

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the August 9, 2005/Sravana 18, 1927 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions —155**

#### **Explosives detained at IGI airport**

1574. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:  
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a truck  
carrying detonators and large amount of  
explosive was detained at Gate No. 17 of  
the I.G.I. airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether investigation was conducted  
to ascertain the purpose for which that truck  
gained entry in the airport premises and  
if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) what action had been taken against  
the person who brought that truck with  
explosive?

#### **Domestic airport near Delhi**

†1575. SHRI AMAR SINGH:  
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:  
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:  
SHRI LALIT SURI:  
SHRI MANGANI LAL  
MANDAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under  
consideration of Government to set up  
second domestic airport near Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the airport is likely to be  
set up; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent on the  
setting up of the airport?

#### **Use of airstrips for civil aviation**

1576. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the  
Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had sought to  
make available the airstrips of Kanpur,  
Sarsawa (Saharanpur) and Bareilly for the  
use of civil aviation; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Ministry of  
Defence thereto?

#### **Fleet replacement programme of AI and IA**

1577. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:  
SHRI C. PERUMAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION  
be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Air India/Indian Airlines have started their fleet replacement and expansion programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the airbus replaced/leased out so far and those proposed to be replaced and leased out under the programme?

#### **NOC to PIO for operation of airservices**

1578. PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:  
SHRI DHARAM PAL  
SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of transparency with regard to investment by Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) in Air Transport Service sector;

(b) if not, the reasons for not granting No Objection Certificate (NOC) to PIO who are treated at par with NRIs;

(c) whether Government have taken the opinion of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Overseas Affairs and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion with regard to the status of PIO *vis-a-vis* NRIs;

(d) if so, the opinion of the above Ministries, Ministry-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken including amendment to Aircraft Rules, 1937, if any, to expedite the grant of NOC to PIO to operate schedule Air Transport Service in India?

#### **Implementation of Swagat Seva at airports**

1579. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are evolving a

facilitation service for the airlines on the lines of 'Marhaba-Welcome' in Dubai;

(b) whether Government have identified any international airports in the country to implement this service; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Procedure for import of aircrafts**

1580. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 541 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 2005 and state:

(a) what are Government rules for the import of aircraft (Private Jets)/helicopters by private companies/individuals;

(b) what certification procedures are followed by the DGCA; and

(c) who is responsible for the maintenance of such aircraft/helicopters and whether they are approved by the DGCA?

#### **Air service from Gaya Airport**

1581. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gaya Airport is being equipped properly to receive foreign tourists, coming from the Eastern-countries;

(b) whether there is any plan to start direct flights from Tokyo and Taipei to Gaya to help tourists from those countries; and

(c) whether there is any plan to start domestic flights from Delhi to Gaya on a regular basis?

**Development of Pune Chakan  
International Airport**

1582. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow MIDC to develop Pune Chakan International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**New international air services**

†1583. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:  
SHRI PYARELAL  
KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to start new air services to foreign countries;

(b) the number of countries where Indian air services are operating, at present; and

(c) the names of the countries with whom talks are going on for starting air services alongwith the details thereof?

**Promotion of low cost airlines**

1584. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that established private airlines are insisting on various regulations and hurdles to be placed in the way of low-cost airlines wishing to enter the aviation sector;

(b) to what extent the DGCA is involved in creating hurdles for such low-cost airlines;

(c) to what extent Government are a party to discouraging low cost airlines firm coming up;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government agencies like the DGCA and the AAI are creating financial hurdles for such airlines; and

(e) the steps proposed to formulate a new policy exclusively for the encouragement and development of low cost airlines in the country?

**Pending applications of new  
scheduled airlines**

1585. SHRIMATI KAMLA  
MANHAR:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI DHARAM PAL  
SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are permitting the existing private domestic airlines to purchase aircrafts thus blocking the new airlines to start operations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of permissions granted to existing airlines for purchase of aircrafts, airlines-wise during the last one year; and

(c) the details of pending applications for clearances for new scheduled airlines and the reasons for delay in granting NOCs to new players in the aviation sector?

**Training for staff at airports**

1586. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRIMATI KAMLA  
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that staff posted at International Airports in various parts

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of the country are not properly trained to deal with the passengers politely;

(b) whether it is also a fact that behaviour of some of the staff of Airports Authority of India, Civil Aviation Security and staff from Immigration Department is not proper and also they are not efficient and prompt in dealing with the passengers; and

(c) if so, what steps Government proposed to take to train the staff posted at airports?

#### **Clearance for purchase of aircrafts**

1587. SHRI JANARDAN  
DWIVEDI:  
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an India based firm has placed order for the purchase of 100 Airbus aircrafts at the cost 6 bn \$, which was announced at the Paris show;

(b) whether the concerned company has obtained necessary clearance from the Department of Civil Aviation and other concerned agencies and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the routes likely to be allotted to this new airlines?

#### **IA's agreement on ground handling services**

1588. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IA and Singapore Airport Terminal Services and

Singapore Airlines Engineering Company have entered into an agreement;

(b) in what manner the agreement would help in improving the ground handling facilities and engineering services in Indian airports;

(c) whether the proposal has been vetted by CVC and the Solicitor-General; and

(d) if so, the suggestions made by them?

#### **On time performance of IA and AI**

1589. SHRI PRAMOD  
MAHAJAN:  
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the on time performance of Indian Airlines and Air India in the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for the delay if any; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve it?

#### **Cancellation of Air India Express Services**

1590. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:  
DR. ALLADI P.  
RAJKUMAR:  
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India Express which was started in the Gulf sector as budget Airlines stopped its services for sometime in view of the pilot shortage due to sudden resignation of pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Air India Express Management recruited sufficient number of pilots while starting the new services; and

(d) what efforts have been made to ensure that such an incident does not happen in future?

