

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the May 7, 2002/Vaisakha 17, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

IB report on airport security

4228. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Statesman dated 2nd February, 2002 captioned "IB report slams lax airport security";

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

(c) the major highlights of the IB report; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to tone up the security arrangements in the concerned airports including the Indira Gandhi International Airport?

Request for purchase of aircrafts

4229. SHRI BHAGATRAM

MANHAR:

SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the Airlines which have requested the Government for purchase of aircrafts;

(b) what are the details of the proposal submitted by these Airlines; and

(c) whether Government have asked these Airlines to submit the source of funding of these aircrafts and if not, the reasons therefor?

Air services on Delhi-Raipur-Jabalpur-Delhi Sector

†4230. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of persons travelling per day during the last one year by Delhi-Raipur-Jabalpur-Delhi flight of the Alliance Air;

(b) the reasons for reducing one day in its total number of flight days;

(c) whether there is any proposal to further increase the number of flight days and whether there is also any scheme for expansion of Delhi-Raipur-Jabalpur-Delhi flight; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Enquiries conducted by COSCA

4231. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Commissioner of Security Civil Aviation (COSCA) in the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has been authorised to conduct enquiries of other Government institutions and officers in addition to his present duties;

(b) if so, the details of enquiries being conducted by COSCA of officers other than working in BCAS;

(c) whether prior permission of the Ministry was obtained before accepting to act as Inquiry Officer of other Ministries/Institutions; and

(d) if not, the action taken or proposed to be taken against COSCA?

Ground handling services at Delhi Airport

4232. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agencies which are authorised to handle the ground activities at Delhi Airport;

(b) whether the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has carried out any survey in the recent past to find out the unauthorised agencies;

(c) if so, what is the outcome of the survey; and

(d) what is the strategy to check the entry of these unauthorised agencies?

Operational airports in A.P.

4233. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the airports/airstrips in Andhra Pradesh which are maintained by Airports Authority of India but are not operational at present;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to make them operational?

Sales tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel

†4234. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sales tax levied on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), State-wise;

(b) whether Government have requested the States to reduce the sales tax on ATF;

(c) if so, the number of States which have taken steps to reduce the sales tax; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to levy sales tax at uniform rate on ATF in all States and to reduce its rate?

Fly-by-night aviation clubs

4235. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Want a licence to fly? Shell out Rs. 19 lakh in Mumbai" which appeared in The Indian Express dated the 16th April, 2002;

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

(c) whether these fly-by-night aviation

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

clubs are recognized by the States or the Central Government;

(d) whether these clubs have infrastructure for flying;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, whether Government would ban such clubs which jeopardise the lives of trainees?

Free journeys in IA/AI

4236. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines/Air India and other airlines, as a measure of incentive, have been allowing free journeys both on domestic as well as international routes;

(b) if so, what are the rules with regard to such free journeys where the original journeys are performed out of Government funds; and

(c) whether a Government official or any person entitled to travel for official purpose can avail of the benefit of free journey for his or her personal journeys?

High cost of domestic air travelling

4237. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air travel from Delhi to Singapore and Hong Kong and other foreign destinations is cheaper than air travel in domestic circuit like Delhi to Trivandrum etc., which is affecting domestic tourism;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the cost of domestic air travel;

(c) whether it is a fact that high rate of excise duty on aviation fuel is contributing to high cost of domestic travel; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to reduce excise duty so as to reduce the cost of domestic air travel?

DVOR at Madurai Airport

4238. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madurai Airport does not have Doppler Very High frequency Omni Range (DVOR);

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to set up such facility there;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Direct flights to Madurai via Coimbatore

4239. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a direct flight between Madurai and New Delhi or to extend New Delhi-Coimbatore to Madurai in order to cater to Southern districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Round the clock operation of Mana Airport

†4240. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mana Airport (Chhattisgarh) remains open from 7.00 A.M. to 11.30 P.M. only which causes hindrances in the operation of air services before 7.00 A.M. and after 11.30 P.M.;

(b) if so, whether any requests have been

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

received from Chhattisgarh administration in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Hangars at Mana Airport

†4241. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chhattisgarh Government had requested the Airports Authority of India to make available an empty Hangar at Mana Airport;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Authority has expressed its inability in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that State Government had requested the Authority in February, 2002 for making land available so that State Government might construct Hangar on its own expenditure; and

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and by when permission will be accorded to Chhattisgarh Government?

Recommendations of Kelkar Committee

4242. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee's recommendations to provide sufficient funds for fleet expansion was approved by the Cabinet in 2000 but not implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the recommendations made by various committees on the safety of

aircrafts have been implemented *in toto*; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Safety norms at IGIA

4243. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi has been found to be flouting safety norms prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organisations;

(b) if so, whether according to the ICAO guidelines, IGI Airport falls in category 9 to maintain basic safety norms in terms of maintaining the fire and ambulance services at the airport;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being considered by Government to take safety measures in the IGI Airport?

Vacant post of Chairman in AAI

4244. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Chairman, Airports Authority of India Ltd. (AAI) is lying vacant for the last more than one year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) have short-listed candidates for the post of Chairman, AAI and the panel suggested by PESB is not being considered by Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the names suggested by PESB to Government?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Expenditure on advertisement

4245. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on giving advertisement in the newspapers and periodicals by Indian Airlines and Air India during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, language-wise; and

(b) the names of Urdu newspapers and periodicals to whom advertisements of the Indian Airlines and Air India were given during the said period?

Private flying clubs

4246. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government and private owned flying clubs in the country;

(b) the procedure for admission in these clubs;

(c) whether antecedents of the admission seekers in these clubs are got verified if so, in what manner; and

(d) the details of students who left these clubs without completing courses during the last three years?

