

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the April 8, 2003/Chaitra 18, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

Adjustment of departure time of small aircrafts

2627. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOSHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state what are the reasons, the departure of small aircrafts to different destinations like Imphal, Agartala, Dimapur, from Guwahati could not be linked with Delhi-Guwahati flights?

Sales outlets of IA at airports

2628. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines has sales outlets at various airports in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such sales outlets of Indian Airlines at the airports;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such sales outlets are not commercially successful and cost Indian Airlines very heavily;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Commercial Director of Indian Airlines has ordered that such outlets should not accept MCOs of passengers; and

(e) if so, the reasons for such outdated concepts being practiced by Indian Airlines?

Provision of aerobridge at Patna Airport

2629. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the civil airport at Patna has been upgraded as Jaiprakash Narayan International Airport;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this airport doesn't have the facility of aerobridge; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide this facility at Patna Airport and if so, by when?

Posting of IAF officials at ATC in metro airports

2630. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to post Indian Air Force (IAF) officers at civil air traffic controls in the four metro airports to monitor aircraft movement;

(b) the purpose of this decision taken by Government; and

(c) in what manner this would help IAF to react quickly in case of deviation of flight from its normal route?

Operation of international flights from Amritsar

2631. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to operate direct flights from Amritsar to destinations in Europe, Canada and United Kingdom for the benefit of the people of Punjab who have settled and are working there and also for tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Hike in fares of IA

2632. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to effect a 10 per cent hike in Indian Airlines fares; and

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

Emergency plan of airlines services during Iraq war

†2633. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines companies have formulated any emergency plan in view of the possibility of Iraq war; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

VRS for AI employees

†2634. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved

the Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of Air India to reduce the number of employees;

(b) if so, the time period in which the said scheme is likely to be implemented;

(c) the number of applications expected from the employees for the said scheme; and

(d) the financial burden likely to be borne by the Air India due to this scheme?

Direct flights to the USA and Europe

2635. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is planning to undertake a major fleet expansion by acquiring eight aircrafts on lease to operate direct flights to the USA and Europe from various destinations in our country;

(b) if so, whether Hon'ble Chief Minister of A.P. has requested the Centre to ensure that adequate number of flights by Air India from Hyderabad are planned to the USA and Europe while finalising the bilaterals with countries concerned as a very large number of professionals from Andhra Pradesh are working in the USA and Europe;

(c) if so, whether Government would agree to the request; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Modernisation of Amritsar Airport

2636. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Amritsar Airport at present;

(b) whether Government propose to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

modernise Amritsar Airport at par with International Airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount of funds spent so far on this and the funds to be allocated for the said project in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Global aviation alliance by Air India

2637. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has plans to join a global aviation alliance in the near future;

(b) in what manner this alliance will benefit the national carrier; and

(c) the basis on which Government are going to finalise the alliance?

Projects on air connectivity in NER

2638. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the declaration made by Hon'ble Prime Minister since 1996 as well the recommendation of the Task Force constituted for development of air connectivity in the North-East, project-wise implementation including creation of a separate regional air services;

(b) the implementation status of installation of the aerobridge, expansion of apron and taxi parking in LGNB Airport;

(c) the management pattern finalized of ATR and its status as to the FF and permissible baggage facility; and

(d) the support received from NEC and other agencies to purchase ATR aircraft and target to place more aircrafts to make the regional air service operational?

Foreign airlines allowed to fly over India

†2639. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private passenger/cargo foreign airlines permitted by Government to fly over our country;

(b) the details of earnings during the last three years from said airlines' business in our country, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government have fixed any criterion for this purpose under which the said airlines could be permitted to operate maximum number of flights indicating the total number thereof?

Monitoring Indian space with primary radars

2640. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to monitor the entire Indian airspace with primary radars keeping in view the Purulia and 9/11 incidents;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that Airports Authority of India (AAI) uses mostly secondary radars to monitor air traffic; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not replacing it with primary radars after 9/11 attack in the US?

VRS in Indian Airlines

2641. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 2686 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th December, 2002 and to state:

(a) what was the strength of the cadre and section in the case of 87 employees of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Indian Airlines whose requests for voluntary retirement were acceded to, both at the time when requests were made and when they were acceded to;

(b) in how many cases the acceptance of requests, resulted in shortage of staff;

(c) the reasons for acceding requests in all such cases while refusing in one case on this ground; and

(d) what corrective steps Government propose to take/taken in this regard?

Extension of runway at Mysore Airport

2642. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the extension of the existing runway of the Mysore Airport and night landing facility;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the above work and the amount released so far;

(c) by when the above work is likely to be completed;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to connect Mysore to other destinations by air;

(e) the details of the private air operators who have agreed to operate flights to Mysore from other destinations; and

(f) whether the studies conducted by the Airports Authority of India had found Mysore to be a viable destination?

Rationalisation of routes between AI and IA

2643. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has asked the Government to redistribute domestic routes between itself and Air India;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up a committee to rework the schedule of route rationalisation;

(c) if so, by when the committee is likely to submit its report to Government; and

(d) the time by when redistribution of routes between Indian Airlines and Air India are likely to be finalised and implemented?

Cost escalation in upgradation of international airports

2644. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not extended any budgetary support for the upgradation of various international airports in the country during this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is steep cost escalation in the upgradation of international airports in the past few years; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to deal with such a situation?

Impact of fuel cost on airfare

2645. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic airfares in India are among the highest in air tariffs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are anticipating increase in fuel cost this year;

(d) if so, whether increase in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) can be recovered through hike in air tariffs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Direct Air services from Rajasthan for Hajis

2646. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has requested the Central Government to make such necessary arrangements which would enable the Haj Pilgrims to catch the direct flights from Rajasthan instead of travelling to other cities for that purpose;

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

(c) the action contemplated by the Central Government thereon?

