

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the May 10, 2005/Vaisakha 20, 1927 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions —155**

#### **Measures to improve safety standards of Airports**

4951. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two major air disasters at the Mumbai Airport involving a national private carrier and a foreign airliner could only be averted at the last minute with a providential escape for the passengers;

(b) if so, what factors and lapses caused the crisis; and

(c) the steps taken by AAI to improve safety and standards at the International Airports in the country?

#### **Extension of Kolkata-Silchar air service**

4952. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to extend the existing bi-weekly Kolkata-Silchar service to Kolkata-Guwahati-Silchar Service for tri-weekly operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the service is likely to be introduced?

#### **Funds for Silchar Airport**

4953. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are still considering as per the recommendations of the Task Force to provide Instrument of Landing System (ILS) and Runway Visual Range (RVR) measurement at Silchar Airport alongwith other airports in the region;

(b) if so, by when the ILS and RVR are expected to function for the sake of safe air services from these airports;

(c) whether the non-availability of the fund is the cause of the delay; and

(d) if so, whether any efforts are being made to provide funds on the basis of recommendations?

#### **Postponement of written examination for transport licences**

4954. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the question papers of the written examination for

granting transport licences were leaked resulting in postponement of the scheduled examination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government against the persons found guilty?

#### **Techno-economic study of aircrafts offered by Boeing**

4955. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and Indian Airlines propose to acquire new fleet of aircrafts from Boeing, USA;

(b) if so, the details including the number of aircrafts, cost and techno-economic advantages, thereof;

(c) whether any techno-economic feasibility study was conducted to judge the worthiness of offer by various aircraft manufacturers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Profit earned by IA**

4956. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines Board approved the revised revenue and expenditure estimates for 2004-05 and budget estimates for 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines earned a net profit of Rs. 17.50 crores during the year 2004-05; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Air services from Kerala to Gulf countries**

4957. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal seeking permission to operate flights on concessional rates to Gulf countries from Kerala airports is pending with Government for sanction;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to accord permission for the same to ease the sufferings of Gulf Malayalees;

(c) whether any Gulf airline companies expressed its willingness to start flights from Kerala to Gulf countries on concessional rates; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereof?

#### **Development of civil aviation in Tamil Nadu**

4958. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects sanctioned for the development of civil aviation in Tamil Nadu during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) the amount earmarked for this purpose; and

(c) the progress of work in each case?

#### **Strengthening of AI and IA**

4959. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air India

are facing tough competition from the private airlines; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen these two airlines and to make them consumer friendly and affordable and also to improve their efficiency to international level in order to capture the market?

#### **Development of Ahmedabad Airport**

4960. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for development of Ahmedabad Domestic and International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when such development plan is likely to be executed and completed;

(c) whether it is a fact that international passengers face lot of hardships at the arrival and departure launges of the international airport at Ahmedabad; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take for immediate redressal of their grievances without waiting for the development of the domestic and International airports at Ahmedabad?

#### **Fares in South-East Asian sector**

4961. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact with that the operation of more flights by private domestic airlines to Singapore, Kualalumpur, Colombo and Bangkok, the air fares have drastically come down by these private airlines;

(b) if so, the details of fare being charged by Sahara and Jet Airlines on these sectors; and

(c) whether in view of low fares and competition by private airlines, Indian Airlines and Air India are considering reducing airfares to above sectors and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Air taxi operators, airlines and air chopper operators in the country**

4962. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the air taxi operators in the country;

(b) the names of the scheduled airlines in the country; and

(c) the names of air chopper operators in the country?

#### **Handing over of airports to private enterprises**

4963. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports which have been handed over to the private enterprises so far indicating the time of handing over and names of the airports;

(b) the total amount of money earned by Government that way; and

(c) what were the terms and conditions entered into the agreement during change of hands?

#### **Expansion of airports in Tamil Nadu**

4964. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the proposed expansion plans for the non-metro airports in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of the cost estimated; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to make those airports as international passenger terminals?

#### **Standard of helicopter safety**

4965. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a string of helicopter crashes in the past few years and a trail of VIP deaths have highlighted the woefully inadequate standards of helicopter safety in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has just one helicopter inspector for monitoring the airworthiness, safety and maintenance standards of the 187 helicopters in the country while there should be at least 10 inspectors; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to upgrade the standard of helicopter safety in India?

#### **Participation of foreign airlines in restructuring of airports**

4966. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have barred foreign airlines from picking up equity in the joint ventures set up to restructure the Mumbai and Delhi airports;

(b) the reasons for barring foreign airlines from this business;

(c) whether it is also a fact that foreign airlines have made any attempt to gain control over these two airports;

(d) the steps proposed to ensure that Delhi and Mumbai airports have an efficient management after their restructuring; and

(e) the expected cost of both the projects?

#### **Machinery to control user charges at airports**

4967. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any machinery to study, supervise and control user charges at various airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether such a machinery will also be in a position to put definite limits on user-charges at private airports which are coming up in the country;

(c) to what extent air travel will be affected by unlimited and exploitative user charges at airports;

(d) how Government will control situations in the event of exorbitant user charges at airports; and

(e) the details of available machinery or organizations which will supervise and control such user charges in airports?

#### **Duplication of labels of reputed companies**

†4968. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gross misuse is being committed in the market by using the labels of reputed companies in every field;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of cases brought to the notice during the last one year where duplicating companies were using names of reputed companies; and

(c) the details of action taken against such companies?

**Investigation into fraudulent practices of Modi Xerox**

4969. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA  
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation into the fraudulent practices of Modi Xerox and other companies have been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in completion of the investigation and the measures taken to expedite the investigation?