**Charges for using AI and IA's infrastructure**

1591. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aviation infrastructure of Indian Airlines and Air India is being used by our Armed Forces also;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these companies are charging for their services extended to the Armed Forces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Upgradation of Hubli Airport**

1592. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 2 crore was sanctioned to Hubli Airport for setting up of Night Landing and Refuelling facilities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India has since started Night Landing facilities at Hubli Airport;

(c) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the Hubli Airport to a full-fledged airport; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to name Hubli Airport as Ganavidhushi Gangubai Hangal Airport as Hubli is the native place of renowned classical singer?

**Bird menace around Hyderabad airport**

1593. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad is one of the most unsafe airport in the country because there are far too many kites and pigeons hovering in the flight path of aircraft;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are preparing to try out a solution to shoot away birds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of flights affected by kites and pigeons during the last two years in Begumpet Airport; and

(f) the loss incurred by Government from these during the last two years?

**Suspension of modernisation work of Delhi and Mumbai airports**

†1594. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work relating to modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports has again been suspended;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work relating to modernisation is likely to start?

**Revision of charges at non-metro airports**

1595. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to decongest Metro

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

airports in the country, the Central Government propose to reduce various charges at non-metro airports, making them more attractive to domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of money, the Airports Authority of India will have to forego due to reduction of charges;

(d) the manner in which the AAI will be compensated;

(e) whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Airports in Tamil Nadu**

1596. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop and modernise non-metro airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken for its implementation;

(c) whether the airports in the cities of Tamil Nadu such as Tiruchi, Madurai and Coimbatore would also be covered under this programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Conference on Civil Aviation Safety and Security**

1597. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called for a global partnership to make air travel fully secure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Conference on Civil Aviation Safety and Security was held in New Delhi recently; and

(d) if so, the details of discussions held in the Conference and the outcome thereof?

#### **Occupancy rate of national carriers**

1598. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the occupancy rate of national air carriers is lower than that of the private airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how private airlines are able to provide discounted rates of fares lower than that provided by national carriers?

#### **Reduction in fares in Gulf sector**

1599. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a record reduction in the fares to and from Gulf countries by Air India, Indian Airlines and other carriers;

(b) if so, how this has been made possible despite the rising cost of fuel; and

(c) what has been its impact on passenger traffic?

#### **Development of Thiruvananthapuram airport**

1600. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land acquired for the development of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport so far and whether

the area acquired is sufficient for the proposed development including the construction of new terminal;

(b) whether Government propose to acquire land required for the development of Thiruvananthapuram airport on market rate; and

(c) the details of airports in Kerala which are levying user's fee for the international flights and whether Government would consider to discontinue the user's fee?

#### **New airport in Punjab**

1601. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct an airport at Phillaur (Punjab) in view of massive movement to and from the Doaba Region;

(b) whether the State Government of Punjab has taken up the matter with Central Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Progress in privatisation of airports**

1602. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government support privatisation of airports;

(b) if so, what is the further progress Government have made in this matter so far;

(c) if not, in what manner Government would make its airports services at par with the global competition; and

(d) the number of airports in which Government are going to introduce privatisation with the details thereof and what is the position of those as on now?

#### **Efficient Air Traffic Control**

1603. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a substantial increase in the domestic and international air traffic in recent years; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government and Civil Aviation authorities for an efficient Air Traffic Control to meet the growing requirements?

#### **Pending cases against companies**

1604. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRI K. B. KRISHNA  
MURTHY:  
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of prosecution cases are pending in various courts in India for years on account of violation of various provisions of the Companies Act;

(b) if so, the number thereof and the average time taken in disposal of these cases;

(c) the nature of violations; and

(d) steps being taken by Government for expediting the prosecution proceedings?

**Sale of shares of Government establishments**

1605. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) which are the Government establishments where shares are contemplated to be sold;

(b) the extent of shares under plans for sale; and

(c) how many of these establishments happen to be the gaining concerns?

**Settlement of claims of depositors**

1606. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:  
SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardships caused to the survivors/dependents of a deceased in claiming the amounts left by the deceased in his/her account, despite nominations in respect of single bank account because of different interpretations given or procedures followed by these Banks;

(b) whether Government propose to evolve a fool proof and uniform procedure devoid in inconvenience to the survivors; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Branches of Regional Rural Banks**

†1607. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the

Regional Rural Banks presently functioning in the country, especially in North-Eastern States alongwith their locations;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to open more new branches of banks in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Counterfeiting of Indian currency notes**

1608. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that outdated technology at Nasik Press has made counterfeiting in Indian currency easy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the fake currency market is estimated between Rs. 10000 and Rs. 20000 crores;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that US Secret Service will be helping India combat fake currency menaces?

**Revision of rates of tax by States under VAT**

1609. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States have revised rates of tax under VAT;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States which have revised the rates; and

(d) whether the decision had the approval of the Central Government?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Difficulties of farmers in getting loans**

†1610. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers in the country have to face many difficulties in taking loan from the banks;

(b) whether Government propose to issue any guidelines to provide loan to the farmers in time;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to make such arrangements so that the farmers may get loans within ten days from the date of submission of their applications;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Incentive to officer/staff posted in island**

1611. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 186 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that officer/staff settled in one island posted to some far flung island, have to leave their families behind and manage double establishments as they can not commute daily from the far flung island which at times take more time to reach than travelling from mainland; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing these islanders with Ad-hoc and temporary incentive when they are also managing double establishments?

**Theft and loot in banks**

†1612. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of bank

robberies, dacoities and theft of articles from bank lockers reported during the last one year, particularly in Delhi;

(b) the number of cases in which bank employees have been found involved; and

(c) what concrete steps have been taken by Government to check bank robberies?

**Parameters of fiscal reforms for World Bank assistance**

1613. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank's assistance programme to developmental projects in Indian States are linked to certain parameters of fiscal reforms;

(b) if so, what are these parameters;

(c) whether Government have laid a fiscal reforms road map for respective State Governments to enable them to avail of World Bank funds for various developmental projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Use of soiled currency notes**

1614. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the wads of currency notes reissued by the Public Sector Banks contain a large number of mutilated, partially cut, two pieces, mismatched and very old notes that have completed their life;

(b) whether the practice is not in conformity with the directions issued by RBI; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the situation and avoid inconvenience to the customers?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**NPA of Public Sector Banks**

1615. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:  
SHRI MURLI DEORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the percentage of Non-performing assets of PSU Banks during 2004;

(b) what is the target percentage of NPA during 2005;

(c) what special measures are proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that NPA's are wiped out gradually during the coming five years, *i.e.* by 2010; and

(d) what is the profile of NPA account holders, and its break-up into large, medium or small account holders?