Decline in domestic passenger traffic in 2003

2647. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic airlines have to face a difficult situation in 2003 due to high operational costs and poor growth in number of passengers;

(b) if so, whether Government have drawn-up/proposed to draw-up a contingency plan to deal with the situation and ensure a viable domestic airlines running to full passenger capacity; and

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

Drill in case of terrorist attack

2648. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Team set up, after terrorist attack on the World Trade

Centre in New York on 11th September, 2001, comprising representatives from various Ministries to deal with such an exigency, is yet to be given a go ahead for formalisation of a drill to be followed in such cases;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the drill is likely to be finalised?

Loss suffered by AI

2649. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "AI losses Rs. 2 crore in a day due to London mess-up which appeared in a newspaper on January 30th, 2003 Mumbai Edition;

(b) whether any inquiry has been ordered regarding the loss incurred by Air India; and

(c) if so, whether the inquiry has been completed and if so, the details thereof?

Guidelines on ground handling at international airports

2650. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh guidelines have been issued for ground handling at the four major international airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private parties who had bid for the same earlier been debarred; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Completion of Bangalore and
Hyderabad International
Airports**

2651. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apprehensions
have been expressed about Bangalore and
Hyderabad International Airports getting
delayed as has been expressed in the news-
item of Economic Times of 8th November,
2002 under the caption 'Bangalore and
Hyderabad International Airports seen
unviable';

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

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken
to remove all snags in the completion of
these Airport projects?

**Air services from Bangalore to Saudi
Arabia**

2652. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities in Saudi
Arabia where Air India operates from
Bangalore; and

(b) whether Dammam is covered by Air
India from Bangalore, if not, whether Air
India propose to introduce a flight to
Dammam in view of huge traffic to
Bangalore?

**Increase in non-plan expenditure of
Government offices**

2653. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has
been a steep increase in the non-plan

expenditure in the Central Government
offices during the last three years in spite
of their downsizing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any
measures to cut down non-plan expenditure,
particularly under the heads publicity,
advertisement, Hospitality, Tours (including
foreign tour), STD and ISD telephone bills,
electricity bills, etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Expenses on research work by
companies**

†2654. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 86 per cent
companies in the country fail to spend any
amount on research work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme has been
formulated by Government to encourage
expenses on research work by companies;
and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Security features on high value
denomination notes**

2655. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India
is considering more security features on
high value denomination currency;

(b) if so, whether this move is to combat
counterfeit currency that match even the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

strands when shown up under Ultra Violet rays; and

(c) whether intelligence sources say that most fake currency notes originate from Persian gulf region but are not sure where these are produced?

Mobilisation of small deposits by States

2656. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire amount of small deposits mobilized by the States which were earlier accessible to the State Government as loans will henceforth be available only to the tune of 70 per cent; and

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

Expansion of insurance companies

2657. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has diluted the definition of rural sector to facilitate and expand the business opportunities for new-age insurance companies;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with new area and sectors now open for the insurance companies;

(c) the insurance benefit provided by the existing insurance companies to the traditional rural sectors during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the rural sectors and areas preferred by the Joint Venture insurance players and whether they are mandated to provide insurance benefit to identified rural sectors?

Impact of economic recession on Industrial sector

2658. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the possibilities of industrial recovery are taking a beating with global economic recession continuing unabated;

(b) whether it is a fact that the growth of services sector has also been adversely effected by the global economic recession;

(c) whether Government are aware that the growth of the services sector is contingent upon healthy agricultural and industrial sectors and with the declaration or stagnancy of these sectors the growth of the services sector is going to be seriously affected; and

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

Slow growth rate

†2659. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has observed that as the States do not have sufficient financial resources it is difficult for them to achieve the targetted growth rate of eight per cent during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps Government propose to take to achieve the target?

Cut in allocations for social sector projects

2660. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

slash the allocations for social sectors for the year 2003-04 by capping the same at 1,00,000 crores;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has recommended allocation of a minimum of Rs. 1,34,000 crores for social sectors during 2003-04; and

(c) whether the slashing of allocation would adversely affect the on-going projects/programmes of education and rural development sectors?

Easing of banking security laws

2661. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ease the banking security laws;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the need for this measure?

NPA of IDBI

2662. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of NPA accounts in IDBI;

(b) how many have had their outstanding dues settled so far; and

(c) the stipulated guidelines for the settlement?

Rotation of cost auditors to prevent manipulation

2663. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take a policy decision to rotate cost auditors appointed by various companies on three years basis;

(b) whether it is a fact that cost auditors of the companies are helping in manipulation of balance sheets;

(c) whether it is a fact that the small investors have lost crores of rupees because of such manipulations; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to correct the situation?

Managerial remuneration of corporate directors

2664. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to frame guidelines regarding managerial remuneration of corporate directors; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when these guidelines are expected to be implemented?

Area excise exemption zone for Assam polytex Ltd.

2665. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Assam has submitted any proposal for notified area (excise exemption zone) for Assam Polytex Ltd., Jagiroad (district-Murigaon);

(b) if so, what is the status of the above proposal;

(c) whether Government are aware that five hundred employees are jobless due to unviable textile unit and workers are waiting for the notification by Central Government; and

(d) the time by when the above notification is likely to be issued by the Central Government?

MUL agreement with SBI for loans

†2666. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maruti Udyog has entered into an agreement with State Bank of India (SBI) for providing loan to the consumers at lower rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is proposal of heavy reduction in the interest rates under this agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Sanctioning of loans to SGCs by banks

2667. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is putting direct and indirect pressure on Commercial Banks to exercise extreme caution while sanctioning loans to State Government run Corporations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the details of outstanding loans at present against each State Government run Corporations, bank-wise?