**Irani Committee on corporate operations**

4970. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:  
Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked Dr. J.J. Irani Committee to consider issues relating to conflict or overlap of jurisdiction on different aspects of corporate operations by various regulatory agencies;

(b) whether the Ministry is of the opinion that it is in interest of all concerned that the entire framework operates in a harmonious manner;

(c) whether he had pointed out that there

were issues which both the Company Affairs and capital market regulatory Securities and Exchange Board of India cover;

(d) if so, whether Irani Committee has submitted its recommendations to Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when they are likely to be accepted?

**Lifting of barriers on services by US**

4971. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Coalition of Services Industry has asked India to pay heed to these services, particularly in financial field;

(b) whether demonstration of India's willingness to effect substantive liberalization in trade and services would enable USCSI to actively pursue India's case with US Congress for relaxation of barriers on services export;

(c) whether US was serious in its attempt to engage India in negotiations as it regard India becoming world economic power between 10 and 20 years;

(d) to what extent US has agreed for lifting of barriers on services; and

(e) to what extent it will be helpful for India?

**SBI's separate bank in Mauritius**

4972. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SBI has planned its separate bank in Mauritius for its overseas operations;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how far its functions will be different from SBI International Mauritius; and
- (d) the business targets set to be attained by the new bank during 2005-06?

#### **Settlement of excise duty disputes**

4973. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have recently arrived at an out of the court settlement with a large tobacco company on excise disputes;
- (b) if so, whether a policy will be evolved on this pattern with any other persons or firm facing litigation in courts over excise disputes;
- (c) whether there is any machinery presently available to try to settle excise duty disputes between Government and private parties;
- (d) if so, the details of such a machinery; and
- (e) if not, the steps proposed to put in place such a machinery for settlement of disputes between Government and private parties?

#### **Special clearing facilities for cheques**

4974. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the RBI has set up special clearing facilities for cheques issued to Government;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that RBI has set up this special facility for Government only on March 31st of the current year only;

(c) to what extent RBI is aware that there is a need to have speedy and quick clearing of all cheques in the country at all times;

(d) whether it is a fact that banks take a lot of time in getting cheques cleared; and

(e) the steps proposed by RBI to review the present system and set up a new system to improve the system of cheque clearing throughout the year all over the country?

#### **Average of tax revenue to GDP**

†4975. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the average between Tax Revenue and Gross Domestic Production in the country is being assessed around 15 per cent;
- (b) if not, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether Government have decided to increase this average;
- (d) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard and the extent to which this average is targeted to be set;
- (e) whether the recently implemented VAT system is the part of the said decision of Government; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Inclusion of Horticulture crops under the Crop Insurance Scheme**

4976. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:  
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any request from

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the Karnataka Government to include Horticulture crops under the Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has sought interest subsidy on Agro-credit advance from Co-operative Institutions at an interest rate of 6 per cent; and

(c) whether there is any provision made for agriculture credit from Commercial Banks at a lower interest rate of 6 per cent?

#### **Replacement of Ordinance on ITC**

4977. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently promulgated ITC Ordinance is set to lapse on April 8, 2005;

(b) whether opting out of introducing a bill to replace the Ordinance, Government still feels that there is a strong case to seek a review of the Apex Court's order by a larger bench; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Money deposited in foreign banks**

†4978. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money deposited in foreign banks by the people of Indian origin; and

(b) the details in this regard?

#### **Requirement of funds for implementing schemes**

†4979. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to implement honestly the most ambitious schemes of Government like "Gramin Rojgar Guarantee Scheme" and "Bharat Nirman Yojna", about fifty thousand crores of rupees are required during the year 2005-06 whereas the provision made in the Budget is just like a drop in the ocean; and

(b) if so, how and wherefrom rest of the money will be arranged?

#### **Income Tax collections**

4980. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the special steps and extra strategies adopted to get the speedy disposals of huge arrears pending before Tribunals and Courts;

(b) the special steps undertaken or envisaged to increase tax payers net and to improve the revenue collections;

(c) whether conducting searches and seizures have been done on scientific basis with enough background; and

(d) whether it resulted in substantial recovery of tax, interest and penalty?

#### **Exemption to Charitable organisation from Fringe Benefit Tax**

4981. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to levy Fringe Benefit Tax;

(b) whether Government are aware that charitable organisations who are engaged in charitable activities without carrying out any business would also be covered under the provisions of Fringe Benefit Tax; and

(c) if so, what steps Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

propose to take to exempt the charitable organisations from the ambit of that tax and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Loss to NIC due to insurance cover to M/s Reliance Infocomm**

4982. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Insurance Company had incurred heavy losses in the matter of providing insurance cover to M/s. Reliance Infocomm, owing to heavy liabilities for loss of hand sets and for defaults undertaken at throw away prices;

(b) if so, whether any inquiries have been made into the circumstances leading to the wide insurance cover granted at such disproportionately low prices;

(c) whether any collusion between the concerned officials, the agents and the company has been uncovered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Financial crisis in States**

4983. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States are facing crisis in respect of financial resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government have received requests from Chief Ministers of various State Governments for financial assistance particularly in respect of Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Revenue deficit of States**

4984. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has suggested sweeping reforms to eliminate revenue deficit of the States by 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has assured that once these reforms are implemented effectively, the revenue deficit will be wiped out by 2007-08; and

(d) if so, how far the above suggestions have been implemented to control revenue deficit of the States?

**Financial assistance by banks to earthquake victims**

4985. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide financial assistance through Nationalised Banks to earthquake victims of various States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of guidelines adopted by each bank for providing financial assistance to the earthquake affected people of States?

**Self-employment schemes**

4986. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases forwarded to



different banks under various self-employment scheme run by the Central Government and also by the State Governments during the financial year 2004-05, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases sanctioned, disbursed and refused by the banks in different States, bank-wise and State-wise; and

(c) whether the Central Government would strengthen the policy of monitoring the self-employment loan cases with the banks to give to the youths a satisfactory return of benefits?

