for mergers; and

(c) what are the other major recommendations made by the Committee?

#### **MNCs offices in Bangalore**

1390. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many MNCs including foreign companies have set up their offices in Bangalore during the last three years;

(b) whether these MNCs ever approached Government asking for some facilities/concessions for setting up their business conveniently;

(c) what facilities/concessions have been extended to them in this regard so far;

(d) whether these companies have expressed their satisfaction with whatever Government have done to help them in the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Action against vanishing companies**

1391. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are targeting vanishing companies;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) what is the number of such companies and what is the magnitude of this scam, alongwith details;

(d) whether Government propose to devise any system to prevent such frauds;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Serious Frauds Office for malpractices by companies**

1392. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a serious Frauds Office functioning in the Ministry to investigate the serious frauds/malpractices indulged/committed by private companies;

(b) if so, the details of the functions of this office and since when it is functioning;

(c) the number and details of cases taken-up/came to notice and the number and details of cases investigated and action taken since it became functional, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether the Ministry are satisfied with the functioning of this office; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken thereon?

#### **Duping of investors by companies**

1393. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about 250 companies tapped the capital market during the public issue boom



between 1993-94 and 1994-95 and duped investors of their money and the amount involved being Rs. 1400 crores from their Initial Public Offers;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to identify such companies; and

(c) how many investors have filed claims to get their money back and how many have actually been refunded the money?

#### **Revamping of Serious Fraud Investigation Office**

1394. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the work done by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) attached to his Ministry during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government are considering a proposal to revamp the working of SFIO and to tone-up its work culture and mythology so as to make it more result oriented; and

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

#### **Closure of Co-operative Banks**

1395. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Co-operative Banks in the country have become unviable and defunct, mostly owing to mismanagement;

(b) if so, details of such banks that have gone burst during the last three years, with details of affected clients, total deposits

and the amount compensated, year-wise, bank-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether RBI, through the 'Depositors Credit Insurance and Guarantee Corporation' compensates the clients of defaulting Co-operative Banks; and

(d) if so, the amount disbursed on this account through this organisation during the last three years, year-wise, bank-wise and State-wise, with special reference to Gujarat?

#### **Funding of mega projects**

1396. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to give adequate representation in the proposed India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited for funding mega projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Investment of black money in urban/ semi-urban property**

1397. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that after recent anti-corruption drive at high places there are large chunks of unaccounted black money invested in urban or semi-urban property, share market as well as in gold;

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

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to unearth black money and assets in various parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Strike by banks**

1398. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:  
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of banks observed one day strike on 29th September, 2005;

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

(c) whether a proper notice to go on strike was given by the Unions;

(d) if so, the action taken to avert the strike, and if the strike was illegal, the action taken against the striking employees; and

(e) the loss suffered by banks due to strike?

**Impact of price hike on Wholesale Price Index**

†1399. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:  
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the statement of the member of Planning Commission and Chairman of Committee on Review of Wholesale Price Index, that with the increase in prices of petroleum products in the first week of September, 2005, there will be increase in inflation on the basis of 1.5 per cent Wholesale Price Index;

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

(c) the effect of the above price hike on the Wholesale Price Index on the basis of the estimation made by Government?

**Merger of Banks**

1400. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any direction/proposal to be followed for merger of banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Reserve Bank of India was approached for merger of Federal Bank and Lord Krishna Bank;

(d) if so, the details including the decision taken/to be taken on the above proposal; and

(e) the details of proposals if any and decision taken/to be taken for the merger of PSU banks till date, category-wise?

**Housing loans to persons below poverty line**

†1401. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any outlines of a special scheme for providing loans for housing to the people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the loan disbursed to poor people by the banks during the last three years till date;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto; and

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises**

1402. SHRI SANTOSH  
BAGRODIA:  
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA  
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provisions of the recent policy package for stepping up credit to Small and Medium Enterprises sector enforceable;

(b) whether the said provisions are applicable for private sector banks too;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to bring the private banks under the purview of the policy packages?

**Joint study group with Russia**

1403. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an attempt to further strengthen relationship, India and Russia will set up a joint study group to explore possibilities of a comprehensive economic co-operation agreement;

(b) if so, whether while identifying banking and technology sectors as drivers of bilateral relationship with Russia, there was a need to ensure that issues of business visas did not hamper growth;

(c) whether bilateral trade between India and Russia stands at \$ 3.15 billion and is not commensurate with level of political engagements between the two countries; and

(d) if so, what are the other steps considered to be taken to strengthen economic ties?