Misuse of Export Promotion Schemes

2668. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Import and Export Companies, which exist only on documents, have cheated the Government to the tune of several crores of rupees by misusing Export Promotion Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some

officials of customs Department are also involved in this racket;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of customs officers facing charges and details of action taken against them, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to check such fraudulent practices?

Opening of branch of State Bank of Patiala

2669. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of Patiala had a proposal to open its branch at Patpar Ganj, Delhi and an advertisement inviting proposals for accommodation in the area was also published in The Times of India dated the 22nd August, 2002;

(b) if so, what is the present status of acquiring the accommodation together with the reasons for delay therein; and

(c) by when the branch at Patpar Ganj is likely to start functioning?

New ways and means formula of RBI

2670. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has adopted a new ways and means (WMA) formula and overdraft to States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of occasions when RBI and its agencies stopped payment in respect of a State in case of overdraft in excess of WMA during last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce the rate of interest on WMA keeping in view financial

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

position of the States especially poor States like Orissa?

Serious Frauds Investigation Office

2671. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate office is being set up namely Serious Frauds Investigation Office in Department of Company Affairs;

(b) if so, what will be the terms of reference of this office; and

(c) who will be the head of this office and who will be the appellate Authority?

Guidelines for Asset reconstruction companies

2672. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI issued final set of guidelines for asset reconstruction companies;

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

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Account maintenance charges by NSDL

2673. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Depository Services (DPs) extend the services under National Securities Depositories Limited (NSDL) to small investors by holding their equities in demat form;

(b) if so, what are the charges being levied by DPs so far;

(c) whether DPs have recently levied Additional Custody charges as per equity in addition to Account Maintenance charges; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken by Government against NSDL/DPs to ensure that Account Maintenance charges are withdrawn forthwith in the interest of small investors?

Revival of Urban Co-operative banks

2674. DR. A. K. PATEL:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Urban Co-operative banking sector has been halted due to various factors and is passing through critical situation;

(b) if so, what steps Governments are considering to take up to stop the further deterioration of the sector; and

(c) whether Government propose to sanction the soft loans for strengthening these banks (through DI and CGCI)?

Amendment of secrecy law in banks

†2675. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the laws relating to secrecy in the banks to make them transparent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government propose to bring the above amendments?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Cut in Interest rates on refunds

2676. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to slash the interest rates on refunds to companies and individuals against advanced taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government aware that refund orders are generally delayed by the income tax authorities; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take so as to ensure the timely payment of refund orders to companies and individuals?

Domestic debt by Government

†2677. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount taken as debt by Government from the domestic market has been increasing continuously since last years;

(b) if so, the amount of debt during 1998-99; and

(c) the amount of debt at the beginning of March, 2003?

Loans for higher education

†2678. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether loans for higher education in the country is given by financial institutions particularly by banks;

(b) if so, the number of students given loans by banks during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002; and

(c) the average amount of loan given to each student?

Simplification of tax system

2679. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to simplify tax system, if so, the details of the simplification procedure as reported in the Times of India of 18th December, 2002;

(b) whether the purpose is to bring in uniform rates and to eliminate interface between tax-payers and authorities; and

(c) the benefits that would accrue to the common man as a result?

Schemes for weaker section by United India Insurance

2680. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United India Insurance Company has launched new schemes for weaker sections of society, as reported in the Financial Express of 5th December, 2002, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what additional benefits would accrue in the schemes over the ones offered by other companies; and

(c) whether any awareness launched by the company to harness business under the above schemes?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Revision of reduction on import
duty of Coke**

2681. DR. A.K. PATEL:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether any representation has
been received from Government of
Gujarat for revising the reduction made
in the import duty of Coke; and

(b) if so, what is the Central
Government's response thereto?

**Expenditure by Ministries in the
Financial year 2002-2003**

†2682. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
LALAN:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that less than
allocated expenditure is likely to be spent
by certain Ministries in the year 2002-
2003 under the planned expenditure
head;

(b) if so, the names of these
Ministries; and

(c) the percentage of under-expenditure
anticipated to be incurred by each of these
Ministries so far?

Delay in payment of pensions by SBI

2683. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-
CHANDRAYYA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that credit
advice for payment of monthly pension in
respect of VRS-employees of Delhi
Branches of the Associate Banks of SBI
are not released in time by their Head-
quarters/Regional offices leading to
avoidable delay and harassment to the
pensioners;

(b) if so, whether Government
would advise the concerned banks to
ensure timely payment of pension on the
last working day of the months as in the
case of Central Government pensioners;
and

(c) by when directions in this regard
are proposed to be issued and implemented
by the concerned banks?

**Opening of foreign currency by
Resident Indians**

2684. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Resident
Indians can now open a foreign currency
account with a licensed/scheduled bank;

(b) what are the formalities that the
Resident Indians have to comply with
for opening for foreign currency account
in India; and

(c) whether RBI have issued any
guidelines in this regard, and if so, the
details thereof?

Closing of subsidiary bodies of IDBI

†2685. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will
the Minister of FINANCE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IDBI has

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

decided to close its five subsidiary bodies which are running in losses;

(b) if so, the details of such bodies alongwith the extent to which the each body has been incurring loss and since when;

(c) whether it is a fact that USA based Moors Roland Consulting Private Limited (MRCL) has been appointed as Technical advisor by IDBI; and

(d) if so, the payment made for the said purpose?