**Recovery of direct taxes**

†1616. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount equal to the amount recovered as direct tax from 1991-92 to 2004-05 has remained pending to be recovered;

(b) if not, the details of the total amount recovered as direct tax during the aforesaid period alongwith that remained to be recovered; and

(c) the increase in the expenditure incurred on the recovery of tax during the said period?

**Unutilised bank deposits**

†1617. DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum of one lakh crore rupees of Indian companies, which includes both Government and private companies is lying unutilized in banks or in other forms;

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

(c) the names of Government companies where more than one thousand crore rupees have been lying unutilised in this way?

**Uniform tax on diesel**

†1618. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in those States of the country where the Value Added Tax had been enforced with effect from April, 2005, the State tax on diesel is not being charged uniformly;

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

(c) what is the percentage of tax on diesel being charged in each of those States of the country where Value Added Tax system is in force; and

(d) the reasons for not charging the uniform tax rate on diesel?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Low per capita income**

†1619. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is among the ten big countries of the world in terms of Gross Domestic Product;

(b) if so, the names of these ten big countries of the world and the rate at which their Gross Domestic Product has been assessed;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite having higher GDP India's per capita income is very low as compared to these countries; and

(d) if so, what is India's position in the world in terms of its per capita income?

**Categorisation for capital investments**

†1620. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to give permission for investment in Government institutes the Department of Disinvestment has divided them into two categories;

(b) if so, the details of these categories and the recommendations made for capital investment under each category; and

(c) the decision of Government regarding acceptance of these recommendations?

**Action against mutual fund companies**

1621. SHRIMATI KAMLA  
MANHAR:  
SHRI DHARAM PAL  
SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Mutual Fund players in India are adopting unhealthy and misleading practices to attract business;

(b) if so, what are the details of complaints received or noticed by SEBI in this regard; and

(c) whether SEBI has taken action against such mutual fund companies, and if so, the details thereof?

**Stride in credit card industry**

1622. SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:  
SHRI JANARDAN  
DWIVEDI:  
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether credit card industry representing plastic money has made tremendous strides during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) if so, the number of credit cards in circulation at the end of 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) what is the number of transactions made through credit cards during each of these years as compared with direct banking transactions each year;

(d) how far aggressive marketing by Direct Selling Agents (DSA) is responsible

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for such dramatic rise in plastic money transactions who make tall promises, promising moon without the infant and feasibility of fulfilling the same; and

(e) the check, if any exercised by Government on such DSAs?

#### **New norms on credit cards**

1623. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has issued new norms on credit cards to check intimidation against any person in debt collection measures;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines that have been issued by RBI; and

(c) what is the meaning of don't call registry?

#### **Investment by Japan**

1624. DR. KARAN SINGH:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked Japan for more Japanese investment;

(b) if so, whether the Japanese Prime Minister's recent visit has helped to improve the investment climate of Japan in India;

(c) whether the visit of Chinese and Japanese Premiers has also proved tremendous investment plan in India; and

(d) if so, what are the sectors on which these investments will be made?

#### **Recovery drive against exporters**

1625. DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:  
SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI  
BARUPAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether PM has directed the Revenue Department in his Ministry to keep in abeyance the on-going tax proceedings and recovery drive against exporters related to levy of income tax on profits from the Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme from 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Minister of Commerce and Industry has welcomed this decision; and

(c) if so, to what extent this has helped the exporters?

#### **World Bank loan to Andhra Pradesh**

1626. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has expressed its willingness to extend loans to the tune of Rs. 7510 crores to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for development of roads, irrigation and slum area development schemes;

(b) if so, to what extent the World Bank has agreed to provide this amount of loan to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has discussed this issue with him; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government have agreed to the suggestions made by World Bank for providing loans to Andhra Pradesh?

**Protection of interest of capital market intermediaries**

1627. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee constituted by SEBI to protect the interest of all capital market intermediaries including listed corporate and retail investors recommended for consolidation of all security laws in the country on the lines of Financial Services and Market Act, 2000 of UK; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Circulation of counterfeit currency notes**

1628. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:  
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS  
KAUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment about the quantum of counterfeit currency in circulation in the country has been made, if so, what is the latest estimate in this regard;

(b) whether Government have identified the possible sources and channel for induction and circulation of such currency;

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

(d) the effective steps taken to prevent entry, manufacture and circulation of such currency?

**Educational loans to Kerala**

1629. PROF. P. J. KURIAN:  
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received for educational loans in the Nationalised Banks in the State of Kerala, during last three years;

(b) the number of loans sanctioned and the total amount, bank-wise, district-wise, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) the number of applications pending; and

(d) the reasons of such pendency, if any?

**Tax GDP ratio**

1630. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS  
BAL APTE:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tax GDP ratio is very low in our country as compared to other developing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take measures to increase this ratio; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

### **Policies regarding revenue generation**

1631. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increase in tax collections during 2003-04 is attributed mainly to pre-assessment collections and does not reflect the assessment/investigation/recovery skills of the IT workforce;

(b) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is constantly fulfilling the conditions laid down in its MoU with Government in regard to increased revenue generation; and

(c) whether in many Commissionerates more than 4000 posts of inspectors and below categories remained unfilled for long and sanctioned strength curtailed in tax recovery units?

### **Decline in profits of banks**

1632. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that out of 27 Public Sector Banks, 16 have reported a fall in net profits;

(b) whether he has looked into this problem; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative the details thereof?