**Amendment of IRDA Act**

1404. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI  
BARUPAL:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high power panel under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has recommended for reaching reforms in insurance sector, including a different capital requirement for health and farm insurers;

(b) if so, whether a full report of IRDA panel headed by KP Narasimhan has suggested that section 6 of Insurance Act of 1956 needs to be amended for providing different levels of capital for certain classes of business such as agriculture and health insurance;

(c) if so, the main features of the report; and

(d) whether Government have considered them and if so, the steps being taken to implement them?

**Aid from Asian Development Bank**

1405. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank is ready to double its aid package to more than \$ 2.5 billion annually to the country within next three years and also support

Bharat Nirman and other infrastructure projects in various key sectors such as energy including power, rail freight corridor, roads and highways as also airways;

(b) if so, the total aid to be provided by ADB in all these sectors;

(c) whether any agreements between ADB and respective Ministries have been reached;

(d) if so, what is total amount to be provided for each project; and

(e) what is the progress so far made in completing these projects?

**Special Purpose Vehicle to fund infrastructure sector**

1406. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether decision has been taken to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle to fund infrastructure sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the detailed objectives of this scheme alongwith the nature of projects for which investment would be made through the SPV;

(d) whether funding by SPV is restricted to the public sector projects; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Loss of job due to merger of banks**

1407. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

have ruled out any loss of job due to impending merger of Public Sector Banks;

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

(c) whether Government propose to issue a directive to the banks in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Rise in Sensex**

1408. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sensex rose rapidly to cross 8500 mark during the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) wheher it is also a fact that spurt in Sensex is due to large scale investment by foreign investors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the initiative taken by Government to keep a watch on the situation and its impact on social aspects of economy?

**Recovery of NPAs**

1409. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of NPA of Public Sector Banks, as on the 1st October, 2005;

(b) how much amount of NPA has been recovered from the defaulters since May, 2004;

(c) what steps Government propose to take for the speedy recovery of NPA of the Public Sector Banks; and

(d) what is the number of recovery cases pending before the tribunals?

**Disinvestment of equity in profit making PSUs**

1410. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN:  
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:  
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to disinvest a small portion of equity in profit making Public Sector Enterprises other the Navaratnas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have received objections to the said proposal from various trade unions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Waiver of loans of the States**

†1411. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount taken as loan by various State Governments from Central Government;

(b) whether the Central Government have any proposal to write-off the loans of States;

(c) whether Government have any proposal for taking measures with regard to some other financial reforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Rise in repo-rates**

1412. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent on the rise in Repo-rates, bank rates under various schemes, including housing loan and self-employment loan rates under PM's Self Employment Scheme, have also been raised, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how far the rates of interest payable for small savings and fixed deposits have been raised in the light thereof?

**Control over black money**

†1413. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any policy to check black money and assets made out of it in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the bureaucrats, technocrats of Government and contractors working in Government Departments provide the details regarding their property prior to the commencement of their service;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether more strictness would be imposed in order to check the growth of black money?

**Loans to SSI and Agriculture**

1414. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the loans disbursed by banks, particularly, Nationalised Banks to various sectors, including SSI, Agriculture and Corporates, and interest rate levied thereon

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

during the last three years, year-wise, bank-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that while interest charged to SSI and Agriculture sectors is in excess of the Prime Lending Rate, it is sub-PLR in favour of corporate customers;

(c) if so, details with recovery status during the last three years, year-wise, bank-wise and sector-wise;

(d) whether credit policy is being reformed to favour SSI and agriculture sectors; and

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

#### **Lowering of excise duty on petroleum products**

1415. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to lower the excise and tax on petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for high cost of final petroleum products in the country compared to other countries; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to minimise the cost of petroleum products?

#### **Investment of pension funds**

1416. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision about investment of pension funds of the Central Government employees;

(b) whether a decision on foreign equity participation has also been taken; and

(c) if so, the details and present status on both the proposals?

#### **Impact of Fringe Benefit Tax on SSI**

1417. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) rules for helping the SSIs;

(b) whether revenue from Fringe Benefit Tax, as on 31st July, 2005 is estimated at Rs. 583 crore, if so, how much of this has come from small scale industries;

(c) whether Government have been evaluating the impact on FBT of small scale industries;

(d) what measures Government have taken to spread the information about the complex rules of the FBT to SSIs; and

(e) whether Government propose to simplify the procedure of filing the FBT?