Loan application of unemployed youth

2686. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the Self Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) Programme during the last three years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the number of application received, number of cases where loans have been sanctioned and number of cases where payment has been made under the programme during the above period, State-wise;

(d) whether a number of cases for sanctioning loans are still pending for clearance;

(e) if so, the reasons for delay;

(f) whether any complaints have been received by banks in this regard; and

(g) if so, the action taken thereon?

Fund for disinvestment proceeds

2687. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1290 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th March, 2003 and state:

(a) whether a separate fund for disinvestment proceeds has been formed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the disinvestment proceeds received so far in case of BALCO, Modern Food Industries Ltd. PPL, HTL and Hotels of ITDC and Hotel Corporation of India?

CBI raids on corrupt officials

†2688. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money seized in raids carried out by the Central Bureau of Investigation during the first week of January against some Government Officers on allegation of amassing wealth disproportionate to their known sources income by misusing their office alongwith the names of those departments to which these officers belonged; and

(b) whether Government would continue taking such steps in future and the details of action Government taken / propose to take against officers already apprehended and to be apprehended in future?

Reduction in area for cultivation of opium in M.P.

†2689. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area for opium

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

cultivation have been reduced in district Mandasaur etc. in Western region of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the land on which opium was produced along with the quantity of opium yield during the last three years in the State; and

(c) whether Government are considering to give incentive to opium growers?

Tighter accountability norms for banks

2690. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the RBI is seriously thinking of bringing tighter accountability norms for banks;

(b) if so, what is the main idea behind bringing tighter accountability norms for all banks in the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring an amendment to the existing laws in this regard?

Depository services charged from investors

2691. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount being charged by various Depository Services (DPs) under the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) from investors for holding their portfolios in Demat Form (DF);

(b) how many times during the last three years, the charges by DPs have been increased, with the details of increased charges and reasons for increase; and

(c) whether small investors and Government bodies like SEBI and RBI were consulted for increasing the charges of DPs and if not, whether Government would probe the matter and ask the DPs to maintain *status quo* and if not, the reasons therefor?

Concessional credit scheme for States

†2692. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The States which are proposed to be provided with loans under the first phase of concessional credit scheme;

(b) whether any high level committee is being constituted to improve the fiscal condition of the States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Computer failures in SBI Branch in Hyderabad

2693. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that computers are going out of order every five minutes in various branches in twin-cities under the State Bank of India, LHO Hyderabad;

(b) whether it is also a fact that computer cell in SBI Hyderabad zonal office has miserably failed to rectify the hangover and errors in computers despite repeated complaints from Managers of SBI branches; and

(c) what steps the SBI propose to take to provide hassle-free service to customers?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Disparity in interest rate on housing loans

2694. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the nationalised banks including State Bank of India and Central Bank of India are charging more than 11.5 per cent interest rate for House Building Loans and concessions is given to only employees of their banks whereas some of the banks have already reduced the interest on housing loans to 9.5 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a big disparity in housing loan interest rates of various banks;

(c) whether Government propose to rationalise the interest rates on housing loans;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

NPAs of banks and financial institutions

2695. SHRI DINANATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of N.P.As in the Indian Financial System as per data available with Government;

(b) how far the Securitisation and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act is proving useful in speedy recovery of loans; and

(c) how much amount, in absolute terms, has been recovered from defaulting borrowers after the abovesaid Act came into force?

Recovery of outstanding dues from private sector companies

2696. SHRI CHOS. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of private sector companies who have huge dues of Non-Performing Assets due to the Government/Banks along with their dues;

(b) what is the total dues collected from them;

(c) what steps are being taken to collect the dues after the Securitisation bill has been passed; and

(d) whether Government has fixed any target for collection during this financial year and if so, the details thereof?

Assessment of income tax of persons/ companies making films

†2697. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which income tax is assessed in respect of persons or companies making films and T.V. serials along with the artists and persons working therein;

(b) the details of tax pending against each of the above mentioned categories and persons;

(c) whether film and T.V. serial producers makes tax deduction at source from the salaries of artists making in their films and serials; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether cases have been registered against some films stars and film producers for the recovery of tax and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

VRS for General Insurance Companies

2698. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up an elaborate plan for manpower reduction in State owned General Insurance Companies;

(b) if so, whether under the plan Government have offered about 13000 development officers of the four general insurance companies three options either to operate within lower cost parameters or opt for administrative posts or exit under the special voluntary retirement scheme; and

(c) whether this VRS will have adverse effect on efficiency of insurance sector?

Instalment of Dearness Allowance

2699. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether another instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due to the Central Government Employees with effect from 1st January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same has since been released and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the same is likely to be ordered to be paid?

Repayment of debts by unemployed youths

†2700. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the slow progress in the timely repayment of debts by unemployed youths under Prime

Minister's self-employment scheme;

(b) if so, whether he is also aware of the fact that complicated procedure for sanctioning debts under this scheme and inadequate amount of debt are the main reasons behind it;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to streamline the procedure of the distribution of the debts and to increase the amount of the debt under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

World Bank assistance to Uttaranchal

2701. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received certain proposals from Government of Uttaranchal for World Bank's assistance for various developmental schemes specially for its structural adjustment schemes; and

(b) if so, the details of the schemes and whether all the schemes have been recommended to the World Bank?

Tax free status of maturity proceeds of Bima Nivesh

2702. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Insurance Companies both in public and private sector have represented Government to retain tax-free status of maturity proceeds of insurance policies such as Bima Nivesh etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government on the representations?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Floating of Special Purpose Vehicles by States

2703. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have asked State Governments not to float Special Purpose Vehicles without its approval;

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

(c) what are the States' contingent liabilities as on 31st March, 2003 and their percentage to GDP; and

(d) the steps being taken to help States to reduce the contingent liabilities?