#### **Ratification of interest on EPF**

4987. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has not yet ratified the rate of interest on EPF for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Dollar rupee exchange rate**

4988. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI intervenes in the market to maintain a dollar rupee exchange rate that would not be unfavourable to export;

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

(c) its impact on inflow of forex?

#### **RBI guidelines on rural branches**

†4989. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that public sector commercial banks are agreed for their mutual merger and if so, the names of such banks;

(b) whether Government have permitted public sector banks to open their branches in rural areas as per RBI guidelines;

(c) if so, the number of banks which have opened their new branches in compliance with this policy; and

(d) whether certain banks have also decided to close down their loss making branches in the light of the said policy and if so, the details of the areas where such branches have been closed down?

#### **Amendments in Insurance Act**

4990. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has submitted a report to Government indicating the amendments to be brought about in the Insurance Act, 1938;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) has set up a committee to study the report of Law Commission and make recommendations regarding amendments in the Insurance Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(f) if so, the salient features thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(g) if not, by when the Committee is likely to submit its report?

**Liberalisation of existing loan grant ratio for States**

4991. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals received from States relating to liberalising the existing loan grant ratio of Central plan assistance to States are unattended; and

(b) the action taken by Government on State's requests for lessening the burden of loans on States?

**Disbursement of loans to farmers by major banks**

4992. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications from the farmers across the country cleared by various banks for loans, State-wise;

(b) what is the interest applicable on these loans to the farmers;

(c) what is the total value of loans so far disbursed by them to the farmers; and

(d) whether it is a fact that process of loan takes time for clearance and if so, what steps are being taken to simplify the procedure?

**Promulgation of Central Excise Laws, Ordinance, 2005**

4993. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose of promulgation of the Central Excise Laws (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance 2005;

(b) whether validity of the Ordinance has since been allowed to expire, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the volume of claim on account of unpaid excise duty made on M/s ITC Limited;

(d) the status of the excise duty claim following expiry of the terms of the Ordinance; and

(e) the details of the past instances when Ordinances were promulgated, if any, seeking amendment(s) to Central Excise Rules with retrospective effect?

**Fixing of responsibility on operational risks of Banks**

†4994. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the members of the Board of the Public Sector Banks in the country would have the responsibility of operational risk;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when was such decision taken by Government; and

(d) the reasons for taking such decision?

**Loan to agriculture sector**

†4995. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

have fixed a target of providing Rs. 7,36,750 crores of loan to agriculture sector in the country during Tenth Five Year Plan period from 2002 to 2007;

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

(c) the total amount of loan provided from April, 2002 to March, 2005 and the estimate regarding his loan amount for the year 2005-06?

**Corruption in Excise, Customs and Income-Tax departments**

4996. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA  
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the working of the Central Excise, Customs and Income-Tax departments is not satisfactory and corruption free;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to streamline the working of these departments;

(c) the number of complaints relating to corruption and mis-management received in these departments and by the Central Government during the last three years; and

(d) the details of action taken thereon?

**Purchase of computer in Government offices**

4997. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
SHRI R.K. ANAND: PREMA  
SHRIMATI CARIAPPA:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA  
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Department of Expenditure OM No. 8(4)/E.II(A)/98 dated 17.12.1998, computers costing above Rs. 50,000/- are to be purchased by inviting open tenders and still the computers are being purchased without inviting open tenders;

(b) if so, the reasons for not checking the violation of Government instructions by Government offices; and

(c) the concrete steps taken to ensure strict compliance of the said O.M.?

**Policies to build higher level of foreign exchange reserves**

4998. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is working on policies to build a higher level of foreign exchange reserves in the country;

(b) whether this will take into account the anticipated current account deficits and also liquidity at risk, arising from unanticipated capital movements;

(c) if so, what are the details of the proposals being considered in this regard; and

(d) to what extent the Reserve Bank of India policies in this regard have helped to build their quantum of foreign exchange reserves?

**External audit of projects**

4999. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry propose to

open up progress on implementation of Government projects for scrutiny on quarterly basis under a new mechanism that is being set up for this purpose;

(b) if so, whether this system is likely to be put in place during 2005-06;

(c) whether Government are also considering to go for external audit to measure the outcome of major programmes; and

(d) if so, to what extent this monitoring of these Government projects externally has helped in its quick implementation and checking of cost escalation?

#### **Recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission**

5000. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not till date accepted the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission and if so, the details of the recommendations that have not yet been accepted; and

(b) the details of steps taken to accept the remaining recommendations?

#### **World Bank grant-in-aid**

†5001. SHRI LEKHAJ BACHANI:  
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank have recently sanctioned grant-in-aid to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the projects on which

the amount sanctioned by the World Bank will be spent; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the sanctioned amount is likely to be spent on the projects of Maharashtra/Gujarat?

#### **Withholding of security papers of guarantors in PSB**

5002. SHRI ABANI ROY:  
SHRI DHARAM PAL  
SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) below Rs. 10 lakh have been settled during the last one year by Punjab and Sind Bank (PSB);

(b) whether it is also a fact that even after settlement of accounts below Rs. 10 lakh, the Bank has not returned the security papers of guarantors;

(c) if so, what are the details of cases where security papers deposited by guarantors have not been released so far;

(d) what action Punjab and Sind Bank propose to take against officials responsible for withholding security papers of guarantors; and

(e) by when all security papers will be released to guarantors?

#### **Universal Health Insurance Scheme**

5003. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN  
PANY:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:  
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that previous Government had launched 'Jan Raksha Insurance Scheme' for non-life insurers;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) whether Government propose to launch Universal Health Insurance Scheme in partnership with private sector to help the people of the backward areas where health services are in bad shape; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the areas proposed to be covered in Orissa under this scheme?

#### **Withdrawal of VAT on iodised salt**

5004. SHRIMATI KAMLA MAHAR:  
SHRIMATIPREMACARIAPPA:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a large number of representations for withdrawal of 4 per cent VAT on processed iodised edible salt;

(b) if so, the details of representations received with the names of Association/ Federation; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take to withdraw 4 percent VAT on salt to alleviate the hardship caused to the weaker sections of society?