#### **Blocking of yearly contribution of Provident Funds**

1418. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees Provident Fund Organisation has proposed that 40 per cent of the yearly contribution of the Provident Fund should be blocked for release only at the time of retirement or death whichever is earlier; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Unified Tax Regime**

1419. SHRI C. PERUMAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commerce Associations have urged Government to initiate action towards integration of Central Value Added Tax (VAT) and State level VAT; and

(b) whether it is proposed to bring a Unified Tax Regime, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

(c) the decisions taken about M/s J.K. Synthetics of Rajasthan?

#### **States debt burden**

1420. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various State Governments are facing acute financial problems and they are trapped in debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any possibility that interest rate against States borrowings can be slumped upto 5 to 6 per cent; and

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

#### **Interest rate on GPF and PPF**

†1423. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal of giving 9.5 per cent interest rate to Government and non-Government employees on their G.P.F. and P.P.F. as is being given on Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, by when this issue would be considered; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Waives of agricultural loans to farmers**

1421. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to waive/write-off/schedule/restructure the agricultural loans to farmers in view of recent floods in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Revival of M/s J.K. Synthetics**

†1422. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action being taken by Government so far to revive M/s J.K. Synthetics, Kota (Rajasthan);

(b) whether Government have announced any special package for the revival of Central Undertakings; and

#### **Re-establishment of banking ties with Pakistan**

1424. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Banks of India and Pakistan have reached an understanding to re-establish banking ties between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the names of banks that are allowed to open the branches in the two countries and details of the respective policies and licensing norms?

#### **Exemption in tax deduction at source**

†1425. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 27 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th July, 2005 and state:

(a) what are the details of those 'certain

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

conditions' under which provision has also been made in law for exemption in tax deduction at source;

(b) the date by when Government would make available the details after obtaining from concerned Income Tax Offices, in respect of such major hospitals/nursing homes and coaching institutes which have either not deposited the TDS or have not deducted it at all; and

(c) what are the rules to initiate action against the defaulters together with the number of entrepreneurs, major hospitals/nursing homes and coaching institutes against which action has been taken?

#### **Investment in PPF**

1426. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow the Income Tax payers to invest total amount of Rupees One Lakh in the instruments of their choice, including the mutual funds investing in equity;

(b) if so, by when notification to that effect is likely to be issued;

(c) whether, in view of the above position, those investing in PPF would also be allowed to invest upto one lakh in the said fund; and

(d) if not, the reasons for this discrimination?

#### **Tax concessions for Food Processing Industry**

1427. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of Food

Processing Industry met the Prime Minister in September and submitted a memorandum for tax concessions for the industry;

(b) if so, the details of the demands submitted by the delegation; and

(c) the action taken by Government so far thereto/proposed to be taken in the near future?

#### **Fiscal deficit of States**

1428. SHRI B.J. PANDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has expressed concern about the country's financial health and has asked for control over the fiscal deficit of the Centre and States;

(b) what is the current fiscal deficit and what are the reasons of its unabated rise; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to control this deficit both at the Centre and in the States?

#### **Implementation of VAT**

1429. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of States/UTs which have adopted the new system of VAT as recommended by the Empowered Committee;

(b) whether some States/UTs have not so far published the schedule on VAT in leading newspapers; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps being taken in this regard?



**Increase in interest rates on credit**

†1430. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase the interest rates by changing the existing credit and monetary policy for some sectors with a view to control inflation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the sectors in which interest rates on credits are being proposed to be increased?

**Rate of inflation**

†1431. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's target about rate of inflation in terms of percentage, during the financial year 2005-06 and what progress has been made till November, 2005 to contain it at fixed rate; and

(b) whether there is any possibility to achieve this target by Government and if so, the details thereof?

**Slow growth of GDP**

1432. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the projected GDP for the year 2005-06 in view of the fact that GDP during April-June being 8.1 per cent on services and manufacturing output and the inflation being less than 4 per cent;

(b) whether it is a fact that agriculture output which accounts for 1/5 of GDP, grew at 2 per cent in the first quarter;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for slow growth of GDP; and

(d) whether it is attributable to low rate

of rainfall, condition of soil, indifferent attitude of local agricultural officials or inadequate supply of power for agriculture operation?

**Rise in agricultural growth rate**

1433. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the observations of the Hon'ble Prime Minister that if our economy has to grow at seven to eight per cent and if we have to eliminate poverty over the next decade, agriculture too must demonstrate a growth of about four per cent per annum;

(b) if so, whether this direction of the PM would be implemented; and

(c) what is the time-frame for that?