New operations by Pawan Hans

4247. DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 481 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government are planning Pawan Hans operation abroad, if so, the details of the contract bagged by the company; and

(b) whether Pawan Hans has started new

operation since 1998, if so, the details thereof?

Misuse of Airport Identity Cards

†4248. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers of Bureau of civil aviation security have recently found out in their inquiry that some officers/employees of Intelligence Bureau at various international and domestic airports of the country are misusing their Airport Identity Cards (AIC);

(b) if so, the number of such cases that have come to light; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop such a misuse?

Chennai on the international aviation map

4249. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently North-East has found a place on the international aviation map with the first Air India flight taking off for Bangkok;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to link Chennai with important and new destinations on the international aviation map; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

More passenger facilities

4250. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether more passenger facilities are proposed to be added to major airports; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the measures taken to provide expeditious clearance to the passengers to ease congestion faced due to bunching of flights?

Legal expenses of AI

4251. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the legal expenses of Air India for the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) whether Government have ordered any inquiry into the steep rise of legal expenses in Air India for the year 1999-2000;

(c) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry, who are the officials responsible and what action has been initiated against them;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the above issue has been brought to his knowledge *vide* letter dated 8th January, 2002; and

(f) what action has been taken on that letter?

Potential threat to the security

†4252. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proofs of some such elements in the management of Jet Airways have come to light, which may pose threat to the security of the country;

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

(c) whether Government have taken any action in view of the potential threat to the security of the country so far, if so, the details thereof?

Free import of cereals

4253. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of indigenous cereals and oilseeds, coconut, groundnuts in various States of the country are decreasing sharply due to lifting of quantitative restrictions on the import of 714 articles under the pressure of World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) whether Government have pushed the farmers and cottage industry on the verge of destruction by giving permission of free import of these items; and

(c) if so, the reasons for taking such steps?

QRs on export of onions

4254. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to keep Quantitative Restrictions on export of onions has proved counter-productive with the apprehensions of China overtaking India as the key player in the world onion market within two years;

(b) whether onion crop has been facing a glut for three consecutive years now and if so, the rationale behind continuing QRs on onion exports; and

(c) whether Maharashtra and Karnataka are likely to sit on 16 lakh odd tonnes of onions, the coming season, leaving farmers high and dry?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Agri-exports from Andhra Pradesh

4255. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has assisted the exporters of Andhra Pradesh in trading and exporting agro products from the State;

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

(c) what measures APEDA has taken to boost agri-export from Andhra Pradesh?

Exports to Russia

†4256. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities exported by India to Russia during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government are considering to export more and more commodities to Russia; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government in this regard?

Imposition of non-tariff barrier by Bangladesh

4257. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lodged a strong protest with Bangladesh for not allowing sugar rakes over rail-route;

(b) whether this move is considered as imposition of non-tariff barrier;

(c) whether the matter has since been sorted out; and

(d) whether Bangladesh accepts Indian commodities sent through sea-route?

Export to US and EU countries

4258. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's exports to US and EU countries recorded a fall during the last nine months of 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the figures for the corresponding period of the previous year; and

(d) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to increase exports to above countries?

Dumping of foreign goods

4259. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian market is being dumped with foreign goods resulting in closing of many plants/factories each year; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken in this regard?

Top exportable items

†4260. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export from the country has increased during the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

period from 1990-1991 to 1999-2000;

(b) if so, to what extent it has increased;

(c) whether Government have identified those items in respect of which export has constantly increased; and

(d) if so, the names of such top 20 exportable items alongwith the item-wise extent of increase in their export during the above period?

FICCI report on industrial recession

4261. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the FICCI study, recession hit consumer and manufacturing sector profit fell by 19.5 per cent;

(b) if so, whether according to the reports the overall trends for the April, 2001-February, 2002 period shows that manufactured goods prices have increased by only 2.2 per cent while the profits for the sector went up by a bare 0.9 per cent in the first quarter of this fiscal year;

(c) if so, what are the other main features of the FICCI report in this regard; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the same?

Export of rice

4262. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "Navbharat Times" dated 12th April, 2002 under the heading

"Behad kam per kiya ja raha hai achhi kism ke chaval ka niryaat"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or Government propose to take in this regard?

Organic tea market

4263. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative demand of organic and inorganic tea *vis-a-vis* Indian position as well as competitors in the world market;

(b) the steps taken and achievements made so far in exploring the potential of organic tea market as well as to link up Indian productivity to capture the future world market;

(c) the action taken by Government to support the small tea growers togetherwith the State-wise assistance granted and specific support extended during each of the last three years; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in future in this regard?

Ban on Indian meat

4264. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian meat has been banned by Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait and other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to be taken in this regard?

Trade links between India and Canada

4265. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Canadian Trade Delegation has visited India recently and held discussions with him;

(b) if so, the details of points discussed by the delegation;

(c) whether trade links between both the countries have further improved;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue to India with Canadian firms?

Declining trend in export

4266. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's export continued to witness a negative growth during the last two years;

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

(c) the reasons for such negative export growth indicating India's share in percentage in the world's total export growth and also increase in India's trade deficit, during the above mentioned years in terms of Dollar and Rupee; and

(d) the specific plan of Government to avoid such trend and ensure that India's share in total world's export reaches 1 per cent at least?

Flower Auction Centre in Bangalore

4267. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of enormous potential to grow flowers in and around Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to develop international Flower Auction Centre in Bangalore; and

(c) what facilities have been extended by the Central Government to improve floriculture in Karnataka?