#### **Funds under externally aided projects for NER**

5005. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released under externally aided projects by Government to the various States during the last three years;

(b) what are the specific reasons for releasing less funds for North Eastern Region; and

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

#### **Late receipt of amount allocated by Eleventh Finance Commission**

†5006. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether amount allocated by Eleventh Finance Commission were received late by one year by the States resulting in delay for commencement of work;

(b) whether Government would extend the term of expenditures further by one year; and

(c) whether Eleventh Finance Commission provides for maintenance of accounts for E-Governance and whether Government would continue to do so?

#### **Living standard of people in rural areas**

†5007. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a National Sample Survey Organisation report published in print media which states that earning Rs. 500/- to make both ends meet is still a very tough task in the villages;

(b) if so, whether Government have given any consideration to the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to improve the living standard of people in the rural areas?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Losses in Regional Rural Banks**

5008. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Rural Banks are not keeping in good financial health and have incurred heavy losses;

(b) if so, the details of such losses, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures Government are considering to check such losses and to improve the financial health and performance of RRBs?

### **NCAER report on Kisan Credit Card**

5009. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to revamp the Kisan Credit Card scheme;

(b) whether Government have any plan to increase the credit to farmers through Kisan Credit Card scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government are awaiting for the recommendations from the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER);

(e) if so, whether the NCAER submitted its report; and

(f) what are the recommendations made by NCAER?

### **India's Growth potential**

5010. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the ADB India Economic Bulletin

published articles wherein it has been predicted that India is slated to become the third largest economy with a share of 14.3 per cent of global economy by 2015 and that it would graduate to become the third pole and growth driver by 2035;

(b) if so, whether our economic planning strategies being oriented towards achieving that goal; and

(c) if not, what are his views to this economic growth anticipated in the ADB Indian Economic Bulletin?

### **Vaidyanathan Committee Report on Co-operative Societies**

5011. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vaidyanathan Committee report on Co-operative Societies submitted during the year 2004-05 has been accepted by the competent authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above report allows Co-operative Societies to use the word "Bank" alongwith it under conditions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether above report abides conditions in the money transaction of the Co-operative Societies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and what steps will be taken to implement the report after consultation with the Co-operative Societies?

### **Reforms in Farm Sector**

5012. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any report prepared/

proposal with assistance of Ministry of Agriculture, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and National Institute of Public Finance and Policy etc., regarding farm reforms especially contract farming, private mandis, opening retail trade to Foreign Direct Investment, reduction on subsidies in food and fertilizer and on public private-partnership in the farm sector;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to reduce minimum support price for farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any step is taken to prevent decline in capital formation in farm sector; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Outstanding loan granted to Punjab**

5013. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any loan (special term) granted to Punjab for combating insurgency is outstanding at present; and
- (b) if so, the details of loans/interest outstanding as on date?

#### **Setting up of Institute of Insurance and Risk Management**

5014. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has set up an Institute of Insurance and Risk Management in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the aims and objectives of the Institute of Insurance and Risk Management including the details of its constitution?

#### **New norms on money transfer**

5015. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that RBI has issued new norms on money transfer;
- (b) if so, the details of the norms;
- (c) whether any consultations have been held with the travel agents, non-banking financial institutions, approved money changers, etc.; and
- (d) if so, the out come of the consultations?

#### **FDI in pharma sector**

5016. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have received Foreign Direct Investment in Pharma Sector in a bigger way sidelining other sectors;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what were the reasons for Foreign Direct Investment being much low compared to pharma sector; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Reduction in rate of interest on Central loan to Maharashtra**

5017. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of

Maharashtra had approached the Twelfth Finance Commission to seek relief in respect of the debt-trap State Government found itself in, by various means particularly that by way of reduction in the rate of interest on the Central Government loans; and

(b) if so, the extent of reduction in rate of interest sought by the State Government and the Finance Commission's recommendation thereon and Government's response in this regard?

#### **Developmental Plans of Mumbai**

5018. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn out plans not only to develop Mumbai into Shanghai of India but also to showcase India as a model and fast developing economy and as an attractive destination of F.D.I. with infrastructure favourably comparable to China;

(b) if so, the broad features and details of the plan, indicating phase-wise details and targets contemplated thereunder; and

(c) the steps taken and beginning in that direction?

#### **Loan facilities to farmers**

†5019. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme is being formulated by Government to increase the loan facility for the farmers in the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be spent by Government on the development of

agriculture sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

#### **Financial aid for scarcity hit areas of Maharashtra**

5020. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal to the Centre seeking financial help to tackle the situation in scarcity hit areas of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

#### **Cheating by Multi-level marketing companies**

5021. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of persons have been cheated by the Multi-Level Marketing (MLM) companies in the country, some of them have been closed down and the investors' money siphoned off;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the RBI have no control on the functioning of such MLM companies;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to have control on the functioning of these MLM companies?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Task Force on mutual fund**

5022. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a report of a task force on infrastructure and process flows for enhancing distribution reach in the mutual fund industry; and

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

**Income tax refund scam**

5023. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Income-Tax/Banks officials have been found involved in an income-tax refund scam unearthed by Police recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of money involved in the scam; and

(c) the details of measures taken to ensure non-repetition of the scam in future?

**Grants to statutory bodies**

5024. SHRI R.K. ANAND:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 5169.35 crores were sanctioned to different statutory bodies during 1976-77 to March 2001 and the utilization certificates thereof are yet to be received from them;

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to obtain utilization certificates from the statutory bodies;

(c) in what manner Government satisfy itself that grants are used for the purpose for which they are given; and

(d) the details of all such statutory bodies which misutilised the grants?