### **Outstanding debts of Andhra Pradesh due to World Bank**

1633. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outstanding debts due to World Bank and other International Financial Institutions by Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of interest or service charges to be paid by Andhra Pradesh to World Bank and other institutions every year;

(c) the details of the mode of re-payment of these foreign loans and their interest or service charges by Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the details of impact of these loans on release of Central Budget to Andhra Pradesh during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04; and

(e) whether the Central Government follows any guidelines before giving guarantee to International Financial Institutions before such loans are released to States?

### **Temporary employees in Nationalised Banks**

1634. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees working in the Nationalised Banks on temporary basis even after more than 14 to 20 years;

(b) whether it is a fact that these employees were recruited as part time temporary worker by regular selection process like calling candidates through employment exchange and proper interviews by the selection boards of the Nationalised Bank;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many of these temporary workers's have now become over age and have crossed the age bar serving with a hope that they will be made permanent; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider permanent jobs to them and give them security of service and justice?

#### **Decline in market share of LIC**

1635. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the market share of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has come down due to increased competition from private players in the Insurance Industry;

(b) if so, what is LIC planning to improve its market share;

(c) to what extent is the lower market share affecting the profitability of LIC;

(d) whether it is also a fact that LIC has written to Government that it plans to absorb the service tax and education cess payable by the policy holder on the premium that he pays; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Disinvestment of Neyveli Lignite Corporation**

1636. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cabinet has accorded approval for disinvestment of Neyveli Lignite Corporation; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Protection of consumers' interest in credit cards system**

1637. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out a study to assess the impact of the

credit cards schemes launched by various banks, on the interests of consumers and their savings with the banks especially in the context of the vigorous drives by the banks to promote credit cards system;

(b) if so, the result of the study; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to protect and promote the consumers interest?

#### **High churn rates in mutual funds industry**

1638. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry and SEBI are concerned about high churn rates in the mutual fund industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to control churn rates by mutual fund companies?

#### **Incentives to Managers of Banks**

†1639. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to give incentives to the Managers and Assistant Managers delivering better performance in the branches of the Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Merger among local banks**

1640. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India favours merger among local banks;
- (b) if so, whether RBI has identified certain local banks ideal for merger and consolidation rather than acquisition by foreign players;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **White Paper on disinvestment**

1641. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to publish a White Paper on disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Private banks credit to agricultural Sector**

1642. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any target for outflow of agricultural credit by private banks has been fixed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any private bank has not met the target; and
- (d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

### **Swapping of high cost loans of States**

1643. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Twelfth Finance Commission had recommended swapping

of high cost debts in favour of low cost securities;

- (b) if so, the names of States which adopted this method and how far it helped them to reduce their debts;
- (c) the outstanding liabilities of each State at present; and
- (d) what remedial measures States have taken to reverse the trend?

### **Bids to sell UTI Mutual Funds**

1644. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are inviting bids to sell UTI MF and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the names of public sector bidders and the amount of their bids; and
- (c) the assets of UTI Mutual Funds and what benefit would accrue to Government?

### **Introduction of E-PAN Book**

1645. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to introduce E-PAN Book to help income tax payers see the details of their tax payment;
- (b) if so, the details in this regards;
- (c) whether a number of assesseees have so far not been issued the PAN Cards;
- (d) whether there is considerable delay in issue of the PAN Cards, despite outsourcing the process; and
- (e) if so, the number of pending applications, Circle-wise and the steps taken to expedite the issue of the PAN Cards?

**Permission to PSU banks to make acquisitions of businesses**

1646. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the PSU banks to make acquisitions of businesses, pursue new lines of business, close or merge unviable branches and take all HRD decisions, including recruitment and travel overseas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such dispensation is extended to all Public Sector Banks; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Long term potential of insurance policies in rural areas**

1647. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need for long-term potential of life insurance in rural India as unique challenges are required to be faced there;

(b) whether Government have studied the rural/tribal customer philosophy by developing specific insurance products and introducing simplified underwriting and claims guidelines so that such customers secure their financial future; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof especially developed by LIC and Public Sector General Insurance Companies?

**Application sent by IOC, Barauni for fixing brand rate of drawback**

†1648. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that application

sent by Indian Oil Corporation, Barauni to the Customs Commissioner in the year 2003-04 for fixing brand rate of drawback has not been disposed till now;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of non-disposal of such claim within 90 days, Government may have to pay lakhs of rupees as interest at 24 percent per annum; and

(c) if so, the officials guilty for the same alongwith the details thereof?

**Investment plans for surplus reserves of PSUs**

1649. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Undertakings have accumulated an aggregate cash and surplus reserve of more than Rs. 2,60,000 crores, with investment plans aggregating to only a third of the reserves; and

(b) whether these cash reserves add up to roughly 10 per cent of the GDP and if so, whether Government would prevail upon these PSUs to embark on massive investment plans?

**Mishandling by recovery agents**

1650. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recovery agents of a financial institution in Pune had detained illegally a customer of the bank and held him to ransom for payment of his dues to the bank;

(b) whether of late, many banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (issuing credit cards) are engaging persons of criminal

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

antecedents to recover their dues from defaulting consumers;

(c) whether such agents have been threatening the cards holder's family members, referees and friends, making false and obscene calls; and

(d) whether Government propose to ban the engagement of recovery agents both by banks and NBFCs?

#### **Merger and acquisitions of banks**

†1651. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering on mergers and acquisitions of Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, whether this decision of Government would not affect adversely the working of the banks because the banks have their glorious tradition and they have their reliable working;

(c) whether it is also a fact that more bank staff would get encouraged to take VRS due to this decision of Government and the number of employees would decrease further and the services of the banks would get affected fully; and

(d) if so, whether Government have contemplated to solve these problems?

#### **Operation of Wadi scheme of NABARD**

†1652. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where the 'Wadi' scheme of NABARD is being operated and since when this scheme is being implemented;

(b) whether it is a fact that this scheme has not been started in most of the backward States in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) to what extent the backward people got the benefit in those States where this scheme is being operated;

(e) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard, if so, the results thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government to operate this scheme successfully in all the backward States in the country?