High Stamp Duty for registration of Property

2704. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for keeping Stamp Duty for the registration of the property i.e. flats, apartments, plots so high;

(b) the reasons for the registration rates varying from State to State; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take against those who do not get their property registered?

Universal service obligation levy from telecom operators

2705. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are collecting "Universal Service Obligation" levy from all Telecom operators for funding the expansion of Telecom in rural areas which are not so remunerative;

(b) if so, whether this levy is accruing to the Consolidated Fund of India; and

(c) if so, the details of this amount collected so far and the manner in which this fund is going to be deployed and utilized and other details arising thereof?

Overdraft norms for States

2706. SHRI ARJUN SINGH: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has revised overdraft norms for States;

(b) if so, what are the details of the norms revised;

(c) to what extent it will be beneficial to the States;

(d) to what extent it will check the overdrafts by the State Governments;

(e) how many States have in the past been in the list of overdrafts; and

(f) what were the main reasons for this?

Private insurance operators

2707. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private Insurance Companies including Foreign Multinational Companies which are permitted to operate in India;

(b) the number and names of such companies which are operating in rural sectors;

(c) the number of persons below poverty line, if any, who have been insured by such companies together with the terms and conditions of the insurance; and

(d) the distribution of such insured persons State-wise and year-wise during the last five years?

Settlement of mediclaims

2708. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 31 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th February, 2003 and state:

(a) the number and name of the designated hospitals recognised for the purpose of settlement of mediclaims of the policy holders in the different States;

(b) whether the number of such hospitals is inadequate to the actual requirements which often lead to a delay in the settlement of claims;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to augment their number and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the maximum amount of cashless mediclaims admissible under the scheme?

Transfer of income tax appeals

2709. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to recommend the transfer and hearing of income tax appeals against Search and Seizure of Companies to Delhi for final decision; and

(b) if so, who will be the appellate authority?

RBI's credit policy regarding UCBs

2710. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI declared the new credit policy regarding Urban Cooperative Banks in April, 2001;

(b) whether the Maharashtra State Cooperative Banks and National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks represented against it;

(c) if so, the details of the reservations expressed by them; and

(d) the action taken to redress their grievances?

Restructuring of SFCs

2711. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gupta Committee had recommended the capital restructuring of State Financial Corporations;

(b) whether Maharashtra Government had requested the Union Government in December, 2001 in this regard;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the reasons for delay and by when, these financial corporations are proposed to be restructured?

Disparity on rebate to HBA

2712. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a disparity on rebate being allowed on interest accruing on House Building Advance to the Central Government Employees who have taken HBA;

(b) whether the Central Government Employees who have taken HBA before 1999 are paying more than 11 per cent interest;

(c) whether the limit of rebate on interest, in their case for the purpose of calculating income tax has been fixed at Rs. 30,000/-

whereas in the case of the Central Government employees who took HBA after 1999 has been fixed at Rs. 1.50 lakhs; and

(d) whether Government will rectify this disparity; if not, the reasons therefor?

Project for reducing poverty

2713. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sent Rs. 1,170 crore Community Heralded Empowerment Transformation and New Awakening Project (CHETNA) aimed to reduce poverty, if so, whether it has forwarded to the World Bank;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) what is the present status of the above project?

Restoration of LTC

2714. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Leave Travel Concession (LTC) for the Central Government employees may be restored to boost tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it would be extended once in four years for pensioners for encouraging inland domestic travel?

Interest rate on advances to Self Help Groups

2715. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for Public Sector Banks charging 12 per cent interest on advances to Self Help Groups;

(b) what is the total deposits of the Self Help Groups in the nationalised banks; and

(c) what are the details of advances to Self Help Groups by the nationalised banks during the last three years, bank-wise?

Budgetary support to PSUs

2716. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total budgetary support given to Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) what is the objective of the subsidy to PSUs regarding (i) installation of the plant (ii) payment of salary (iii) upgradation of technology (iv) expansion of plant or, any other?

Pending applications for allotment of PAN

2717. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are large number of applications pending for allotment of PAN in the Income Tax Department all over the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such pending applications; and

(c) how Government propose to structure the working of I.T. Department in issuing the PAN to the applicants?

More funds for Planning Commission

2718. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has

recently directed the Finance Ministry to provide more money for the Planning Commission as gross budgetary support for plan schemes in 2003-2004;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the money has been released; and
- (d) if so, whether the same has allocated to various plan schemes and if so, the details thereof?

Increase in Central subsidies

2719. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recommended phasing out of non-merit subsidies worth over Rs. 1,30,000 crores which have increased from a negative 1.04 per cent during 1991-95 to 19.38 during 1995-2000;

(b) if so, why this alarming fiscal situation has arisen, which are the sectors where subsidies have been increased and why; and

(c) what steps Government propose to adopt to tackle this situation?

Efficiency of new law for recovery of NPAs

2720. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new law to ensure recovery from NPA account holders in banks and other public finance institutions proving to be effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof, banks and institution-wise as compared to the situation before such enactment; and

(c) the observations of Government on the emerging trend?

Closing of offices of Small Saving Organisation in M.P.

2721. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the offices of National Small Saving Organisation in Madhya Pradesh are being closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have surveyed the number of persons engaged in the field of small savings and the number of those persons who are likely to be affected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

States implementing VAT

2722. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of States willing to implement Value Added Tax;

(b) what is the number of States which have refused to implement Value Added Tax; and

(c) which States will sustain huge loss in implementing Value Added Tax?

Assessment of loss to States due to VAT

2723. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of loss of revenue to States for switching over to VAT from April, 2003;

(b) if so, details of losses, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) how Government propose to compensate these losses?