**Taking over of Co-operative Banks in Tamil Nadu**

5025. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main reasons for taking over of the Co-operative Banks by the Reserve Bank of India in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the No. of Co-operative Banks which have been proceeded against recently; and

(c) whether there are any proposals for rehabilitating those Co-operative Banks?

**Establishment of Stree Shakti Grameen Bank in Karnataka**

5026. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Reserve Bank of India has turned down the request of the State Government of Karnataka to establish Stree Shakti Grameen Bank;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any request from the State Government of Karnataka to reconsider the decision and to accord permission to establish Stree Shakti Grameen Bank in Karnataka?

### **Poppy cultivation**

5027. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed the cultivation of poppy/opium at various places in the country, if so, the names of the States and the area under cultivation;

(b) whether some other States are also making demands to allow them to cultivate poppy/opium in the selected areas of their States, if so, the name of these States; and

(c) whether permission will be granted to these States to cultivate poppy?

### **Foreign Exchange inflow through FIPB**

5028. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total No. of cases cleared through the FIPB route during the current financial year so far;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange likely to come into the country through these approvals;

(c) the quantum of exact amount which has come in through these proposals;

(d) whether it is a fact that many proposals do not materialise even after their approvals; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

### **Financial assistance to Tamil Nadu**

5029. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by his Ministry with regard to the request of the State Government of Tamil Nadu for

grant of financial assistance in respect of Tsunami disaster in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the grant as requested by Tamil Nadu Government will be released?

### **Revival of private sector undertakings**

5030. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of revival of various private sector undertakings are pending with Bank for Industrial Reconstruction;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in finalising the cases; and

(c) by when a decision will be taken?

### **Replacement of MSP with a system of remunerative prices**

5031. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agriculture experts have requested him for replacing MSP with a system of remunerative prices and also a participatory insurance scheme in the farm sector and other benefits for the farm sector;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal made by the experts; and

(c) what is the status of these proposals to secure acceleration of agricultural growth to make it more competitive and productive?

**Preparation of Comprehensive Insurance Law**

5032. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive Insurance Law is under preparation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of complaints about delayed settlements of claims, misconduct and misbehaviour of officers/officials with insured public in Delhi Tropical Building branch and all over India have been received;

(d) if so, summary of such complaints with action taken in each case; and

(e) the preventive and remedial steps taken in this regard so far?

**Increase in rate of interest on EPF**

5033. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the present budget proposal the rate of interest on EPF has been increased from 8.5 percent to 9.5 per cent for the year 2005-06 with retrospective effect from 2002-03;

(b) whether Government are aware that this is primarily going to benefit only the employees in Government and large industry sectors and not the employees in small and medium scale sector;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for giving discriminatory treatment to small and medium scale sector; and

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

**Regulator for Urban Co-operative Banks**

5034. SHRIB.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has sought the co-operation of States to address the systemic risk of Urban Co-operative Banks;

(b) whether the proposal to make the RBI as the sole regulator for the Urban Co-operative Banks requires serious legislative changes; and

(c) whether Government are initiating moves in this direction, given the recent spurt in scams involving Urban Co-operative Banks?

**Price hike in army canteens due to VAT**

5035. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that VAT may lead to price hike in 1000 army canteens in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this would take away the incentives offered to serving/retired army personnel?

**World Bank's conditions for financial aid to Maharashtra**

5036. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stringent terms and conditions laid down by the World Bank for providing financial aid to the State Government of Maharashtra has forced the State to raise money through Bonds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Proliferation of banking system in districts**

†5037. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the average of population getting banking facility in different States;

(b) the number of districts in the country where the average population enjoying banking facility is less than national average;

(c) whether Government are going to assign a time-bound target to nationalised banks for the proliferation of banking facilities in such districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Interest rate on loan to farmers**

†5038. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decrease the interest rate on the loans being provided to the farmers in view of the growing tendency of suicide amongst the farmers due to higher rates of interest and decrease in the production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

**New loan scheme by Corporation Bank**

†5039. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading public sector bank *i.e.* Corporation Bank in collaboration with Multi Commodity Exchange of India

Ltd. has started a new loan scheme for the farmers under which farmers can earn proper profit by preserving their ready crops till they want;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the minimum and maximum amount of loan that would be provided to the farmers under the same and the period after which they have to return the loan amount?

**Computerisation of banks**

5040. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branches of top ten public sector banks;

(b) the number of branches out of the above that have fully computerised banking operations, bank-wise; and

(c) by when the public sector banks will be fully computerised?

**Abolition of customs duty on dialysis machines**

†5041. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider to abolish customs duty on dialysis machines imported by the private clinics; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Performance of banks in Bihar**

5042. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of nationalised and public sector banks operating in Bihar;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of banks whose performance is best and those whose performance is not satisfactory;

(c) the details of banks in respect of which complaints of various nature have been received during the last year and the current year so far; and

(d) the action taken on each such complaint so far?

#### **Violation of norms for writing off bad loans**

5043. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI or Government detected any case of gross violation of norms by banks and nationalised financial institutions while writing off bad loans;

(b) whether any action is being taken against any erring employees;

(c) whether the RBI has given any direction to public sector banks for containing the expenses of banks in order to maintain and sustain long-term profitability; and

(d) if so, the details of the banks that were found by the RBI to have over spent on non-core non-banking activities?

#### **FDI from Germany in infrastructure sector**

5044. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the 15th Session of the Indo-German Joint Commission, attended by the visiting German Minister of Economics and Labour in New Delhi on April 4, 2005, he made a strong plea inviting

German FDI in the infrastructure sector;

(b) if so, the reaction of Germany thereto; and

(c) what special concessions or incentives were offered for German FDI and the German Minister and German entrepreneurs' response thereto?