Export of wheat to Bangladesh

4268. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has exported wheat to Bangladesh during the last one year;

(b) if so, the quantity sold and the price charged;

(c) whether India has exported wheat to some other countries also; and

(d) if so, what are the names of those countries?

Discussion with US Deputy Treasury Secretary on textiles

4269. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has sought better deal for textiles at a meeting with the US Deputy Treasury Secretary in the month of February, 2002;

(b) if so, what were the main points stressed during the discussion for textile deals; and

(c) to what extent the US has agreed to examine all the points in regard to the textiles that have been raised?

Export-import performance

4270. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of export-import performance during the last three years, till date;
- (b) the details of targets fixed for export and import during this period;
- (c) the details of amount of foreign exchange earned through export and the foreign exchange spent on import; and
- (d) the measures being taken by Government to improve the balance of trade and balance of payment position of our country?

Export-import target

†4271. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) what was the target fixed by Government for import-export during the year 2001-2002;
- (b) the target of import-export achieved so far;
- (c) whether the exports are likely to be below the target fixed;
- (d) if so, whether Government have formulated any mid-term export policy for boosting exports; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the commodities selected or proposed to be selected for the same?

Edible oil launched by Cargill Seeds

4272. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multi-national Cargill Seeds has launched its branded edible oil in the market without seeking the mandatory approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board;

(b) whether Cargill has existing Government approvals for bringing in direct investment upto dollar 55.00 million, which is yet to be fully exhausted;

(c) whether Cargill has contended that its new business plan falls under the automatic route of FEMA which obviates the necessity of securing fresh approval; and

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

Incentives to developers of townships

4273. SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 235 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide incentives by way of subsidies to the promoters/developers who have already built townships having provided basic amenities/facilities namely water, roads electricity, etc.; and

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

Scheme on infrastructure development for exports

4274. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced a comprehensive scheme called 'Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development for Exports' (ASIDE) to provide assistance to the State Governments/

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Union Territories for the development of infrastructure facilities for exports;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the policy;

(c) what is the amount earmarked for the scheme and what would be the basis of entitlement of financial assistance under the above scheme to the State Governments; and

(d) by when, the scheme will be fully implemented?

Bilateral trade with Germany

4275. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of bilateral trade with Germany in the year 2001-2002;

(b) whether it has shown an increase in the trade in comparison to the last fiscal year 2000-2001;

(c) if so, to what extent; and

(d) what target has been fixed for the year 2002-2003?

US complaint against India

4276. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'US complaints against India over intellectual property rights' which appeared in the Pioneer, dated the 4th April, 2002;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this

regard to address the problems highlighted in the report?

Revision in provisions of Patents Bill

4277. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some major Indian Drug Companies have sought revision of the provisions of the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill to protect their interests in respect of compulsory licensing in the light of Doha declaration on TRIPs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) whether the suggestions would be incorporated in the Bill which is likely to be presented to Parliament during the current session and if not, the reasons therefor?

Recovery in core sector

4278. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the core sector have shown signs of recovery;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of recovery industry-wise in the year 2001-2002 in comparison to the previous year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that crude petroleum sector has shown decline, if so, to what extent;

(d) what are the reasons for decline in the above sector; and

(e) by when, it will be possible to attain steady growth all over?

Growth Centre at Pauri District

† 4279. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Part (a) and (b) of Unstarred Question 954 in the Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 2001 and state:

(a) the details provided by the State Government of Uttaranchal against the letters dated the 23rd January, 2001 and the 23rd July, 2001 of Central Government with regard to sanctioned Development Centre for Pauri District;

(b) whether project report has been submitted by the State Government; and

(c) if so, by when this Centre will start functioning?

Tour programme of Director of Export Inspection Agency

4280. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of Export Inspection Agency used to go for national and international tours; and

(b) if so, the details viz. date, place, purpose of visit, amount of travelling and other allowances paid for each tour for the last three years, category-wise, year-wise?

Approval of RBIs to new private sector banks

4281. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH:

SHRI VIJAY. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has given its approval to the proposals for private sector banks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof togetherwith the details of proposals under consideration;

(c) what is the number of private sector banks at present;

(d) whether RBI's policy on new banks was kept in cold storage;

(e) if so, the reasons for sanctioning private sector banks in the country; and

(f) whether any limit has been proposed for giving sanction for opening of private sector banks?

Recruitment and promotion rules for RRBs

4282. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued recruitment and promotion Rules, 1998 for RRBs;

(b) if so, whether there is any criteria fixed for creation of vacancies in various cadres based on the annual business growth;

(c) whether these rules ensure atleast one promotion to every member of staff before he retires; and

(d) the steps proposed to offset the mass retirements from the year 2006 by suitable recruitment and training scheme by that time?

Regulatory framework for auditing firms

4283. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Company Affairs is working on a

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

regulatory framework for auditing firms with a focus on regulation of non-audit services and tracking relationship between companies and auditors;

(b) whether the accounting standards framed by Malegam Committee have been made binding on the auditing firms;

(c) if so, since when these standards came into operation; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in making the standard binding on the accounting firms?

Regulation of NBFCs

4284. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some leading Financial and Agro-based Plantation Companies have failed/refused to return money to the investors even on the maturity of their deposits;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government are setting up any regulatory body to control the activities of the fly-by-night companies playing havoc with the deposits from small depositors; and

(d) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Amendment of SEBI Act, 1992

4285. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking of amending the SEBI Act, 1992, empowering the Regulator to impound the proceeds and securities in suspected transactions as well as to attach bank accounts of intermediaries or persons involved in market violation;

(b) whether Government also propose to give investigative powers to SEBI;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when Government propose to bring it before Parliament for its approval?

