

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on

Tuesday, the March 11, 2003/Phalguna 20, 1924 (Saka)

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

Total number of questions—155

Open slots in airports to foreign commercial flights

2007. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have offered open slots in our airports to foreign commercial aircraft;

(b) if so, the details of the Government policy and of the foreign airlines who are taking advantage of this policy; and

(c) the benefits accrued or likely to accrue Air India and Indian Airlines by this policy?

Smoking at airports

†2008. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people continue to smoke at airports despite the prohibitory boards displayed there by Government;

(b) if so, the number of persons fined for smoking at different airports by Government by the end of 2002; and

(c) the State-wise details in this regard?

Special purpose vehicle for airport modernisation

2009. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have floated a special purpose vehicle to channel and raise funds for the airport modernisation;

(b) whether it is a fact that private participation has been invited for financing the modernisation works;

(c) to what extent private funds will contribute to the required Rs. 4000 crores;

(d) whether the special purpose vehicle will issue debentures or bonds for this fund; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Evacuation of Juhu Beach by AAI

2010. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airport Authority of India has any plan to evacuate the Juhu Beach Stalls in Mumbai;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any evacuation notice has been served to the stall owners recently; and

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

Floating Joint Ventures for metro airports

2011. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to float a joint venture with private corporate for all the four metro airports and a separate joint venture for each remaining airports with five per cent equity of Airport Authority of India;

(b) if so, what are the details; and

(c) whether the security angle has been looked into in this regard?

Special purpose vehicle for Chennai and Hyderabad airports

2012. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special purpose vehicle has been set up exclusively for the modernisation of Chennai and Hyderabad airports;

(b) the details of this special purpose vehicle;

(c) the amount to be raised for this SPV;

(d) the funds already raised from private investors;

(e) whether State Governments will also contribute for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Non-utilisation of airports in Karnataka

2013. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines or private operators are operating air services to Bellary, Hubli and Belgaum in Karnataka;

(b) if not, the reasons for not utilising these airports; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to provide air services from these airports?

Investment of AIPFT money

2014. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the organisations where Air India Provident Fund Trust money is invested along with the amount in each organisation and returns received;

(b) whether there is any default; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

Upgradation of Jaipur Airport

2015. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress of construction work for upgradation of Jaipur Airport;

(b) the amount spent so far in this regard; and

(c) by when, Jaipur Airport is likely to be of International Standards?

Arrears due from private airlines

2016. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are yet to receive arrears from private airlines which have closed down their operations as a result of Open Sky policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these companies are making timely payments; and

(d) if not, what penalties Government intend to impose to such private airline companies that are not making timely payments?

Fleet utilisation of AI

2017. SHRI DATA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the utilisation of Air India's fleet is lower than the industry average in the past few years;

(b) if so, what has been the results of efforts made by Government to increase the fleet utilisation of Air India during the past few years; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government to improve the fleet utilisation of Air India?

Repatriation from Gulf countries

2018. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give concession in Indian Airlines and Air India to the repatriates who are returning

from Gulf countries by availing general amnesty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign Airlines have expressed their willingness to transport the repatriates to India free of cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the repatriation by making use of this facility?

Committee on dispute between AI and IA

2019. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a dispute between Air India and Indian Airlines over international operations under bilateral air services agreements;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any Committee has been set up to resolve the dispute;

(d) if so, the contours of the Committee; and

(e) by when, the Committee propose to submit their findings?

Creation of cargo airline

†2020. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up any cargo airline company in public sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Maintenance of aircrafts of PSUs

†2021. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maintenance work of the aeroplanes of public sector undertakings such as Indian Airlines and Air India has been entrusted to foreign organisations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the foreign organisations entrusted with this?

Sale of IA tickets

2022. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines has to pay a large salary bill to a very large commercial staff at various cities and towns in the country;

(b) whether any efforts been made by Indian Airlines to allow unemployed youth to set up kiosks all over the cities to market tickets of Indian Airlines;

(c) whether any new method of reducing costs and increasing sales been tried by Indian Airlines; and

(d) the details of the steps proposed to be taken by Indian Airlines to boost sales?

Need for a new airport at Vijayawada in A.P.