#### **Payment of Special Duty Allowance**

5045. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Special Duty Allowance (SDA) is paid to the civilian employees of Government hailing from outside North-Eastern Region (NER) when posted to NER;

(b) the details of current rate of SDA to various ranks of employees;

(c) whether SDA is also paid to civilian employees hailing from NER but posted in remote areas in North-East say from Guwahati to Gangtok or to a far off places like Chennai, Kerala, Pondicherry, etc.; and

(d) if not, the rationale behind making SDA inadmissible to employees belonging to NER in such instances?

#### **Anomaly of pay scales in Central Secretariat Office Language Service**

†5046. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Ministry's Office Memorandum No. F.No.70/5/2003-1C dated 29th March, 2004 has created an anomaly in the pay scales of Assistant Director (Official Language) and Translators working in the Central Secretariat Official Language Service and subordinate offices; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor togetherwith the measures being taken to remove the said anomaly?

#### **Import of medical equipments**

5047. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1380 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th August, 2004 and state:

(a) the number of CV100 Olympus refurbished processors imported and released by customs as accessories of gastroscopes, colonoscopes and duodenoscopes from cargo terminals at Delhi IGI Airport, Chennai Airport and Mumbai Airport;

(b) whether import of these processors is within rules as their production had been stopped by the parent company in 1992; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to prevent the violation of this rule in future so that India does not become a dumping ground of outdated medical equipments?

#### **Reappropriation of funds for Valmiki Ambedkar Awaas Yojana**

5048. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or proposed to take a decision in response to the proposals sent to him in the recent past by the Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development for re-appropriation of Rs. 47.97 crores towards sanction of dwelling units in Andhra Pradesh, under Valmiki Ambedkar Awaas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the location and addresses of those dwelling units in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Inconvenience caused to customers due to faulty software programme of banks**

5049. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in their enthusiasm to introduce internet banking system and computerisation, a number of banks, including State Bank of India, have introduced software programmes that are not tested for their efficacy and security, resulting in breakdown of the system, including the day-to-day banking activities of the bank, thereby causing a lot of inconvenience to the customers; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken to rectify the system?

#### **Internet banking system**

5050. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of private and public sector banks have introduced internet banking system in the country;

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

(c) whether security concerns have been duly addressed by the banks while offering such facilities to their clients and whether the banks are mandated to compensate the loss suffered by the client in the event of breach of security since the service is offered by the banks as an add-on service to attract customers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Trade ties with Saudi Arabia**

5051. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Saudi Arabia had discussions on matters of mutual interest between the two countries during his recent visit to that country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent trade and economic ties between the two countries are likely to improve?

### **Loans sanctioned by NABARD**

5052. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned by NABARD under various schemes and programmes in the North-Eastern States and Himachal Pradesh during the last two years and the total number of development projects thereon;

(b) the number of projects for which the financial assistance has been sought by the States of NER and H.P. during the year 2004-05;

(c) whether various roads are included under the NABARD Scheme; and

(d) if so, the names of roads in Districts Shimla and Kangra in Himachal Pradesh and the amount given therefor?

### **Funds for Himachal Pradesh for Panchayati Raj Institutions**

5053. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) what is the utilisation of funds by States under the Panchayati Raj System all over the country;

(b) the details of funds allocated/released to States specially in Himachal Pradesh during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 till date, State-wise/district-wise;

(c) whether the funds have been fully utilised in the State of Himachal Pradesh;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Sanctioning of projects through District Collectors and District Development Officers**

†5054. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government propose to run some projects by sanctioning them directly through District Collectors and District Development Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such system is not contrary to the basic concept of federal State and is a sort of indirect violation of the Constitution?

### **Closure of anti-adulteration cell**

5055. SHRI AMAR SINGH:  
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:  
SHRI R.K. ANAND:  
SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that adulteration of petrol and diesel is a big-ticket scam that involves an annual recurring loss of at least Rs. 10,000 crore to the Exchequer;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that public sector oil companies are also involved in that scam;

(c) if so, the details thereof and what is Government's reaction in regard thereto; and

(d) whether it is a fact that anti-adulteration cell in the Ministry had been disbanded and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

#### **LPG agency in Khagaria (Bihar)**

†5056. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bharat Petroleum gas agency is located at a distance of 20 km. from market of Mahesharkut, Khagaria in Bihar due to which the rural population have to face great difficulty there;

(b) whether any commune has been issued for any gas agency at the said place (market);

(c) if so, the details of those agencies alongwith their dates; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it would be issued?

#### **Petroleum reserves in Bihar**

†5057. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any information regarding presence of reserves of petroleum substances in the Gangetic basin of Bihar has been received; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Supply of kerosene in remote villages**

5058. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive plan has been drawn up to revamp the Public Distribution System, especially of kerosene oil which, reportedly, is proposed to be distributed through the public sector oil marketing companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including arrangements made, if any, to ensure adequate supply of kerosene in remote villages at reasonable prices?

#### **Import of LNG from Qatar**

5059. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Qatar has offered to India to increase the supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (L.N.G.) from the present 5 million tonnes per annum; and

(b) if so, to what extent and by when the target would be met?

#### **Processing of Euro-III fuel**

5060. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has resumed, after a long break, import of petrol and diesel with low sulphur and benzene content, to fall in line with Euro-III emission norms coming into force from April, 2005;

(b) if so, whether these imports are

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



contracted at a premium of US \$ 7.00 above the mean of Arab Gulf price;

(c) whether the Indian refineries are not equipped to process Euro-III norms fuel;

(d) whether it would have been proper to have upgrade our refining facility, atleast in part, to synchronise with the launch of Euro-III emission norms; and

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

#### **LPG pumps for vehicles**

†5061. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG run vehicles in the country alongwith number of vehicles registered under LPG by RTO;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the number of States allotted with LPG pumps for LPG run vehicles; and

(d) the details and names of the pumps where LPG is available for vehicles, State-wise?