**Committee on outstanding market loan of States**

†1434. SHRI AJAY MAROO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee constituted by the Reserve Bank of India has conducted any study regarding the outstanding market loan of the States;

(b) if so, the amount of loan outstanding to Jharkhand from Central Government and other agencies according to the above study; and

(c) what is the status of payment of these loans?

**Cheque bounce cases in Delhi and Mumbai**

1435. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cheque bounce

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

cases pending in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai at present under the National Instruments Act;

(b) whether the huge pendency is causing considerable delay in the disposal of these cases; and

(c) the steps Government are contemplating to check the huge pendency?

#### **Exclusion of bank officials from purview of CVC**

1436. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to exclude certain categories of bank officers from the purview of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Volcker Report**

1437. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the names of 125 Indian companies figure in the Volcker Report which were involved in oil-for-food programme of UN in Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken a decision to check their Income Tax returns to find out the tax paid by them on the income earned by procuring contract for selling oil under the oil-for-food programme of the UN; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Capital boost to banking sector**

1438. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a White Paper published by a global consulting firm to the effect that Indian Banking Sector will need at least a capital of Rs. 60,000 crores besides several policy changes and more customer focus to achieve 30 per cent annual growth through 2010;

(b) whether the above observation was taken in cognizance by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the actions initiated and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Improvement in functioning of banks**

1439. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any steps to bring improvement in the functioning of Public Sector Banks to match international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereon;

(c) whether it is a fact that Public Sector Banks still lack the best international practices and lag behind the best banks of the world in work ethics and variety of products and services offers; and

(d) if so, the details of the concrete steps proposed to be initiated in this regard?

#### **NPAs of Indian Bank**

1440. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banks like Indian Bank are unable to interact with

debtors and settle NPAs over long periods of time;

(b) to what extent is the lethargy and in-efficiency attributed to poor management skills of Indian Bank;

(c) whether it is also a fact that stagnation and durability of employment and non-transfers at head office of second level management are largely responsible for this state of affairs;

(d) whether Government would appoint a specific desk officer to examine the lack of constructive functioning of Indian Bank in public interest; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed in this regard?

#### **Mismanagement in Indian Bank**

1441. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Bank is still suffering the trauma induced by earlier losses and mismanagement;

(b) what steps are proposed by Government to create a better level of management in Indian Bank by outside recruitment at higher executive levels;

(c) steps proposed to review the reasons for slow recovery of Indian Bank in all spheres;

(d) whether Government would supervise major functions of this Bank; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Taxes on small and cottage industries**

†1442. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

are continuously imposing taxes one after another on common masses and small and cottage industries of the country due to which the tax system prevalent in the country has become more difficult;

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

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

#### **Issue of CHA licenses**

1443. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exists a hidden policy to issue less number of Customs House Agents licenses across the country, keeping in view of the fact that the notices inviting for fresh licenses are not advertised in the newspapers and regional restrictions are applied for aspirants to apply for the same, but once a license is issued, it is valid for Customs clearance work throughout the country; and

(b) if so, reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to publicise the matter leading to widening of employment opportunities by promoting choices for competitive efficiency to importers and exporters by facilitating their international logistics management?

#### **Recovery of outstanding loans from industrial houses**

†1444. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 361 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th April, 2005 and state:

(a) the amount recovered from each of the ten industrial houses till 31st Oct., 2005 out of the total outstanding loan of Rs. 3908.96 crores against them;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the names of the persons against whom cases were filed for recovery and when the same were filed;

(c) the reasons for not filing cases against certain persons; and

(d) the details of success achieved in recovery of balance amount out of the outstanding amount of Rs. 2,35,168 crore?

#### **Educational loans to Kerala**

1445. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount disbursed towards educational loan by the Public Sector Banks during the last year and till date in Kerala;

(b) whether any private sector banks or foreign banks in Kerala disbursed such loans, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the private sector banks are reluctant to disburse the educational loans and if so, the details of such banks; and

(d) whether Government would consider to insist on them to disburse loans to needy students?