FEMA cases against MD of Tata Finance Limited (T F L)

4286. SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR: Will the Minister of
FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Tata Finance provides more data to cops on Pendse' which appeared in the Business Standard, New Delhi on 3rd December, 2001;

(b) if so, under what Sections of FEMA and other statutes cases against the former Chief Managing Director (CMD) of Tata Finance Limited (T F L) have been registered for siphonning/diverting of funds to other countries; and

(c) what is the latest position of investigation and what steps are being taken to recover the amount from the former CMD of T F L?

Amendment in Customs Tariff Act

4287. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether to protect the domestic industry from cheap imports from China,

the Ministry of Finance has empowered itself to impose product specific safeguards duty;

(b) if so, whether the duty chargeable will be in addition to any other duty imposed for similar imports from other countries;

(c) whether any amendment to this effect is being considered in the Customs Tariff Act;

(d) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(e) to what extent it will check the cheap import from China?

Assistance against godown and warehouse receipt by NABARD

4288. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider NABARD's proposal for funding by commercial banks to farmers against godown or warehouse receipts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether NABARD has formulated guidelines for banks to finance rural godowns;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what is Government's reaction to its implementation?

Evasion of tax by industrial units

4289. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of income tax, excise duties and other commercial taxes outstanding against the top 50 industrial/

commercial units of the country for the year 2001-2002 and as on date;

(b) the amount recovered during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for non-recovery of the remaining amount?

Profit of Regional Rural Banks

4290. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 182 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have shown profit for the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the comparative performance of Commercial Banks in rural areas with regard to deposits, advances, NPAs, profitability per branch and per employee business etc., Bank-wise; and

(c) the concessions to RRBs that have been withdrawn affecting their profitability?

Flexible pension schemes in unorganised sector

4291. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has suggested in its report to Government for flexible pension schemes in the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the main points mentioned in the report;

(c) whether Government have examined the report; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Loan under self-employment scheme in U.P.

4292. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount of loans granted to the rural poor, uneducated/educated, skilled/unskilled under the self-employment scheme in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years by the Nationalised and rural banks; bank-wise/category-wise/year wise;

(b) the details of criteria fixed by each bank for granting loans to these people in the State;

(c) the details of applications lying pending with these banks and whether poor people are facing a lot of difficulties in getting loan; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Rationalisation of excise duty for Textile Industry

4293. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Indian Cotton Mills Federation, New Delhi regarding rationalisation of excise duty for textile industry;

(b) if so, the details of issues raised in their representation thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up this representation for active consideration;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and by when action is likely to be taken in this matter?

Utilisation of foreign exchange reserves

4294. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision on the recent recommendation of the Reserve Bank of India that the mounting forex reserves of the country, reportedly set to cross \$ 54 billion shortly and would exceed the country's need as assessed on widely accepted Guidotti standard rules, be utilized to pre-pay some of the country's external debt; and

(b) if so, the details of the strategy worked out, if any, for utilizing the forex reserves more productively?

Finance Advisors in Ministry of Agriculture

4295. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Joint Secretaries and Finance Advisors working in the Ministry of Agriculture on the strength of Ministry of Finance;

(b) whether it is a fact that in other Ministries only one Joint Secretary and Finance Advisor is posted even though this are much bigger as compared to Ministry of Agriculture;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether there are any proposal to abolish the post of one Joint Secretary and Finance Advisor in Ministry of Agriculture to save the extra expenditure of Government and also to maintain the parity between the Ministries?

Economic assistance to UTI

†4296. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Unit Trust of India has sought economic assistance of about Rs. 1500 crores from Government to cover up its losses;

(b) if not, the details in this regard; and

(c) the decision so far taken by Government to fulfill this demand?

Lock-in-period on sale proceeds by NRIs

4297. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve bank has removed the lock-in-period of three years for repatriation of sale proceeds by NRIs/PIOs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what would be the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange so envisaged in this behalf for the next three years?

Release of grant to Gujarat

4298. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Eleventh Finance Commission grant due to the Gujarat Government for the year 2000-2001;

(b) whether this amount has been released; and

(c) whether it has been released, if not the reasons therefor?

Tribunals for tax evasion cases

†4299. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH SHRI KAPIL SIBAL 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases involving a very large amount are in dispute for tax fixation, are lying pending for settlement in courts and tribunals;

(b) if so, the number of cases lying pending till December, 2001; and

(c) the total amount which has become disputable due to the said cases?

Non-payment of proceeds from sale of shares

†4300. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding non-payment of proceeds to the employees accrued by way of sale of shares at Calcutta Stock Exchange, which were allotted to its employees by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time of receipt of such complaints by Government and the action taken thereon so far?

Growth rate of infrastructure sector

4301. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether signalling economic recovery, the six infrastructure industries have recorded a growth of 4.9 per cent

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

during February 2002 compared to a negative one per cent growth in the same month last year;

(b) if so, whether the cement industry posted a growth of 21.2 per cent in February 2002 as against a negative growth rate of 10.7 per cent in the same month last year;

(c) if so, the other sectors on which growth has been reported;

(d) the sectors where growth has declined; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to improve growth in other sectors?

Measures for curbing corruption

4302. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any special measures to curb corruption in view of the arrest of some senior officials among the cadres of Indian Revenue Services;

(b) if so, what type of a system of reward and punishment has been considered;

(c) whether a system of objective criteria for transfers, postings and deputations been has considered; and

(d) whether Government are considering proposals for making officials senior to Deputy Commissioners eligible for Cash Rewards so that they are not lured by unfair money?

Pakistani currency note in Nasik press

†4303. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a Pakistani ten rupee currency note was found during the search from an employee

working in a currency press located at Nasik Road in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the investigation has been initiated in the said case; if so, the results thereof?