#### **Provision of agriculture related information in petrol pumps**

†5062. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDEWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to provide information regarding agriculture on the petrol pumps of the Public Sector Oil Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of petrol pumps, State-wise where such facility is proposed to be provided;

(d) whether the said Oil Companies are considering to provide such facility at the gas agencies in rural areas also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **LPG agencies at block level**

†5063. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:  
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set the target to sanction/open the gas agency at block level and tehsil level;

(b) if so, by when the said target is likely to be achieved;

(c) the details of gas agencies run by different oil companies, State-wise; and

(d) the number of new agencies which are under process to be opened by the said companies during the current year, State-wise?

#### **Supply of oil to airlines at lower rates**

5064. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the airlines are faced with strict competition and low yields due to high oil prices;

(b) whether the oil prices are costlier in India because of the excise duty and sales tax levied by the State Governments; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering the supply of oil to the airlines at considerably lower rates?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Reduction in transportation charges  
by GAIL**

5065. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tariff Commission has directed the GAIL to reduce its transportation charges on gas by 45 per cent for the gas supplied by it;

(b) if so, the details of the directive given by the Tariff Commission; and

(c) the action that has been contemplated by his Ministry in this regard?

**New automobile fuel retail outlets**

5066. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to introduce the automobile fuels retailing services by commissioning its first retail outlet; and

(b) if so, the features of the retail outlets?

**Expansion programme of Panipat refinery**

5067. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Panipat refinery expansion programme;

(b) the estimated cost of the expansion project;

(c) the time and cost over run, if any;

(d) the number of additional manpower required for operation and maintenance of

the expansion project after commissioning and commercial production; and

(e) the present turnover and the turnover expected after the full scale commissioning of expansion scheme?

**Supply and demand of LPG**

†5068. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide gap between demand and supply of LPG in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantum of LPG imported during the year 2004-05 and the steps taken by Government to bridge the gap between its supply and demand?

**Multi-Commodity Exchange in oil sector**

5069. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that multi-commodity exchange has been launched in the second week of February 05, for trading in crude oil in the country future;

(b) how this Multi-Commodity Exchange (MEX) helps in hedging against price fluctuation on the price of crude oil that the public sector oil companies buy;

(c) the reasons for allowing only three monthly contract months trading;

(d) whether Government have any plan to increase it to at least six months;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **New LPG filling stations**

5070. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to start new LPG filling stations in India;

(b) if so, how many in Gujarat particularly in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot and Surat; and

(c) how many on the National Highways and the State Highways?

### **Criteria for new entrants in petroleum retailing**

5071. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has suggested lowering minimum investment criteria for new entrants in petroleum products retailing business from the existing level of Rs. 2,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the No. of licenses which have been given to set up retail petroleum products outlets so far; and

(d) how many of these licensees have set up outlets and presently operating company-wise and State-wise?

### **Filling up the post of CMD, ITDC**

5072. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:  
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the regular

post of CMD, ITDC has been lying vacant and if so, since when; and

(b) what are the specific reasons for not filling up the post, and by when it is likely to be filled up?

### **Establishments of new tourism zones**

5073. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of tourists visting India is decreasing day by day, if so, what steps has been taken so far to improve the toursim industry and to attract more tourists in the country;

(b) whether Government have any plan to promote tourism in other sectors like health; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to establish new tourism zones in various parts of the country; and

(d) the No. of projects for the development of tourism industry which are pending with Government and by when they are supposed to be in practice?

### **Development of Nandi Hills in Karnataka**

5074. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for integrated development of Nandi Hills in Karnataka is pending with Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay?

**Ropeway to Jog falls**

5075. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal for ropeway to Jog falls, a large revenue generating scheme is pending with Government; and
- (b) if so, the reasons for delay?

**Development of tourist places of religious importance**

5076. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to develop on priority basis the tourist places of religious importance;
- (b) the No. of tourist spots which have been developed under this policy during the last three years, year-wise indicating the names of spots developed;
- (c) whether Gurdwara Takht Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib, Nanded (Maharashtra) has been considered for development under religious tourism policy;
- (d) whether requests have been received from Members of Parliament in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Development of tourism centre in Kerala**

5077. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal of State Government of Kerala seeking financial

assistance to renovate and develop any tourism centre in Kerala is pending for sanction;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government consider to grant the assistance sought for;

- (c) whether Government have already initiated action, if any, to develop tourism centres in Kerala; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof and the amount of assistance sanctioned thereto?

**Development of tourist places in Tamil Nadu by ITDC**

5078. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any plan for the preservation and development of tourist places in Tamil Nadu has been launched by India Tourism Development Corporation; and
- (b) the assistance provided to the State Government for this purpose?

**Ropeway project to Chamundi Hills**

5079. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted any proposal seeking financial assistance for Ropeway Project to Chamundi Hills near Mysore;
- (b) if so, what is the estimated cost of the above project; and
- (c) what is the present status of the above proposal?

**Low-cost hotels for tourists**

5080. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism industry has requested Government for reduction in taxes for hotels and an enabling environment for low-cost hotels, *i.e.* grant of soft loans for private entrepreneurs and land on lease etc.;

(b) whether the tourism industry has also requested for evolving other measures to boost tourism; and

(c) if so, what is the status of these proposals?

**Tourist inflow**

5081. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists visited India last year stands at 3 million;

(b) if so, what were the targets fixed and whether the above figure was in the reach of the target;

(c) what long-term plans are proposed to boost tourism in India; and

(d) the amount spent last year on tourism promotion?

**Inflow of foreign tourists**

5082. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreigner tourists visited India during each of the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that China attracts several times more tourists than India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps are being taken/ proposed to be taken by Government to attract more foreign tourists to visit India;

(e) if so, the details thereof including achievements made/proposed to be made as a result thereof; and

(f) the foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years due to foreign tourist arrivals?

**Development of tourism in Uttar Pradesh**

5083. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme and programme to develop tourism in the State of Uttar Pradesh with the foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the tourism projects launched in the State?