#### **Scrapping of small saving schemes**

1446. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to scrap some of the small saving schemes under operation by Post Offices from December, 2005;

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

(c) whether Government propose to offer alternative schemes to encourage savings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Transfer policy of banks**

†1447. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the transfer policy being followed by the Public Sector Banks;

(b) whether Government are aware that work is affected due to shortfall of employees in the Public Sector Banks;

(c) if so, by when the appointment of officers/employees would be made as per norms in the branches of the Punjab National Bank and other Banks in Bulandshahar district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the reasons for not appointing employees as per norms in the branches of banks situated in the rural areas?

#### **Operation of foreign banks/insurance companies**

†1448. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign banks/ insurance companies which have been granted permission by Government to do business in the country;

(b) the guidelines issued to the foreign banks/insurance companies by Government and the conditions on which licences have been issued in this regard;

(c) what steps are being taken by the foreign banks/insurance companies for common man and the people living below poverty line in the country; and

(d) the number of cases of violation of Government's guidelines by foreign banks/ insurance companies that came to the notice of Government and what action has been taken in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Loans to SCs/STs/OBCs farmers by banks**

1449. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small farmers belonging to SCs/STs/OBCs categories who were provided loans by Regional Rural Banks and Nationalized Banks in the remote districts of the country, State-wise, district-wise during the last three years;

(b) the measures taken by Government to ensure that loans to farmers are provided by banks without any difficulty; and

(c) the success achieved by Government as a result of the measures taken in this regard?

**Foreign exchange reserves**

1450. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the country's foreign exchange reserves as on July, 2005;

(b) whether it is a fact that the forex reserves are not going up as per the expectations of Government;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a tardy increase in the forex reserves; and

(d) whether the recent rise in the forex reserves is because of revaluation of some of the international currencies and intervention by the RBI on the domestic forex market to mop up dollars?

**Ad-hoc compensations to States**

1451. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

have agreed to provide monthly ad-hoc compensations to States whose actual revenue growth from VAT falls short;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States whose actual revenue growth fell down due to implementation of VAT; and

(d) the details regarding ad-hoc compensation, State-wise?

**Increase in limit of gratuity**

1452. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the limit of gratuity from the present level of Rs. 3.5 lacs; and

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

**Income tax exemption to fish farmers in Punjab**

1453. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fish farmers in Punjab have been distinguished from other agriculturists and have been subjected to income tax *vide* Ministry of Finance's notification dated 20th December, 1993;

(b) whether the farmers in Punjab have been protesting against this; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to give Income Tax exemption to fish farmers at par with agriculturists and if so, the details thereof?

**Industry drawback due to education cess**

1454. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised all industry drawback rates factoring in the education cess;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this revision will meet the requirements of transparency and prevent disputes and litigations arising from alleged over-invoicing of exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Working group for priority sector targets**

1455. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to adopt agency or outsourcing methodologies to hit the priority sector targets;

(b) whether Government had constituted an inter-agency working group for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that it had identified 23 financial conglomerates engaged in multiple financial activities for the purpose of consolidated supervision; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Hike in Fed rates**

1456. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

more Fedrates hikes are likely in the country;

(b) if so, how far such Fed rates hikes shall have adverse affects on economy; and

(c) the steps being taken to protect the economy therefrom?

**Permission to PGFL to enter into insurance sector**

1457. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Peerless General Finance Ltd. of Kolkata has been permitted to enter into life insurance business and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the PGFL is basically one of the residuary Non-Banking Financial Companies which are not permitted to join the insurance fray; and

(c) if so, the reasons for which the company has been so permitted and the terms and conditions of such permission?

**Norms for disinvestment of Public Sector Units**

1458. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Common Minimum Programme which is the basic charter of Government lays down specific norms for the privatization and disinvestment of public sector companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that these norms have been followed more in breach than in observance; and

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

**Simplification of information brochures for insurance products**

1459. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the KP Narsimhan Committee has recommended simplifying information brochures for insurance products devoid of jargon and technical terms;

(b) whether the Law Commission has suggested setting up of grievance cells and Insurance Appellate tribunals to look into complaints by policy holders; and

(c) whether the Narsimhan Committee observed that such grievance redressal mechanism would turn out to be costly for the common policy holders and will not be accessible to non-urban areas?

**Anomalous application of VAT**

1460. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether anomalous application of VAT by the State and the Service Tax by the Centre imposes a heavy burden on consumers who are losing out in the process;

(b) whether telecommunication is a sector where both the Central and State Governments have staked a claim;

(c) whether pre-paid cards and re-charge coupons are taxable as goods or services or both; and

(d) whether the leasing sector is also subjected to such unjust imposition of double-taxation process?