Impact of Iraq war on crude oil import

2724. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner Government propose to keep the imported crude oil flow to our refineries after the Iraq war had started;

(b) what was the actual amount of crude oil imported to our country from the Gulf Region, State-wise; and

(c) in what manner this deficit after war is to be made up?

Strike by marketing staff of IOC

2725. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been huge shortage of LPG, petrol and diesel throughout the country due to long drawn out 'work to rule' protest by the workmen and junior officers handling the marketing of these products of IOC;

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

(c) the reasons for the agitation of the employees of IOC; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to mitigate the grievances of the agitators and to tide over the huge shortfall in the supply/ specially of LPG to the consumers?

Self-reliance in energy sector

2726. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how far India has moved to the stage of self-reliance in oil and gas with Krishna-Godavari basin oil discovery, and discovery of medium-size oil and gas field in

Rajasthan, and both Government and private sector (ONGC and RIL) being actively engaged in exploration activities; and

(b) by when India is expected to become self-reliant in this field of energy?

IOC's pipeline project to Sri Lanka

2727. MISS MABEL REBELLO: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether IOC propose to lay a pipeline to Sri Lanka for exporting diesel and aviation turbine fuel to the island, as detailed in the Financial Express dated the 20th December, 2002;

(b) the route of the pipeline and its length, both on land and under sea;

(c) how far it would be economically beneficial; and

(d) the details of agreement entered into with the Sri Lanka for the purpose with amount of foreign exchange per annum expected to be earned after completion of the project?

ONGC's joint venture for Assam fields

2728. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has tied up with Russian Tech., to increase crude production in Assam fields; if so, the details of the action plan;

(b) the expected increase of crude and amount of proposed investment for the purpose; and

(c) the other plans of ONGC to augment crude production in India with the details of investment?

Demand of LPG

†2729. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether there has been a continuous increase in the demand for LPG during the last few years in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated increase in demand during 2002-03 as compared to demand in 1999-2000 togetherwith the details thereof; and

(c) the import of LPG made during the above mentioned years to meet the demand in the country?

Subsidized LPG for institutions

2730. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce subsidized LPG for Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the burden on exchequer on this account?

Increase in prices of petrol and diesel

2731. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) the number of times prices of petrol, diesel were increased after the Administrative Price Mechanism for the petroleum products was dismantled; and

(b) the dates on which prices were increased and the increase in rates at each time?

Basis for calculation of subsidy on LPG

†2732. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that with a view to providing subsidy to the consumers, the import price of LPG is treated to be basis for assessment of quantum thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for treating import price as basis instead of actual cost of production?

Sale of equity by ONGC

†2733. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC Videsh Ltd. has disposed off its equity in a number of foreign companies to Oil India Ltd. during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of foreign companies where equity has been sold; and

(c) the money earned by such sale alongwith the percentage of profit?

Production of LPG

†2734. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that LPG is produced in the country;

(b) if so, its average annual production during the last three years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether there is any possibility to increase its production in the country; and

(d) if so, the extent to which its production can be increased?

Concessional pricing for crude by OPEC

2735. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is considering India's request for concessional pricing of crude oil supply in the near future;

(b) if so, what are the details of requests being examined by OPEC; and

(c) to what extent Government are likely to be benefited from OPEC's decision?

Attack on oil refinery in Assam

†2736. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ULFA has attacked with a rocket propelled grenade in Digboi Refinery in the first week of March, 2003;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ULFA blew-up OIL's pipeline near Duliajan in upper Assam;

(c) if so, the extent of damage due to these attacks to the oil companies;

(d) whether any action plan has been initiated against the culprits; and

(e) the steps taken to check such incidents in future and ensure safety of the reference?

Removal of ban on new dealers

2737. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government has lifted the ban on State-owned oil companies from setting up petrol pumps and LPG agencies;

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

(c) whether the marketing heads of oil PSUs have been asked to submit the guidelines to the Ministry before they are implemented;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to see that the reservation of weaker sections, freedom fighters and widows is adhered to; and

(e) what are the other conditions imposed on these dealers?

Availability of two varieties of petrol

2738. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two types of petrol are available at the petrol pumps;

(b) if so, what is the rationale behind introducing two types of petrol in the retail outlet; and

(c) whether Government propose to maintain uniform standard as far as petrol is considered to keep the pollution level low?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Agreement on distribution of petroleum products

†2739. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of private companies besides public undertakings with which agreements for distribution/sale of petroleum products have been made indicating the time period of these contracts;

(b) whether providing sale facility to private companies neglecting Government undertakings is justified; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider the said agreement for giving preference to Government undertakings and if not, the reasons therefor?

Social welfare schemes of oil PSUs

2740. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PSUs under his Ministry have taken up activities related to welfare and economic development of SCs/STs and other weaker sections residing in neighbourhood of projects; and

(b) if so, the detail of such activities undertaken during the last three years, year-wise and PSU-wise?

R and D on Bio-diesel

2741. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural waste lands is being used for Karanjia tree plantations to produce Bio-diesel, urja;

(b) whether any programme of research and development has been made in this regard; and

(c) by when the result is expected in this regard?

Frequent increase in prices of petrol and diesel

2742. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of diesel and petroleum have been recently hiked;

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

(c) whether this is the second such increase in the month of March, 2003;

(d) if so, the reasons for such frequent increase;

(e) whether such increase is likely to have a cascading effect on prices of various commodities and will in the process hit the life of the common people; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

ONGC Values Limited

2743. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has moved a proposal to float a special purpose vehicle, ONGC Values Ltd. with its equity restricted to 49 per cent with balance of equity being with Non-Government financial institutions like ICICI Ltd. IDFC and HDFC with neither holding more than 25 per cent;

(b) if so, the proposed terms of the new entity and the main objective and purpose thereof indicating the circumstances leading to such proposal; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what is Government's decision in the matter?