Special insurance scheme for Gujarat

†4304. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that people living in several parts of Gujarat are feeling the tremors of earthquake even today which hit Gujarat last year;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to formulate any special insurance schemes for the people residing there, whose lives and property etc. got totally destroyed due to such earthquakes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

NPAs of Public sector *vis-a-vis* foreign banks

4305. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ratio of net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of Public Sector Banks is 2.26 per cent of total assets but in case of foreign banks it is only 0.79 per cent;

(b) if so, whether this vast difference is attributable to management of the PSBs *vis-a-vis* foreign banks or whether there are any other reasons for this; and

(c) whether any study has been made for recovery of NPAs during the last three years and whether any changes are required to improve the recovery of NPAs?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

NABARD guidelines for rural banks]

4306. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has issued guidelines to improve functioning of Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NABARD has examined the problem faced by Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Cooperative Banks in various States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

Performance of banks

4307. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to evaluate the performance of various Scheduled Commercial Banks including Nationalised Banks in regard to priority sector lending;

(b) whether RBI has put in place a monitoring mechanism to supervise/oversee the compliance of banks to its guidelines in regard to issuing credit to priority sector upto 40 per cent of net bank credit;

(c) the number of banks which have adhered to or failed to comply with the guidelines; and

(d) the measures taken to penalise banks for non-compliance with the guidelines?

Promotions in Sriganganagar branch of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur

4308. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of 12 applications

considered on merit including SC/ST out of 47 applications received by State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur date-wise, zone-wise, branch-wise and name-wise;

(b) the number of employees considered on merit between 1997 to 2001 from Sriganganagar Region/Branches but not transferred indicating SC/ST among award staff;

(c) by when action on remaining will be taken; and

(d) the number of SC/ST out of 875 request transfers made and 4 spouse not working under State/Central Government Department?

Service tax from tourism industry

4309. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected from service tax from tourism industry during the last three years; year-wise;

(b) whether five per cent service tax on billed amount would be exempted; and

(c) if so, what are the details of amount of losses expected?

Credit target under Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna

4310. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of credit target under SGSY (Swarn Jayanti Grameen Swarojgar Yojana) for the year 2001-2002, bank-wise;

(b) the achievement against the target bank-wise; and

(c) the action taken against those banks whose performance is below the target?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Simplification of tax administration

4311. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to simplify tax administration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) to what extent it is likely to improve the system?

Excise duty on cycle accessories

4312. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that levy of central excise on parts, accessories of cycle and cycle rickshaws, is causing great hardship to the poor/weaker sections of the Society;
- (b) whether it is also fact that tiny and small industries in Punjab and elsewhere, are also suffering from the levy of this duty; and
- (c) whether Government propose to exempt this industry from the levy of central excise duty as was the case in 1980?

Top tax defaulters

4313. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of income tax, excise tax and other commercial tax due against top 120 industrial/commercial units of the country by the year ending 2000-2001;
- (b) the reasons for such dues against these industrial units;
- (c) whether Government propose to impose penalty and also take stringent action against these units;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when dues are likely to be collected from these units?

Foreign aid allocation

4314. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent World Bank study which appeared in the National Herald of March 13, 2002 saying that foreign aid allocations since the end of cold war has made it more effective in poverty alleviation;
- (b) if so, the extent of foreign aid received through World Bank and otherwise, which has gone into poverty alleviation programmes, indicating the programmes, schemes and project-wise details of such foreign aid since the end of cold war; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for effective appropriation of such aid to poverty alleviation programmes and for preventing diversification thereof?

Restructuring of Customs and Excise Services in Orissa

4315. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2976 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th December, 2001 and state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to increase staff strength in both Commissionerates in Orissa *i.e.* Bhubaneswar-I and Bhubaneswar-II;
- (b) whether there is any proposal for sanction of staff strength for Custom establishments such as Paradeep Customs House, Gopalpur minor port, Bhubaneswar Air Cargo Complex, etc. in Orissa; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to guard the vast coastline of Orissa ranging about 500 kms. by setting up a Customs Preventive Commissionerate in the State?

Borrowings of private sector steel companies from Banks & Financial Institutions

4316. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of Indian Banks and other Financial Institutions is stuck up in Iron and Steel companies of private sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the private steel companies which have taken borrowings from Indian Financial Institutions and Banks above Rupees Fifty crores?

Distribution of Central revenue to States

4317. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Eleventh Finance Commission has changed the formula for distribution of Central revenue to the States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has turned some States upside down; and

(c) if so, the details of the States' share for the last year with the Eleventh Commission Formula and with the Tenth Commission formula?

Shortage of small currency notes

4318. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that currency notes

of smaller denomination are in acute shortage;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken in the matter;

(c) whether there are any plans to introduce plastic currency notes on account of its durability; and

(d) if so, by when the plastic currency notes will be made available in the market?

Role of middlemen at Inland Container Depot Tughlaqabad

4319. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the middlemen charge the trader heavily to get routine information in regard to clearance of trade items from the Inland Container Depot at Tughlaqabad; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to keep middlemen out of Inland Container Depot?

Rates of interest by NABARD on farmers' loan

†4320. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rates of interest have not been brought down on the loans provided to the farmers by NABARD;

(b) if so, whether Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to reduce rates of interest on the loans advanced by the banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for violations of Reserve Bank of India's orders by 'NABARD';

(e) whether Government have conducted any review of the working of the 'NABARD' in order to provide immediate relief to the farmers; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Decline in PLR of banks

4321. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a considerable fall in the interest rates/Prime Lending Rates (PLR) of all commercial banks in the last few years;

(b) if so, whether there has been any relative reduction in refinance rates of sponsor banks and particularly of NABARD to RRBs and Cooperatives;

(c) the details of refinance amounts and rates charged by NABARD and sponsored banks; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to peg down the refinance rate at a little above cost of demand deposits to serve the real purpose?