#### **Clearance of projects for infrastructure development**

1653. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Investment Commission has cleared few projects for infrastructure development in various States;

(b) if so, the details of such projects, State-wise;

(c) the criteria for selection of projects location; and

(d) the projects that have been conceived for the State of Rajasthan and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Unsustainable fiscal liabilities of Kerala**

1654. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG report for 2004

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

relating to Kerala shows the fiscal liabilities of the State as unsustainable;

(b) if so, how far the adverse trend influence the revenue receipts;

(c) what is the total amount of loan availed from ADB till May, 2005 including the rate of interest and conditions of repayment therein; and

(d) whether there is any direct relationship between the growing fiscal deficit and the loan availed from ADB and if so, upto what extent?

**Financial assistance for  
infrastructure development in  
Karnataka**

1655. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested NABARD to extend the financial assistance for Infrastructure development in 39 most backward taluks under Kaigarika Vikasa Scheme;

(b) if so, which are the taluks identified for this purpose;

(c) the amount of financial assistance sought for; and

(d) the action, if any, taken in this regard?

**Branches of Public Sector Banks in  
foreign countries**

1656. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the Public Sector Banks presently operating in foreign countries;

(b) the number of them running in losses;

(c) the money these banks have to pay to Government of that country where they have their branch/branches; and

(d) the amount we are getting annually through foreign banks having branches in Indian cities?

**Servicing of targeted sections by  
Multi-State Urban Co-operative  
Banks**

1657. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government and RBI allows Multi-State Urban Co-operative Banks to function, grow and generally serve specific targeted sections;

(b) the number of such Multi-State Urban Co-operative Banks presently under the jurisdiction of the RBI;

(c) to what extent is RBI helping such banks to perform their duties better;

(d) the details of any encouragement given by RBI to such Co-operative Banks presently in the country; and

(e) the demands of such banks pending with the RBI presently?

**Reduction in exposure limit for  
advances by Urban Co-operative  
Banks**

1658. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has reduced the exposure limit for advances by Urban Co-operative Banks from 20 per cent to 15 per cent of capital funds in the case of individual borrowers;

(b) to what extent will this new policy help in creating liquidity for UCBs;

(c) whether RBI will also consider giving a one-time injection of funds to traditionally healthy UCBs; and

(d) if not, what steps will RBI take to encourage UCBs in the country to help this special clientele?

#### **Reclassification of assets**

1659. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as per the available statistics, 80 per cent of the net profits in the banking industry had been used to write off bad loans in the last couple of years;

(b) whether it is a fact that in a bid to clean up balance sheets, most banks have been reclassifying these assets which is an eyewash; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check the practice of reclassification of accounts that has resulted in cleaning up of NPAs?

#### **Setting up of Farmers Training Centres**

1660. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some banks have established Farmers Welfare Trusts for setting up of Farmers Training Centres in States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with particular reference to Maharashtra; and

(c) whether loans at reasonable rates are also proposed to be provided to farmers to save them from the clutches of money-

lenders, who charge exorbitant rates of interest?

#### **Circulation of 25 and 50 paise coins**

†1661. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have kept the coins 25 paise and 50 paise denomination out of circulation;

(b) the reasons for not accepting 25 paise and 50 paise coins by the traders in the market; and

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

#### **Closure of Co-operative banks in Chhattisgarh**

†1662. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has ordered the Registrar of Co-operative societies to take necessary action to close some Co-operative banks in Chhattisgarh on the charge of not following the banking provisions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Income Tax block assessment reports of corporates**

1663. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income-Tax block assessment reports of the corporate entities involved in Ketan Parek share scam were called for re-assessment;

(b) if so, what are the names of the

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

companies where income-tax block assessment reports have been re-examined; and

(c) what are the results of probe and action being taken?

#### **Audit of income expenditure accounts of panchayats**

†1664. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the audit of income-expenditure accounts of all the panchayats in the country is mandatory as per the Twelfth Finance Commission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CAG has been selected for this audit;

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

(d) the steps taken by Government so far for the audit of income-expenditure accounts of all the panchayats throughout the country?

#### **Improvement of local governance**

1665. SHRI S.P.M. SYEDKHAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to improve the local governance through re-engineering Government processes, modernisation and effective use of technologies like IT;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what efforts have been taken by Government for better local governance during 2004-05?

#### **Conference of Chief Ministers**

1666. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Conference of Chief Ministers on Poverty Alleviation and Prosperity through Panchayati Raj was held in June, 2004;

(b) if so, the conclusion arrived at the Conference; and

(c) the latest status on the action taken by Government on the decisions taken in the Conference?

#### **Grants for panchayats**

1667. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had mooted creation of an empowerment incentive fund for Panchayats with an initial investment of Rs. 500 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Twelfth Finance Commission made a provision for more united grants for panchayats than what was given by the Eleventh Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Establishment of rural business hubs**

1668. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any initiative from his Ministry to have an action plan to establish rural business hubs in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh has not been included in the States

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

identified for developing rural business hubs;

(c) if so, the reasons behind neglecting Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) what are the core areas identified by his Ministry for rural business?

**Installation of computers in panchayats**

1669. SHRI R. KAMARAJ:  
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA  
SEKAR REDDY:  
SHRI EKANATH K.  
THAKUR:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to spend over Rs. 1,000 crores in the next two years towards installation of computers in 2.4 lakh panchayats, interlink them with one another and also with a national panchayati portal;

(b) if so, the guidelines worked out so far for this project;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are banking on the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance to raise funds in this regard;

(d) whether talks were held with them in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

**Scam in delivery of petrol and diesel**

1670. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:  
DR. M.A.M.  
RAMASWAMY:  
SHRI LALIT SURI:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that agents sending oil tankers for army from Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) depots to Leh and Ladakh were siphoning off petrol and diesel before it reaches Leh and are delivering tankers full of water to forward bases, instead of oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a team of IOC officials recently visited Leh for investigating the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the outcome thereof and the action taken against the persons responsible for this fraud?

**Oil refinery near Allahabad**

1671. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the proposed refinery in Lohgada (near Allahabad) has started; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the work is likely to start; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the status thereof?