Allotment of dealership under reservation category in Gujarat

2744. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is reservation for SC/ST and unemployed youth in the allotment of LPG agencies and retail outlets of public sector oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of gas agencies and retail outlets allotted in Gujarat under reservation category during the last three years, year-wise and agency/outlet-wise?

Roll back in prices of petrol and diesel

2745. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the frequent hike in prices of petrol and diesel during the last few months have affected adversely on essential commodities;

(b) if so, whether strong protests have been made by various State Governments on such move of the public sector oil companies to hike prices of petrol and diesel;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to roll back hike in prices of petrol and diesel in view of sharp criticism; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of kerosene oil to Himachal Pradesh

2746. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the per-capita availability and consumption of kerosene oil in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise average; and

(b) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to increase the allocation of kerosene oil in Himachal Pradesh, specially in backward, snow bound and far flung areas?

Shortage of LPG due to strike

2747. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of LPG and other petroleum products has been reported in various parts of the country as a result of go-slow agitation by the employees of various public sector oil companies;

(b) if so, whether Government's efforts to resolve the issue with the various unions of the oil companies remained failure; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to resolve the issue?

Consumption of petroleum products in Haryana

2748. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the average daily consumption of Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene respectively in Haryana; and

(b) what is the shortage capacity for the above products in the State?

Opening of new tourist projects in Andhra Pradesh

2749. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to throw open Rs. 800 crore tourist projects;

(b) if so, whether these projects are at present in various stages of implementation under the Central, State and private sector initiatives;

(c) whether these projects are executed with an amount of Rs. 730 crore;

(d) if so, what are the stages at which these projects are;

(e) whether these are joint projects between the Centre, State and private sector; and

(f) if so, by when these projects are likely to be completed?

Expenditure on opening of Hotel Management and Catering Institutes in Uttaranchal

†2750. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the New Delhi edition of "Dainik Jagaran" on 28th February 2003 captioned "Uttaranchal Sanskritik Va Dharmik Nursery, Jagmohan";

(b) if so, the names of other two places besides Dehradun where three nation level Hotel Management and Catering Institutes sanctioned by Government are proposed to be opened;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the above scheme so far; and

(d) by when, the said work is likely to be completed?

Funds allocated for development of tourism in NE and hill districts of U.P. and W.B.

2751. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Central assistance given to each of the North Eastern States, and for the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal under the Centrally Assisted Schemes for the development of tourism during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and so far during 2002-2003; year-wise; and

(b) the extent to which the assistance was utilized and the actual developmental work done in each State during the period?

Foreign exchange earned by Department of Tourism

†2752. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign/domestic tourists who visited different States in the country during the last five years along with State-wise/year-wise details thereof; and

(b) the quantum of foreign exchange earned by the Department of Tourism during the said period?

Working group for assessing requirement of funds

2753. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a working group to assess, State-wise requirement of fund for the development of tourist infrastructure;

(b) if so, the estimate made by the working group for each State;

(c) the amount sanctioned out of that; and

(d) the allocation made to various States from the sanctioned amount during the last three years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

New technology for tourism industry

2754. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new technology is set to spur the sagging Indian tourism industry which has witnessed a 15 per cent decline during the last fiscal year;

(b) if so, whether online reservation, global distribution system, e-Holiday departments and implementation of sophisticated security systems such as swipe cards is prodding growth in the travel sector;

(c) if so, what are the other details of the new technology that is being considered to improve tourism sector;

(d) what steps are being taken to implement these new technologies; and

(e) to what extent it has been helpful?

Development of tourism in Jharkhand

†2755. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposal for development of tourism in Jharkhand received by Government during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals granted approval and number of proposals rejected together with the number of proposals still under consideration; and

(c) the reasons for rejecting the above proposals?

Important places of tourist attraction in U.P. and Uttaranchal

2756. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

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

(a) the important places of tourist attractions in the States of U.P. and Uttaranchal;

(b) whether Government have any plan to improve the tourist places in these two States;

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

(d) the comprehensive package drawn for Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) whether Government have released any fund for the State of Uttaranchal to improve the tourist places if so, by when and if not, whether Government have any plan to release in future?

Role of private sector in development of adventure tourism

2757. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of adventure tourism in the country;

(b) the locations identified for the growth of such tourism in the country; and

(c) the role of the private sector in the development of adventure tourism?

Attracting foreign tourists from C.I.S. countries

2758. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been undertaken to assess and explore the latent

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

potential of attracting tourists to India from the C.I.S. countries, as suggested in a write-up entitled "Tourism Challenge in the Silk Route" which appeared in the Times of India dated the 10th March, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of any specific marketing campaigns already launched and other strategies worked out to promote Destination India to the C.I.S. sector tourist?

New projects for promotion and development of tourism

†2759. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any new projects for the promotion and development of tourism in various States of the country; and

(b) if so, the project-wise/State-wise details thereof and the amount of money proposed to be spent in this regard?

Upgradation of Kaziranga and Manas National Park in Assam

2760. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of action plan for the development of tourism industry in Assam in tune with the current financial budget;

(b) whether Government have any collaborative project with the Environment and Forest Ministry to upgrade the standard of Kaziranga and Manas National Park; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Japanese Bank aid for conservation of Ajanta and Ellora caves

2761. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japanese Bank proposed to fund any tourism project for the conservation of Ajanta and Ellora caves;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Renovation of historical tourist sites

†2762. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any foreign loan for the renovation of historical tourists sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the location-wise names of those tourists sites where above loan is likely to be spent?