Adulteration of Opium

4322. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are adulterating the opium they have to give to the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of fraud detected during last one year; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits?

Post of DG in NCB

4323. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the service from which the post of Director-General of the Narcotics Control

Bureau was filled up this year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the officers of the Indian Customs and Central Excise Service are no longer being considered for this post and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the services from which the post of Director-General of NCB, was held from 1985 onwards; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Prime Minister's Office had while approving the name of the present incumbent mentioned that the next Director-General of NCB, would be from the Central Excise and Customs?

Sale of opium in the grey market

4324. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether opium farmers of U.P. and Rajasthan are selling opium in the grey market at exorbitant rates;

(b) if so, whether any enquiries have been made on the diversion of the produce; and

(c) the action taken against those involved?

Resumption of aids by Japan

4325. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a freeze on fresh aid on new projects in India and yen loans was made effective by Japan during 1998-99;

(b) whether a Japanese delegation to resume aid came to India during March 2002; and

(c) if so, the details of the decisions taken at the meet?

Customs duty on chemicals and fertilizers

4326. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been urged upon Government to arrest the steep fall in the basic customs duty on chemicals and fertilizers;

(b) if so, the present rate of customs duty being charged from chemicals and fertilizers;

(c) whether the Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers have also recommended that the customs duty on capital goods and spare parts be reduced to make the project imports cheaper; and

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

Working capital for small scale sector

4327. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industries has *inter alia* suggested Government to have a sub target within priority sector lending to promote alternative sources of finance, to establish an independent credit rating agency and to make the Nayak Committee norms regarding working capital applicable as a rule to alleviate the capital related problems of small scale industry;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined these suggestions; and

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

External dues

4328. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's external dues crossed US dollars 100 billions in the month of March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the short-term and long term loan out of the 100 billion; and

(c) the details of institutions/countries from which Government have taken loan?

Eleventh Finance Commission grant for Gujarat

4329. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to release the first instalment of the Eleventh Finance Commission Grant in view of the fact that Gujarat Government has already held Panchayat elections in December, 2001; and

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

Income tax raids

4330. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of income tax raids conducted in the country during the last financial year, State-wise and city-wise;

(b) the total amount collected including the penal charges from the raided parties;

(c) the action taken against these people; and

(d) the cases of income tax defaults pending presently and the total amount involved in such cases?

Investment by private insurance companies

4331. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1712 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 2002 and state:

(a) the total investment of private insurance companies in the country during the last one year, company-wise; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to attract more private investment in this sector in the coming years?

Tax evasion by liquor manufacturers

4332. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of prominent liquor/Arracte, manufacturers/dealers in the country who are evading Income Tax togetherwith the amount due from them for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases filed/raided, the amount/assets attached, seized during the above period; and

(c) the details of the steps Government propose to take against such tax evaders?

Samples of fuel in Delhi

4333. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) had collected samples of fuel in Delhi and North Central Region between December 20, 2001 to January 18, 2002;

(b) if so, what is the failure rate of these samples;

(c) what is the sample failure rate reported by all companies to Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority;

(d) what was the overall content of Benzene in the above samples; and

(e) whether CSE has ever tried to found out the Aromatic compound content in the present petroleum fuel of commercial grade?

Acquisition of oilfields in Sudan and Oman

4334. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

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

(a) whether ONGC-VIDESH proposed to acquire oilfields in foreign countries like Sudan and Oman; and

(b) if so, whether Sudan is a safe investment place in view of state sponsored terrorism?

Impact of EEZ on crude production

4335. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all off-shore installations of the ONGC and other oil exploration companies engaged in off-shore explorations would be treated as part of Domestic Tariff Area (DTA), as a result of the recent Government decision to bring the entire Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf under the jurisdiction of the Customs Act, 1962; and

(b) if so, in what manner this will affect the cost structure of the crude production of ONGC and others engaged in off-shore exploration; and how the cost of production

of crude by them would compare with international crude production?

Checking of adulteration in petrol

4336. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to standardize the specification of petrol in petrol pumps to check adulteration;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in the matter; and

(c) the views of the automobile industry in this regard?

Completion of Paradeep Refinery

4337. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation proposes to issue bonds in favour of Orissa Government for completion of Paradeep Refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

Crude price at the time of hike in petroleum prices

†4338. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether Government had increased the prices of petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene oil in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the dates on which the increase in the prices of said items has been made during the period from March, 1999 to March, 2002 and to what extent the same have been increased in each case; and

(c) what was the rate of crude oil in international market every time the prices were increased?

Bifurcation of LPG agencies

4339. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to bifurcation of LPG agencies under DGR and non-DGR category;

(b) the names and addresses of partnership based DGR and non-DGR category, LPG agencies allowed to bifurcate on compassionate grounds during the last three years;

(c) the details of LPG agencies which have applied for bifurcation on compassionate grounds, location-wise so far; and

(d) what is their present status?

Dismantling of Oil Selection Boards

4340. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have dismantled Oil Selection Boards with the dismantling of APM;

(b) the number of Chairmen of Oil Selection Boards who have resigned so far ever since retired judges of the High Courts have been appointed as Chairmen of Oil Selection Boards;

(c) the number of Chairmen of the Oil Selection Boards who have been dismissed

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

ever since High Court judges have been appointed as Chairmen of Oil Selection Boards; and

(d) the reasons for the resignation and dismissal of the Chairmen of the Oil Selection Boards?