**Reserve Fund with Oil Corporations**

1672. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil corporations viz., ONGC, Indian Oil, HPCL and BPCL, have been operating profitably;

(b) if so, the corporation-wise details of gross and net profit earned both in absolute term and percentage of turnover year-wise, since 2001-02 upto 2004-05 alongwith percentage of profit disbursed as dividend and volume thereof in absolute

term and portions of profit transferred to reserve fund;

(c) the identities of the top ten recipients of dividends year-wise, indicating percentage of total dividend received by each and its volume on each occasion; and

(d) the details of reserve fund as on 30th June, 2005, Corporation-wise?

#### **Impact of strike against price hike**

1673. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any nation-wide strike recently of lorries, vans, autos and other vehicles to protest against the recent price hike of petrol and diesel;

(b) the impact of this strike in terms of economic loss for the entire country;

(c) whether the import and export process was affected on the date of strike;

(d) whether there was any law and order problem due to the strike; and

(e) what were the preventive measures taken to avert the strike?

#### **Demand and supply of Kerosene**

1674. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge gap between the demand and supply of Kerosene sold through PDS in the country;

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

(c) the reasons for this gap; and

(d) the action taken to fill this gap through adequate supply of Kerosene for PDS?

#### **Testing agency for diesel**

1675. DR. MURLI MANOHAR

JOSHI:

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER

SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether, of late PSU Oil Companies are losing out on diesel market share;

(b) whether the diesel sale by PSU Oil Companies fell by 9.5 per cent during the last quarter and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether oil marketing agencies have revised the plan to increase marketing of diesel through new strategy; and

(d) whether there is any testing agency to which supplies from petroleum companies are subjected to in qualitative terms?

#### **Closure of LPG bottling trafficking plants**

1676. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to recent LPG tanker operators strike, 13 bottling plants out of 16 were shut down in Tamil Nadu alone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to resolve the issue between the LPG Tanker operators and PSU oil companies to ensure that such strikes are not called frequently?

#### **Separate Department for energy**

1677. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to create a separate Department for energy within his Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons for creating a separate Department. for energy; and

(c) whether the Public Sector Undertakings are also going to be bifurcated between the Ministry and the proposed new Department?

**Jagadishpur-Haldia pipeline project**

1678. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL has any plans to lay gas pipeline from Jagadishpur to Kolkata/Haldia;

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

(c) the project cost, anticipated time for completion and tentative zero-date for commencement of the project?

**Restrictions on import of petroleum products**

1679. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to restrict the import of petroleum products;

(b) whether the import of petroleum products is growing due to the constant increase in the demand of petroleum products against the production of crude oil in the country; and

(c) if so, the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

**Recommendations of Synergy in Energy Panel**

1680. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:  
SHRI C. PERUMAL:  
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:  
SHRI C. RAMA-  
CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Synergy in Energy Panel headed by Dr. V. Krishnamurthy, has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details of its major recommendations and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken with regard thereto?

**Commissioning of refinery at Bhatinda**

1681. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status report of the commissioning of Guru Gobind Singh Refineries Ltd. at Bhatinda; and

(b) by when, it is likely to be commissioned?

**Experiment on bio-diesel**

†1682. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
SHRI JANARDAN  
DWIVEDI:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the Central Salt and Marine Chemical

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Institute has recently carried out an experiment of running 'C' class Mercedes Car making use of a bio-diesel obtained from Ratanjot;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mercedes Car was run successfully upto six thousand Kms. on Indian roads by using the said bio-diesel; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to promote the use of bio-fuel in vehicles?

#### **National Gas Grid**

1683. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pipeline policy has been framed for setting up of National Gas Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will expedite setting up of National Gas Grid to take care of the gas scarcity region in the country?

#### **Expenditure incurred by oil corporations**

1684. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operations of the oil corporations viz., ONGC, IOCL, HPCL and BPCL, include import of inputs in crude and other forms, refining and marketing of petroleum products;

(b) the details of volume and value (in terms of USD and Rupee) of imports, year-wise, of respective corporations alongwith volume and sales value of their respective outputs since 1999-2000;

(c) the details of expenses incurred by them on account of Customs Duty, Excise

Duty, various Cess levied by Central and State Governments on refining and transportation etc.; and

(d) the share of profits earned by each corporation from refining and marketing operations respectively, year-wise?

#### **Expenditure on Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline**

1685. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of proper planning in capacity augmentation of the Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline led to avoidable expenditure of Rs. 66.68 crores by IOC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that encashment of the Bank Guarantee in excess of requirements resulted in payment of Rs. 70.29 crores towards interest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Demand for royalty from A.P. Government**

1686. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for its share in the form of royalty from Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation from the recent natural gas finds in K.G. Basin;

(b) whether Government have initiated any negotiations with the above company;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Abandoned oilfields in Western offshore**

1687. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of production in oil bearing structures in Ratna-R-series in Western offshore;

(b) whether they are at present lying in abandoned condition in spite of the present global oil crisis;

(c) whether ONGC had discovered oil in this area and produced oil from 1983 to 1994; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not handing over the oil fields back to ONGC?

**Functioning of retail outlet in Bareilly**

1688. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1276 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the Letters of Intent (LOI) are regularly delayed in all such cases where complaints are received;

(b) the reasons for the delay in the issue of letter of intent to the allottees alongwith the outcome of the enquiry and the decision taken by the competent authority;

(c) the time-frame within which the retail outlet at Bareilly shall be made functional;

(d) the steps being taken to avoid such delays on account of frivolous complaints; and

(e) the action being taken against officials responsible for the delay?

**Supply of PNG in Delhi**

1689. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is being supplied in different areas of Delhi, through pipelines directly from HBJ pipeline;

(b) if so, the areas covered by the PNG supplies, and how the cost of PNG supplies compared with the LPG; and

(c) what are the plans for covering the rest of the capital with PNG?

**Production of Kerosene**

1690. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerosene supplied through Public Distribution System has not been adequate to meet the demand of public;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to direct the refineries to produce more Kerosene in order to meet the shortfall;

(c) the amount of Kerosene to be produced by refineries in order to maintain adequate supply of Kerosene in the country; and

(d) the total demand and supply of Kerosene in the country sold through PDS, State-wise?