**Tourism potential in Madhya Pradesh**

†5084. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Madhya Pradesh in the country from tourism point of view;

(b) the steps being taken by Government in view of Tourism potential in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the amount provided to the State Government for tourism sector during last five years?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Transport facilities for tourists in Rajasthan**

†5085. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether transport facilities for tourist centres in Rajasthan are sufficient;

(b) whether any plan to provide air traffic facility to Jaisalmer, Udaipur, Kota, Bikaner, Jaipur, Mount Abu etc. is under consideration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any arrangement for the budget tourist also on the line of palace on wheels is also to be considered?

**Supply of drinking water by private sector**

5086. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that supply of drinking water in many areas of the country is given in the hands of private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to supply clean water in all the towns of the country?

**Completion of Rajiv Sagar Project**

†5087. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajiv Sagar Project (Bawanadi) of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh is pending since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government have

taken or intend to take any initiative to complete this project soon; and

(d) if so, by when this project would be completed?

**Participation of private sector in water management**

†5088. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy has been formulated by Government for the participation of private sector in the water management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the participation of private sector in water management has been accepted in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Utilization of water of Himalayan river**

†5089. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it would be necessary to consult with the Government of Bangladesh, Nepal, China etc., before chalking out any project to utilise the waters of the rivers originating from the Himalayas;

(b) if so, the names of each river alongwith the respective countries to be consulted with; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have contacted the Governments of some foreign countries in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Irrigation projects under AIBP**

†5090. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 4,800 crore has been allocated by Government for the irrigation projects during 2005-2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 37 projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programmes are targeted to be completed by March, 2007;

(d) if not, the scheduled period of completion thereof; and

(e) the amount that would be required for their completion after the amount allocated during the current year get spent indicating the source thereof?

#### **Water scarcity in major cities during summer**

5091. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any action plan about the effects of non-availability of drinking water in the summer in major cities in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Rehabilitation of adivasis affected by Sardar Sarovar Dam**

5092. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 20,000 adivasis who moved from their homes in the wake of Sardar Sarovar Dam construction are unhappy due to lack of proper rehabilitation plans;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to adequately rehabilitate them;

(c) whether it is also a fact that now when the Dam has almost reached 320 feet height, water is flowing into the main canal and power is being generated, but upstream dam on the Narmada Sagar is not ready, thus water is being wasted; and

(d) what are the immediate plans to avoid wastage of this upstream water availability?

#### **Allocation of fund under AIBP to Tamil Nadu**

5093. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds released to the State Governments under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the reasons for low/nil allocation to Tamil Nadu?

#### **Financing of projects under AIBP**

5094. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had asked the State Governments to

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

borrow money from the market to fulfill their requirements under the Accelerated Integrated Benefits Programme for water projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that although an allocation of Rs. 4,800 crores was announced in the budget for 2005-06 but no provision was made for it; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Funds for AIBP projects under construction**

5095. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there about 37 projects are in pipeline for completion under the Accelerated Integrated Benefits Programme (AIBP) in the next two years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no funds were earmarked for the 30 per cent grant component in the budget for 2005-06;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that States face a resource crunch to finance the Irrigation Sector?

#### **Shortage of water resources**

†5096. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water resources in the country are receding constantly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures being taken by Government to remove the shortage of water resources; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent by Government to remove the shortage of water resources during the year 2005-06?

#### **Irrigation of cultivable agricultural land**

†5097. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major portion of cultivable land falls in unirrigated category in the country at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme is being formulated by Government for making irrigation arrangement of the unirrigated land in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the said scheme?

#### **Irrigation facilities in Bihar**

5098. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation facilities in Bihar;

(b) the districts in Bihar which are deficient in irrigation facilities;

(c) the steps being taken to ensure adequate irrigation facilities in Motihari and Champaran districts; and

(d) the allocation of funds made in the current financial year for the said purpose?

#### **Central Authority for distribution of river waters**

†5099. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to constitute a Central Authority for proper distribution of rivers' water; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



### **Clearance to reservoirs projects**

†5100. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposals received for reservoir projects from the States from 2002-03 till date, State-wise;
- (b) the number of proposals sanctioned and proposals still pending, State-wise;
- (c) the detailed reasons for not sanctioning such proposals; and
- (d) by when, these proposals would be sanctioned?

### **Inclusion of more land under assured irrigation scheme**

5101. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to bring an additional one crore hectares of land under assured irrigation;
- (b) if so, the manner in which it is proposed to be achieved;
- (c) whether any concrete time-bound scheme has been chalked out in this regard;
- (d) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (e) whether any State-wise target has been arrived at for the purpose of implementation of this scheme;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Sharing of water from Rajoli Banda Diversion Scheme**

5102. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken any

action in rendering necessary justice to the State of Andhra Pradesh in respect of sharing waters from the Rajoli Banda Diversion Scheme;

- (b) if so, the details of action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government have taken any action with regard to unauthorised construction of structures on Manjira river by Karnataka;
- (e) if so, the details of action taken or proposed to be taken immediately; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Policy on proper utilisation of water**

5103. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering the formation of a policy for proper utilisation of water in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have any proposal to store the water which flows into the sea through rivers in times of flood and excess rains; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Shortfall in flow of water in rivers**

5104. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been any shortfall in average flow of water in rivers of the country annually;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise and river-wise;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether a major water crisis is impending in the country during 2005-06; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to tide over the crisis?

**Modernisation of irrigation projects under Hydrology Project**

5105. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the rehabilitation and modernisation of major, medium and minor irrigation projects that have been taken up for implementation in the State of Tamil Nadu under Hydrology Project Phase-II;

(b) the funds released by the Centre to the State for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the rehabilitation and modernisation process is likely to be completed in the State?

NEW DELHI;  
The 4th May, 2005  

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Vaisakha 14, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
Secretary-General.

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