Oilfield near Nazira

4341. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new oilfield near Nazira has been explored by ONGC; and

(b) if so, the expected production of crude oil and natural gas from this field?

Gas-grid

4342. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for having a gas-grid in the country;

(b) if not, the steps taken to maintain regional balance in the gas-usage for industrial, commercial and domestic purposes in the country;

(c) whether the States of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Orissa are feeling seriously handicapped in industrialization because of absence of gas as feed stock; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken by Government to bring these States in the Gas Map of India?

Supply of natural gas to States

4343. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where there is no supply of natural gas from any source;

(b) whether the impact of absence of natural gas as feed stock on industrial scenario of these States has been assessed by the States or the Centre; and

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

Surplus stock of petroleum products

4344. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national oil companies continue to be saddled with excess stock of petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering any steps since surplus production of fuel is expected to exceed 100000 tonnes for each of these months;

(c) whether the surplus is reported to have been estimated by the Oil Coordination Committee on the basis of a Reliance Petroleum offer of 1,45,000 tonnes for January and 1,25,000 tonnes for February 2002;

(d) if so, whether this surplus is to be continued in March, 2002 also; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

LPG bottling plants in Andhra Pradesh

4345. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG bottling plants functioning in Andhra Pradesh at present, oil PSU-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to increase their number in the State to augment the LPG bottling capacity; and

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

New Survey in Gujarat off-shore

4346. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new survey in south Gujarat off-shore has shown existence of far more gas reserves than it was estimated earlier;

(b) if so, the details of old survey and that of the new one; and

(c) by when gas is likely to be extracted there?

Revision in category of Dealer Selection

†4347. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of retail outlets of various oil companies throughout the country, in whose respect the Dealer Selection Board failed to select any of dealers on two or more occasions for want of applicants of relevant category;

(b) the number of such outlets out of them, which are being run on COCO basis in the absence of full time dealer of relevant category;

(c) whether Government are considering to alter the category of these outlets; and

(d) if so, by when the same is likely to be done?

Review of Fuel Policy

4348. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a detailed review has been made of the existing fuel policy consequent to recent Supreme Court directive to phase out diesel buses in the Capital, so as to save other metropolises from the transportation crisis that grip Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the fresh policy initiatives taken to check further degradation of health of the citizens in various parts of the country on account of auto air pollution?

Irregularities in Publications Division

†4349. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published on 19th March, 2002 in Rashtriya Sahara, New Delhi under the caption, "Prakashan Vibhag main aniyamittaoun kay chalthey karoro rupay ka nuksaan";

(b) if so, the facts of this case; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty persons responsible for the irregularities being committed in the Publications Division?

Tourism Promotion Council

4350. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Tourism Promotion Corporation/Council in the Centre and State Capitals/Union

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Territories in order to use vast tourism potential and encourage foreign tourists;

- (b) if so, by when; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

PR services for Picasso exhibition

4351. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have entrusted the Picasso exhibition publicity work to Integral PR Services for four months; and
- (b) if so, what is the rationale in spending lakhs of rupees in hiring a private public relations agency to handle the publicity of the exhibition in India when Government have their own Information Department for the purpose?

Development of new tourist sites in Gujarat

4352. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any new tourist sites have been identified in the State of Gujarat during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the allocations made/proposed to be made for the development of these sites?

Preservation of heritage structures and museums of Kabul

4353. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India proposed to help Kabul

to preserve their Heritage structures and reconstruct museums;

- (b) if so, the planning made in this regard; and
- (c) the allocations made therefor?

Security and maintenance of historical and culturally important places

†4354. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which arrangements are made by Government for security and maintenance of historical inheritance and places of cultural importance all over the country;
- (b) whether export groups are appointed for these places;
- (c) the number of sites identified recently by Government from where historical information are likely to be acquired; and
- (d) the initiatives being taken by Government in this direction?

Rationalisation of export

†4355. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the DGFT captioned "DGFT for rationalisation of export props post-VAT" which appeared in Indian Express dated the 13th April 2002;
- (b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) the details of the schemes which are likely to be simplified/merged; and
- (d) what would be the likely implication of these measures?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Revamping of ITDC duty free shops

4356. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Indian Tourism Development Corporation is revamping its duty-free retail business at Delhi International Airport and is set to launch an exclusive wine corner and perfume and cosmetic boutique;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals that are being worked out;

(c) whether any concrete steps in this regard have been taken;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when it is likely to come under operation?

Propagation of tourism

† 4357. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite various efforts, Government have failed to make the historical cities of the country attractive and provide proper facilities and in their propagation;

(b) whether Government have considered or are considering to provide air travel in a planned manner in consultation with Ministry of Civil Aviation in view of developing Tourism;

(c) the details of place-wise/region-wise and air services regarding whole country; and

(d) whether Government are considering

to propagate and facilitate Allahabad, Ayodhya and other regions?

Development of tourism in Pondicherry

4358. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are taking steps for making tourism more attractive in the Union Territory of Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

New Cultural Policy

4359. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a new cultural policy;

(b) what is the status of the proposal and by when it is likely to be announced;

(c) whether specific provisions are proposed to be incorporated for bringing legislation to protect cultural heritage sites and properties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

New UNESCO Rules

4360. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new UNESCO rules prohibit repetition of application for grant of World Heritage sites rejected within two years; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the steps taken to represent the UNESCO so that application rejected for incomplete information should not come under the new restrictions?

Investigative study of history into historical and ruined buildings

†4361. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by Government for investigative study of history;

(b) whether it is proposed to investigate and conduct research afresh by new scientific means into historical and ruined buildings situated throughout the country;

(c) whether excavation work is being carried out at any place at present; and

(d) if so, the progress thereof?