**Funds to Madhya Pradesh for three tier PRIs**

†1461. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the recommendation of Eleventh Finance Commission an amount of Rs. 505.47 crore was to be released to Madhya Pradesh for three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions from 2000-01 to 2004-05;

(b) if so, the quantum of amount released out of the said amount; and

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

**Unlocking of surplus assets of PSEs**

1462. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises has given its recommendations on unlocking of the surplus assets of the PSEs to generate resources;

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

(c) whether Government have consulted respective State Governments in this respect; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to utilize such resources?

**Utilisation of funds generated through disinvestment**

†1463. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

formulated any scheme to remove sickness of certain heavy industries identified by it by using the money available through disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details of industries identified so far to be included in the above list; and

(c) the details of the action plan to remove the sickness of the said industries?

#### **Net profit and turnover of CPSUs**

1464. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:  
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the net profit and turnover of ten top CPSUs along with manpower for the year 2004-05;

(b) the net profit and turnover along with manpower of the above CPSUs during the year 1994-95; and

(c) the total employment as at present in CPSUs as compared to 1991-92?

#### **Non-payment of salaries by PSUs**

1465. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 22 CPSUs have not paid the salary/wage to the employees for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the period of non-payment; and

(c) the steps taken to pay the dues to the employees?

#### **Revival of sick PSUs**

1466. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to restructure and revive the sick PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating those falling in Orissa and the outlay involved in the project; and

(c) the source of its funding and how far this would help make these sick units viable?

#### **Restructuring of HMT**

1467. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to restructure Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. (HMT) by allocating sufficient funds for its expansion plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether HMT is vying to have Joint Ventures (JVs) with Japanese Companies for manufacture of mono-rails and other vehicles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **HMT factory in Uttaranchal**

1468. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether H.M.T. has any factory or installation in Uttaranchal;



- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these are running properly; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps to be taken to improve the situation?

#### **Strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions**

1469. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of Panchayati Raj Institutions, State-wise and the steps being taken to strengthen such institutions;
- (b) whether any steps have been or are being taken to determine the functional areas of the different tiers of local bodies in order to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions;
- (c) whether any steps have been or are being taken to provide them the staff and budget under Government to the Panchayati Raj Institutions; and
- (d) if so, the details of such steps taken as on date, State-wise?

#### **DG Hydrocarbons in ONGC Board**

1470. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has not agreed to have the Director General of Hydrocarbons on its Board;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the final decision taken in this regard?

#### **Private participation in strategic storage of oil and gas**

1471. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan before Government to create strategic storage capacity for oil and gas;
- (b) if so, what is the expected investment required;
- (c) whether Government have any plan to take the help of private people; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Crude oil production**

†1472. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that present rate of production of crude oil from the crude oil reserves of the country is extremely slow;
- (b) if so, the amount of crude oil estimated to be available in the crude oil reserves of the country till April, 2005;
- (c) the targeted amount of crude oil production from these reserves for 2005-06; and
- (d) the actual production likely to be made keeping in view the production made so far?

#### **Strike of transporters**

†1473. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the last month's strike of

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

transporters and reduction in market supply by cutting supply of LPG by gas-manufacturers was sponsored; and

(b) whether its objective was to force consumers to adopt other methods by encouraging black marketing of gas?

#### **CBM reserves in Madhya Pradesh**

1474. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reliance Industries Limited has struck a huge gas reserves of 3.76 trillion cubic feet in two coal bed methane blocks in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is the country's first commercial coal bed methane find; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Shortage of LPG due to closure of refinery**

†1475. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the closure of a private refinery recently, the whole country is facing an acute shortage of LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any measures to streamline the supply of LPG in order to check the recurrence of such incidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Price of ATF**

†1476. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) have been reduced in the beginning of the month of November, 2005 due to fall in the prices of crude oil in the international market;

(b) if so, the percentage of the prices reduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons for reducing the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel by Government?

#### **Hydrocarbon Vision-2025**

1477. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether Government have prepared an action plan to meet skilled human resource requirements in view of India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are also planning to set up institutes to train the engineers and professionals to meet specific requirements of the oil sector in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also planning to set up advance R and D facilities to meet the future requirements if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government will seek partnership with the private sectors and other strategic partners in this regard?