**Shortage of kerosene oil**

1691. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of kerosene oil is due to use of kerosene oil in automobile;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to prevent its commercial use?

**Diversion of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purpose**

1692. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice by LPG agencies in Delhi to divert LPG cylinders meant for domestic use for commercial purposes is still being followed;

(b) the number of such cases detected during 2003, 2004 and so far during 2005, alongwith the names of agencies involved;

(c) whether the licence of any agency has been cancelled and any other specific action taken against the defaulters alongwith their particulars; and

(d) whether the names of defaulter gas agencies have been made public, if not, the reasons therefor?

**Delivery of under weight cylinders**

1693. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that LPG agencies of private oil companies deliver cylinders to their consumers after weighing in their presence and for that purpose their delivery men carry spring balances, whereas LPG agencies of oil companies in the public sector do not do so and thereby deliver under weight cylinders;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to direct oil companies in the public sector to follow private oil companies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Model village project of ONGC**

†1694. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backward villages in the country designated to be developed as model villages by Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) the details thereof alongwith the names of the places where work has been started in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Commercial use of LPG**

†1695. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual percentage of LPG used for commercial purpose;

(b) whether LPG is being sold from retail outlet for commercial use; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Allocation of Kerosene to Orissa**

†1696. SHRISURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the allocation of Kerosene oil to Orissa has been decreasing continuously since 2000-01 and despite request being made by State Government, Kerosene oil is not being allocated as per data of census 2001;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested to allocate Kerosene oil to Orissa on the pattern being followed in the case of Punjab and Haryana; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in following the aforesaid pattern?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Sub-wholesalers for kerosene in  
Karnataka**

1697. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to drop the proposed introduction of sub-wholesalers for kerosene;

(b) if so, what are the reasons given by the State Government to drop the above move; and

(c) the action, if any, taken in this regard?

**Agreements on import of oil and gas**

†1698. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement was signed between Oman and India in September, 1994 for the import of natural gas and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Iran and India in July, 1993 and thereafter in November, 1993 again;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an understanding has been reached again in 2005 between Iran and India for importing gas and the proposal exists for importing gas from Bangladesh and Myanmar also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Promotion of tourism industry in  
Assam**

1699. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which the growth of

tourism industry is tardy in Assam as compared to other States;

(b) whether it is a fact that the industry is not getting proper attention from the Centre; and

(c) if so, what is the Central Government's immediate target in boosting the industry and whether there will be any special budget allocation in the coming financial year?

**Development of villages for tourist  
spots**

1700. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop some villages in the country and made them tourist destinations, thereby benefiting villagers socially and financially;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some villages have been identified for their development into tourist spots;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount likely to be spent for development of each such village; and

(f) by when the work on the project is likely to start?

**Tourism potential of Orissa**

1701. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa proposes to go in for a big leap in tourism;

(b) whether it is also a fact that both Indian and foreign tour operators have been visiting this region to promote tourism; and

(c) if so, the details of the help that has been rendered by the Central Government to the cash-strapped Orissa in its mission to improve economy in this sector?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Tourism projects at Chamundi Hills**

1702. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) when did the work on the ropeway to Chamundi Hills begin;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a Single Window Agency had approved the ropeway project to a private firm called SIKKA in 1994;
- (c) the reasons for the delay in beginning the project;
- (d) the amount Government have sanctioned for the project; and
- (e) by when the work on the development of Tourism Park will be commenced at the foot of the Chamundi Hills on 50 acres of land which has already been acquired?

### **New projects on rural life**

1703. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned 55 projects to showcase rural life, art, culture and heritage; and
- (b) if so, the destinations of the sanctioned projects, State-wise?

### **Amendment to include tourism in the concurrent list**

1704. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that tourism despite being a subject of national importance, does not figure out in any of the three lists viz. Union, State and Concurrent;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the

Department Related Parliamentary Committee on Tourism has recommended amendment to include tourism in the Concurrent list;

- (c) if so, the steps taken so far and by when the amendment is likely to be made; and
- (d) the reasons for delay in this regard?

### **Promotion of spiritual tourism**

1705. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any scheme to develop, promote and popularise the spiritual tourism effectively in certain States of the country;
- (b) whether such States have been listed and whether the State of Uttaranchal is one of them; and
- (c) if so, the names of such States alongwith details of the selected places and the locations thereof for the spiritual tourism?

### **Connectivity of major tourist centres**

1706. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are emphasising improved connectivity to major tourist centres in the country and particularly to South India;
- (b) whether any action plan has been chalked out;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether other Ministries have also been consulted in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the views expressed by each Ministry; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Development of tourism industry in Orissa under "Incredible India"**

1707. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa has good potential for tourism, but it lacks infrastructure;

(b) whether the State has nine major beaches, a potential for tourist hubs, but on account of lack of infrastructure, it drives away the tourists; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre under "Incredible India" campaign to help the State to develop its tourism industry?

**Ashoka Hotel running without completion certificate**

1708. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ITDC flagship hotel, 'Ashoka' is running without a completion certificate for the last 37 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the NDMC has been criticized for this violation in the recent audit report; and

(c) what action has been taken or proposed to be taken against the officer responsible for it, indicating the details thereof?

**Schemes for promotion of tourism**

1709. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated new schemes to promote tourism during the current year;

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

(c) the expenditure incurred by

Government for the development of tourism in the country during the last three years; and

(d) the amount allocated/released by Central Government to the State Governments for implementation of the aforesaid schemes?

**Promotion of tourism in Kashmir**

1710. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to urge European countries to lift travel advisory to promote tourism in the country especially in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other steps Government are taking to woo the foreign tourists to visit the valley and other tourist places?

**Buddhist circuit tours in Bihar and U.P.**

1711. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to arrange Buddhist circuit tours in Bihar and U.P.;

(b) if so, what are the special arrangements being made to facilitate tours of foreign tourists, specially tourists from the East; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Linking of Port Blair with Phuket for promotion of tourism**

1712. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, of late, Thailand has become the main outlet of narcotic trade of Myanmar;

(b) if so, whether it will not be unwise and dangerous to sign an accord to link Port Blair with Phuket for promoting tourism; and

(c) whether there has been a thorough investigation that Phuket is totally free from LTTE operation?