Launching of duty free shops

2763. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has launched its duty free shops;

(b) if so, the Airports/Hotels where ITDC proposed to launch its duty free shops;

(c) the steps taken by ITDC in that regard; and

(d) the main objections of launching such shops?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Protected monuments in Gujarat

2764. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the monument-wise number of Central protected monuments with Archaeological Survey of India in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is a fact that many of these monuments are decaying and are in neglected state;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their neglect; and

(d) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

Taking over of Tiruvannamalai Temple by ASI

2765. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ASI has decided to takeover the ancient Tiruvannamalai Temple in Tamil Nadu under its control;

(b) what are the prescribed norms to takeover ancient monuments under ASI;

(c) whether Government are aware of the opposition of the entire population of Tamil Nadu to this takeover by ASI; and

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

Financial assistance for historical places and ancient temples in Tamil Nadu

2766. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Tiruchirapalli District in Tamil Nadu are

famous for historical places and ancient temples which attract tourists from all over the world;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to release financial assistance to provide facilities in those places up to the International standards;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Privatisation of Brindavan Garden, Mysore

2767. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka proposes to privatise the internationally famous Brindavan Garden in Mysore; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to acquire it in view of its great importance?

Publishing the list of protected monuments of Delhi

2768. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 2128 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th March, 2003 and to state:

(a) whether despite the existence of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Site and Remains Act/ (the Protected Monuments Act), 1958 and Delhi High Court's order the Archaeological Survey of India is yet to publish the complete list of Delhi's protected monuments;

(b) whether due to lack of proper maintenance large number of 'protected' monuments in Delhi are in dilapidated condition and due to improper security

arrangements large number of such 'protected' monuments are subject to encroachments;

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

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government for the proper protection of all the monuments of Delhi?

Proper utilization of Central assistance granted to U.P. and Uttaranchal

2769. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Central assistance year-wise, scheme-wise and State-wise, separately both for centrally sponsored schemes and the State sector schemes of the Ministry given to Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether the entire Central assistance has been utilized by both the States; and

(c) if not, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that the Central assistance in this sector is properly utilized?

Historical tourism sites in NE - Region

†2770. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those historical tourist sites in north-eastern States for whose conservation and development Government are extending financial assistance;

(b) the assistance provided to all said States for the repair and conservation of said tourist sites during the last three years; and

(c) the amount actually spent during the same period by these States?

Water shortage in developing countries

2771. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study by FAO (UN) has predicted severe water shortage in developing countries;

(b) whether according to the report the water problem will aggravate to the extent that every one country among the five developing countries will face acute water scarcity;

(c) whether India participated in the World Water Forum conclave held in Kyoto during March 2003; and

(d) if so, a summary of the deliberations held at the conclave?

Workshop on wastewater treatment

2772. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether global as well as national experts have urged Government to set up a multi-stakeholder task force to formulate an overall strategy for effective management and treatment of wastewater which was the need of the hour;

(b) if so, whether a two-day workshop on "Wastewater Treatment: Decentralised Technologies for Effective Management" was held in New Delhi in the month of January, 2003;

(c) whether any strategy has been formulated in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when it is likely to be implemented?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Water quality in India

2773. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India ranks "120th" in a list of 122 countries for their water quality as also their ability and commitment of improving its quality, as revealed in the World Water Development Report;

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

(c) if so, what long-term steps Government propose to adopt regarding adequacy of water supply in the country and improving its quality?

Management of water resources

2774. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made to evaluate the implementation of the action plan formulated for optimal and sustainable development and management of water resources of the country as envisaged in the National Water Policy, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of specific steps taken or time-bound projects launched, if any, towards development and management of water resources in an integrated manner?

Status of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme in Andhra Pradesh

2775. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had in the recent past launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to assist the States to complete those irrigation projects which are in advance stages of completion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the status of AIBP in Andhra Pradesh?

Restructuring of Command Area Development Programme

2776. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and State-wise budget that has been earmarked for Command Area Development Programme during the last five years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are seriously thinking of restructuring the above programme to make to more beneficial to the farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Rehabilitation package for Sardar Sarovar Dam oustees

2777. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project, the expenditure so far incurred and the share of cost contributed by each participating State;

(b) whether Gujarat had agreed to a revised rehabilitation package of Rs. 239 crores for the dam oustees of Madhya

Pradesh and to provide free electricity to Madhya Pradesh in lieu of the power loss likely to arise as a result of the Irrigation By-Pass Tunnel (IBPT) constructed without concurrence of the participating States; and

(c) if so, how far Gujarat has carried out and financed the rehabilitation package, as per agreement?

Revision of Indus Water Treaty Agreement

2778. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise the Indus Water Treaty made between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from Government of Gujarat for allocation of Water from eastern rivers of Indus basin;

(d) if so, the present status thereof; and

(e) whether Government are considering the case of allocating the Indus Basin Water to Kachchha looking to its geographic situation and hydrological condition same as to Rajasthan?

Financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh for development of irrigation projects

2779. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

NEW DELHI;

The 2nd April, 2003

Chaitra 12, 1925 (Saka)

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Central Government to help and provide financial assistance for implementing an action plan to develop irrigation sources at a cost of Rs. 10,000 crores; and

(b) if so, the assistance Government have agreed to provide to the State Government in completing these irrigation projects?

Clearance to Bateshwar Sthan Pump Canal Scheme

2780. SHRI LALU PRASAD : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has submitted "Bateshwar Sthan Pump Canal Scheme" phase I under AIBP at an estimated cost of Rs. 103.10 crores to the Central Water Commission;

(b) whether Government propose to sanction this scheme; and

(c) if so, by when?

Reasons for not reaching Islamabad in time

2781. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian officials/representatives failed to reach Islamabad for Indus talks in time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for not making advance booking of flights in Dubai to catch a flight to Islamabad?

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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