#### **Bifurcation of MRPL from ONGC**

†1478. SHRIMATI CARIAPPA: PREMA SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) by when Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL) was bifurcated from Hindustan Petroleum and the reasons therefor;

(b) by when MRPL was handed over to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and the loss of MRPL at that time;

(c) whether it is a fact that preparations are being made to hand over MRPL once again to Hindustan Petroleum by bifurcating it from ONGC as MRPL attain the position of a profit making one; and

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

#### **Non-availability of tanker ships for LPG**

1479. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LPG crisis in Delhi in September, 2005 triggered by strike in LPG Bottling Plants in Delhi areas, has ended by now;

(b) whether the refineries including Reliance have resumed production of LPG; and

(c) whether a new threat has emerged with the non-availability of tanker ships for carrying LPG from overseas?

#### **Overseas pipeline projects**

1480. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether Government have any plan to lay networks of pipelines to bring in gas from overseas land;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the countries are obstructing the idea of pipeline networks; and

(c) if so, how Government are going to meet the energy requirements of India in future in the absence of such networks?

#### **Availability of LPG**

†1481. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of areas in the country having cooking gas facility, State-wise;

(b) whether Government are considering to make the remaining areas equipped with cooking gas facility;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Funds for production of petroleum products**

†1482. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for the production of petroleum products during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of achievements made actually in the production so far;

(c) whether there has been decrease in production of petroleum products during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government are considering to increase production of petroleum in the country;

(f) if so, the schemes formulated by Government in this regard; and

(g) the quantum of funds spent by Government in the implementation of these schemes during the current year?

#### **Cooperation with Romania in gas sector**

1483. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to further enhance cooperation in the oil and gas sector with Romania;

(b) if so, whether Government have held talks in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether an Indian delegation had visited Romania for this purpose recently;

(e) if so, the composition thereof;

(f) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(g) whether Romania have also proposed to extend its expertise in fire fighting and safety of oil installations, particularly of ONGC and Oil India ?

#### **Demand for petroleum products**

†1484. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that indigenous production as well as imports are required in order to meet the demand of petroleum and other products related with it in the country;

(b) if so, the average percentage of demand being met through indigenous production and import during last three years; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to meet this demand in the country through indigenous production only, if so, the time bound target in this regard?

#### **Rationalisation of kerosene subsidy**

1485. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of short recovery from kerosene touching Rs. 13.00 a litre and its diversion becoming drain on Oil PSUs, Government propose to take the above poverty line card holders out from the purview of subsidies;

(b) whether such a proposal when acted upon will effect in a saving of 41.2 per cent of the present kerosene subsidy bill; and

(c) what are the other salient recommendations of the NCAER study report on the rationalisation of kerosene subsidy ?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Appointment of CMD in ITDC**

1486. SHRI AMAR SINGH:  
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ITDC is still heading without a full time CMD and if so, the reasons therefor and since when the regular post is lying vacant in ITDC;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a search committee headed by the Cabint Secretary had recommended a few names for appointment of CMD;

(c) whether it is a fact that the recommendation has not been accepted by the Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

### **Tourist inflow**

1487. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:  
Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourist inflows to India have registered a 15 per cent growth in the first nine months of 2005;

(b) if so, the details of such tourist inflows available with Government from different countries; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned for the above period?

### **Ongoing tourism projects in U.P.**

†1488. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the progress of the ongoing tourism projects particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the actual and financial targets fixed during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether State Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any new proposals of Central Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Development of Himavad Gopalswamy Hills in Karnataka**

1489. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal to develop Himavad Gopalswamy Hills in Chamarajanagar District, Karnataka, as a tourist centre;

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

(c) whether Government will take steps to develop it as a tourist centre since the Himavad Gopalswamy Hills is a very good tourist spot ?

### **Expansion of tourism in Punjab**

1490. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a considerable scope for expansion of tourism industry in Punjab;

(b) whether Centre has conducted any survey to explore the tourism in Punjab;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Promotion of tourism in Rajasthan**

†1491. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government provide assistance to different States for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the development and promotion of tourism;

(b) whether State Government of Rajasthan has asked for assistance from Central Government to promote tourism in the State;

(c) whether Central Government are considering to grant any special package for the purpose, if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the details in this regard?

#### **Promotion of tourism in rural areas**

†1492. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any latest comprehensive plan for promotion of tourism in the rural areas of the country under which rural people may get employment;

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

(c) the amount so far spent on this plan by Government for the promotion of tourism in the rural areas and the provision of the Budget for the year 2005-2006 alongwith the details thereof?

#### **New tourism spots in North Eastern States**

1493. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are keen to open more new tourism spots to develop the tourism in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the new tourism spots identified in North-Eastern India including Assam?