#### **Promotion of medical tourism**

1713. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive scheme has been formulated to promote India as a healthcare destination to attract more foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the low-cost super-speciality hospitals/ healthcare centres identified, if any, for accreditation and the steps taken to suitably ease the visa regime for the foreign tourists seeking medical treatments; and

(c) the results of any survey conducted to assess the additional revenue likely to be generated through the medical tourism?

#### **Financial assistance for the Madhav National Park, Madhya Pradesh**

†1714. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought financial assistance for the Madhav National Park under tourism development scheme;

(b) if so, the amount allocated during the year 2005-06 under the scheme; and

(c) if not, by when the said amount will be released?

#### **Eco-tourism**

†1715. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the concept of Eco-tourism;

(b) the details of the schemes meant for development of eco-tourism in Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh, State-wise;

(c) whether all the above three State Governments have sent their schemes regarding development of eco-tourism in their respective States to the Central Government for approval; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the said schemes are likely to be approved?

#### **Celebration of 350 years of Taj Mahal**

†1716. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a plan to organise special programmes on the occasion of completion of 350 years of Taj Mahal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals under consideration of the Central Government sent by State Government in this regard; and

(d) by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

#### **Exploitation of tourism potential**

1717. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the tourism potential yet to be exploited in the country;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to identify and develop the potential tourist spots in the country?

#### **Baghlihar Hydel Project**

1718. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank appointed expert on Baghlihar Hydel Project arbitration matter, has since visited the dam site for an on-the-spot assessment;
- (b) whether India has been able to marshal all facts and data before the arbitrator;
- (c) whether because of reduction in flow on Chenab during winter months, power generation at Baghlihar Hydel Project could be far below its projected capacity; and
- (d) whether the existing Hydel Projects at Salal on Chenab and Uri on Jhelum generate much less power in winter when the need for power is maximum in J&K?

#### **Integrated schemes for water**

1719. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he fully appreciates that water resources are scarce in India and better management is needed without any further loss of time; and
- (b) if so, whether Government propose to devise integrated schemes for water utilization?

#### **Control of floods in Assam**

1720. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of storage dams which

have been proposed in the upstream and tributaries of Brahmaputra;

- (b) whether large projects like Subansiri Lower shall cater to the lowering of flood situation in the State; and

- (c) what other concrete plans the Central Government have in hand to control flood situation in Assam?

#### **Repair of dam in East Champaran, Bihar**

1721. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that last year a dam in East Champaran, Bihar had breached due to which losses to the tune of crores of rupees had taken place;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the damaged dam has not been repaired so far; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to repair the dam and to meet the threat to the dam this year?

#### **Status of Sardar Sarovar Dam**

1722. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of Sardar Sarovar Dam, as on 30.6.2005, so far as the height of the dam is concerned and the expenditure incurred;
- (b) whether the Supreme Court has made some observations and given directions for rehabilitation of the families affected, including those who are major members of the family;
- (c) by when, the rehabilitation is likely to be completed and the permission to construct the dam upto 138.60 metres given by Narmada Control Authority; and

(d) the estimated loss in monetary terms to agriculture and allied sectors to Gujarat due to non-completion of the dam as scheduled?

#### **Floods in Gujarat**

1723. SHRI DHARAM PAL  
SABHARWAL:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State of Gujarat has experienced severe flood situation recently causing loss of property and lives;

(b) whether rivers in the State are prone to flood and whether Government have any policy to make Gujarat free from floods; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Water scarcity in Kerala**

1724. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were acute water scarcity in regions of Kerala during summer season;

(b) whether there were several drinking water schemes that were remaining incomplete;

(c) if so, the number of drinking water schemes to be completed and the present status of the above schemes;

(d) the details of drinking water schemes submitted by competent authority of Kerala for approval, if any;

(e) the action taken to check large scale extraction of water by soft drink bottling plants and water theme parks during summer; and

(f) the action taken in detail to resolve water scarcity during summer seasons?

#### **Water flow in rivers**

†1725. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water to the extent of 300 million gallons flows in the rivers without being utilized;

(b) the details in this regard; and

(c) to what extent Government have succeeded with the steps taken in this regard?

#### **Linking of major rivers**

1726. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted by the Central Government for the efficient utilization of water resources of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the composition of the Group, the meetings held and the on-the-spot assessment visits made by the Group so far;

(c) whether any achievements were made by the Group in this regard to the efficient use of water resources so far;

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

(e) whether the Group is also looking into the proposal of linking of major rivers of the country to utilize the excess water for deficient areas; and

(f) if so, the progress made, so far, in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Improvement in quality of drinking water**

1727. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of sincere efforts by the Central Government, the States have not improved the quality of drinking water;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether guidelines issued by Government to the States in regard to routine analysis of samples for physico-chemicals and microbial quality are not being followed by States; and

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

**Fluoride and nitrate in the ground water**

1728. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has conducted any survey in the country so far to find out the quantity of fluoride and nitrate present in the ground water, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating separately the percentage level of fluoride and nitrate found in ground water of Delhi, Maharashtra and Rajasthan during the last three years till date; and

(c) what remedial measures Central Government have taken so far in this regard, indicating budgetary allocations, if any, made State-wise during 2005-2006, particularly in Delhi, Maharashtra and Punjab?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 3rd August, 2005*  
*Sravana 12, 1927 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

## INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

<b>Civil Aviation</b>	: 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1601, 1602, 1603,
<b>Company Affairs</b>	: 1604,
<b>Finance</b>	: 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608, 1609, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1617, 1618, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1639, 1640, 1641, 1642, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663,
<b>Panchayati Raj</b>	: 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1668, 1669,
<b>Petroleum and Natural Gas</b>	: 1670, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1697, 1698,
<b>Tourism</b>	: 1699, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1717,
<b>Water Resources</b>	: 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1728.