Sites developed by National Culture Fund

4362. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of heritage sites developed/proposed to be developed by the National Culture Fund in Jharkhand and Bihar;

(b) the quantum of funds provided/proposed for each of these States;

(c) the sites developed/proposed to be developed by ASI through Japanese Trust Fund in these States; and

(d) the funds received so far from JTF?

Maintenance of Sun Temple, Konark

4363. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adopted a strategy for maintenance and conservation of the Sun Temple, Konark;

(b) whether foreign agencies are also extending financial help for the same; and

(c) if so, the details of financial allocation and utilisation of funds during the last three years as well as work undertaken thereon?

Fashion shows

4364. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the details of specific reasons for not taking any effective and necessary steps to stop women's fashion shows being organised in the different parts of the country keeping in view of Indian Culture?

Reduction of tourism tax

4365. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a research conducted by World Travel and Tourism Council has revealed that tax paid by tourists in India is around 40 per cent which is highest in the World;

(b) if so, whether India can attract more tourists by reducing tax;

(c) whether Government would reduce the tax; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

Leasing out of heritage sites

4366. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's expertise in preservation/restoration of heritage sites/

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

monuments is being sought by Vietnam and Cambodia for restoration of their heritage sites like Angkor Vat temple etc.;

(b) if so, whether this expertise could be put to use in the restoration of our heritage sites/monuments; and

(c) the reasons for Government having chosen to lease out heritage site likes Taj, Agra and Hampi in Karnataka to private parties like Tatas and Indian Oil despite holding of such expertise and know-how, which is sought after by other countries?

Funds for tourist inflow in AP

4367. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided Central funds/grants for construction of budget accommodation to attract tourist inflow in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of budget accommodations constructed in the State in public and private sector with Central funds so far; and

(d) whether Government propose to increase funds/grants to the State for the purpose?

Rejection of World Heritage sites for incomplete information

4368. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 13 Indian proposals for grant of World Heritage sites were rejected for incomplete information; and

(b) if so, the action taken to re-submit the proposals with appeal to treat them as fresh requests at the earliest?

Special scheme for encouraging tourism

†4369. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a special scheme to encourage tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned by Government for the implementation of such schemes; and

(d) the quantum of foreign exchange likely to be earned by these schemes, every year?

National Water Policy 2002

4370. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently announced the National Water Policy 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have expressed reservation about the new policy, that it has tinkered with the National Water Policy of 1987;

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) whether the said policy has been criticised by the Centre for Science and Environment and if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Setting up of Mahakali River Commission

4371. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to set up a Joint Committee with Nepal to look into the technical aspect of Lotan Rasiyawal Bund to check floods in UP through rivers originating from Nepal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Policy on Inter-State water sharing

4372. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new-sitem captioned "Water policy silent on Inter-State sharing" which appeared in The Hindu dated the 2nd April, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the revised policy is silent on Inter-State water sharing which has been referred to the National Water Board;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the policy in consultation with all the State Governments?

Meeting of the National Water Resources Council

4373. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN
AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister convened a meeting of the National Water Resources Council on April 1st, 2002 to adopt the long pending National Water Policy;

(b) if so, the total number of Chief Ministers who attended the meeting;

(c) what are the main subjects discussed;

(d) whether any final decision in this regard has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Scheme to integrate rivers

† 4374. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme to integrate the rivers of the country and conservation of their water in order to escape from the calamity like floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to save Bihar from the losses caused by floods of water coming from Nepal every year;

(d) whether Government have talked with the Government of Nepal in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Excess utilisation of ground water

† 4375. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the largest quantity of water is utilised in irrigation sector out of the total quantity of water utilised in the country at present;

(b) if so, the quantity of water utilised for irrigation purpose out the total quantity of water utilised;

(c) the quantity of underground water as well as ground water being utilised at present for irrigation purpose; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the level

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of underground water in the country is falling due to its excess utilisation?

Financial assistance for coastal protection work

4376. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had discontinued the financial assistance to State Governments for the sea wall construction works;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal for extending financial assistance for the coastal protection work is pending with Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any request has been made by the State Governments including Kerala seeking financial assistance for anti-sea erosion works; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

Clearance to pending irrigation projects in Maharashtra

4377. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending irrigation projects of Maharashtra;

(b) the reasons for the projects lying pending; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the clearance of pending irrigation projects of Maharashtra?

Ground water level in U.P.

4378. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board in association with the Ministry of Water Resources has decided to implement various schemes to raise the ground water level in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said schemes are likely to be implemented along with the total funds allocated/released for this purpose?

Inspection Report of Andhra Pradesh Well Project

4379. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Netherlands Ambassador inspected several works undertaken under the Andhra Pradesh Well Project funded by Netherlands;

(b) if so, whether the inspection reports shows satisfactory results of implementing the projects;

(c) the number of borewells which were sunk to irrigate 13,867 hectare benefiting poor and small farmers in the districts of Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) by when the work on this projects is likely to be completed; and

(e) the total amount provided by the Dutch Government in this project?

Rehabilitation of families due to sea erosion

4380. PROF. M. SANKA-RALINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed

the families affected by sea erosion State-wise;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate them; and

(c) what measures have been taken to avert such occurrences in future?

Pending irrigation projects in Gujarat

4381. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irrigation project of Gujarat is pending with Government;

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

(c) by when the project is likely to be cleared?

Special technique for water conservation scheme

†4382. PROF. R. B. S. VARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring into experiment any special technique for water conservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of water that could be conserved by this technique per year?

NEW DELHI;
The 1st May, 2002
Vaisakha 11, 1924 (*Saka*)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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