#### **Development of Shani Ishwarappa Temple in Pondicherry**

†1494. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any scheme to develop 'Shani Ishwarappa Temple' located at Karaikal in Pondicherry from tourist point of view;

(b) if so, the broad outline thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Infrastructure for health and eco-tourism**

1495. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new tourism policy is on the anvil, integrating tourism infrastructure for rural health and eco-tourism along with initiatives to improve infrastructure in order to attract large scale private investment in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a plan is also on the anvil for Orissa which has a very good potential for tourism but on account of lack of resources the cash-strapped State is not able to exploit the potential; and

(d) if so, the action plan of the Centre to help the State to re-vitalise its tourism sector?

#### **Height of Narmada Dam**

1496. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent floods have revealed the inadequacy of Narmada Dam height in helping to harness flood water for better water utilisation;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what was the originally planned height of the dam and the reasons for reducing the height of the dam; and

(c) whether Government have been reconsidering to raise the dam height to that originally planned?

#### **Rain water harvesting projects**

†1497. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the number of ongoing rain water harvesting projects in the country with the details thereof State-wise?

#### **Vypar River Linking project**

1498. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for the Vypar River Linking project is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted detailed studies on the impact of such a project on the environment in the Southern Kerala;

(d) whether Government have considered the fact that most of the related areas in Kerala experience acute water shortage particularly in the summer season;

(e) if so, whether the project, if implemented would further accelerate the situation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Joint Group of experts on Flood Management with Bhutan**

1499. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a

Joint Group of Experts on Flood Management in consultation with Bhutan to assess the probable cause and effects of recurring floods and erosions in areas, of the country adjacent to Bhutan;

(b) if so, then number of times the Joint Group of Experts has met so far; and

(c) what is the outcome of those meetings?

#### **Shifting of Directorate of CWC**

1500. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider shifting of parts of Directorate of Central Water Commission dealing with the Hydrology, Designs and Project appraisal pertaining to Southern States to Hyderabad to expedite the clearance of various investigations and to coordinate the various Directorates of Central Water Commission and other Ministries; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Restoration of agricultural land**

1501. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to overflow of Chenab river thousands of acres of agricultural land is being destroyed every year;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to restore agricultural land;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir for these agricultural land; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

**Development of Hydro Electric Project in J & K**

1502. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has suggested prioritized, sequenced and pragmatic path to be followed to deal with issues concerning availability and usage of scarce water resources;

(b) whether the World Bank Water Expert and Country Director of Brazil has pointed out that water has become a big issue;

(c) whether it has also been suggested that India and Pakistan should think of jointly developing a major hydro-electric project in Jammu and Kashmir and should take up major dam projects in a big way; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to implement suggestions made by the World Bank?

**Varahi project under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme**

1503. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Karnataka has requested to include Varahi Project under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme; and

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

**Rain water harvesting**

1504. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the report "Master plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" prepared by the Central Ground Water Board;

(b) the steps taken by Government to encourage rain water harvesting; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide incentive to States like Tamil Nadu which are implementing rain water harvesting successfully?

**Storage of ground water**

1505. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have issued any directions to the State Governments to take necessary steps to preserve the ground water storage against its unlimited exploitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States particularly State Governments of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab and Delhi;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to introduce any special scheme to minimize the use of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the average rate of extraction of ground water for agriculture per day?



**Rivers linking projects**

1506. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to study the linking of rivers in the country submitted its report and the period if any, fixed therefor;

(b) whether there is any proposal to implement Pamba, Achancoil and Vypar linking project and whether this project is against the interests of Kerala; and

(c) the reaction of State Government of Kerala thereto?

**Water crisis forecast**

1507. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent survey reports warning about drying of Aquifers in the coming years and forecasts of a severe water crisis in India; and

(b) the steps proposed for management and conservation of ground water in the country?

**Clearance of water-projects of Rajasthan**

†1508. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some water projects of State of Rajasthan are pending with Central Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the pending water projects of the State would be approved in the current year; and

(c) by when these projects are likely to be implemented alongwith the details thereof?

**Water flow in Yamuna**

†1509. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that very little water is left in Yamuna in Mathura, the sacred place of pilgrimage in the country;

(b) whether Government have formulated any plan to ensure that there is continuous flow of water in Yamuna;

(c) if so, the detailed outlines in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 30th November, 2005*  
*Agrahayana 9, 1927 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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