2023. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the coastal districts of Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Godavari are commercially and industrially developing districts in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that the people from these areas go to various foreign countries for education, employment and business purposes;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware of the urgent need for an airport at Vijayawada; and

(d) if so, whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sanctioned Rs. 8 crores as interest-free loan for the development of airport?

Transfer of management of Imphal Airport to a private agency

2024. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to transfer management of Imphal Airport to a private agency;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that private agency will be subjected to maximum threat and pressure of anti-social and anti-national elements; and

(d) whether eventual closure of the airport will put too much inconvenience to the public?

War risk insurance for air travellers

2025. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangkok based International Aviation Organisation has formulated a scheme for global war risk insurance for air travellers;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering adoption of this system for its domestic sectors as also on flights originating from the country; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what are the salient features of this scheme and what would be the fiscal impact when this scheme becomes operative?

Pension reforms

2026. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering extensive pension reform in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed reforms would take care of the unorganised sector also and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the reforms are expected to be put in place?

Foreign currency earning

†2027. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) the estimated foreign currency likely to be earned under different heads, separately by the end of current financial year and during last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the reasons of its increase/decrease?

Economic condition of M.P./ Chhattisgarh

†2028. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of economic condition of Madhya Pradesh after its bifurcation;

(b) to what extent per-capita income has been affected in the newly created

Chhattisgarh and rest of Madhya Pradesh thereafter;

(c) the break-up with regard to per-capita income in the country, State-wise alongwith the position of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh therein; and

(d) the details of the date with regard to per-capita income in Madhya Pradesh during the last ten years?

Financial aid to Orissa

2029. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director, World Bank had paid a visit to Orissa and promised financial aid to improve economic growth and control poverty, as reported in the New Indian Express, Bhubaneswar, dated the 20th December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed action plan discussed and drawn; and

(c) the types of reforms that would be taken up with the assistance and the time by when the assistance would be rendered?

Relaxation in loan repayment liabilities of State Governments

2030. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar have sought relaxation in loan repayment liabilities and relief in debt liability due to the Centre by modifying loan, grants ratio in Central aid under the Gadgil formula;

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

(c) Government's response thereto?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Circulation of Bhutanese currency in West Bengal

2031. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bhutanese currency are in wide circulation at the Indo-Bhutan bordering areas *e.g.* Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar and Dooars of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to check the same?

Co-operative Banks in rural areas

2032. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of co-operative banks functioning in the rural areas of the country alongwith the details of the total deposit and working capital of each co-operative bank, Bank-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of farmers, artisans, skilled persons and unemployed educated youths benefited by these banks in the rural areas during the last three years; and

(c) the details of loan disbursed by each bank in the country to the above categories during this period?

Separate PLR of SBI for home loans

2033. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced a separate prime lending rate for home loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) since when such lending rate has been introduced by SBI?

Loans to landless labourers and small farmers in Andhra Pradesh

2034. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide loan facilities to the small/marginal farmers and landless labourers to meet their various consumption needs;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines and criteria adopted by Government in this regard;

(c) the details of various schemes connected to these facilities; and

(d) the District-wise details pertaining to Andhra Pradesh regarding release of such loans under various PSU Bank Schemes, Swarnajayanthi Gram Rojgar Yojana and other schemes for 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?

Adoption of Sarbanes-Oxley Act in Banks

2035. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is planning to introduce an indigenous adoption of Sarbanes-Oxley Act stipulating new reporting standards for auditors and top management professionals in the US;

(b) if so, whether Government feel that top functionaries of banks and financial institutions should be made more accountable to the apex bank; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Search and seizure operations by
Income Tax Department**

2036. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many companies have been under search and seizure operations by Income Tax Department during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that income tax appeals with crores of rupees are pending for settlement; and

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

Car insurance racket

2037. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a car insurance racket has recently been busted in the capital involving bungling of several crores of rupees by senior officials of Government insurance companies;

(b) if so, the amount of loss to the public exchequer and the number of officials involved in the racket;

(c) what action has been taken to terminate their services forthwith and recovery of the loss from them;

(d) whether Government propose to consider not to accept any payment in cash throughout the country and enforce all payments through account payee cheques only to avoid such eventualities; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Indian Financial Institutions in the
country**

2038. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian Financial Institutions in India; and

(b) the list of the institutions and Government's holding in each of these Financial Institutions?

**Withdrawal of subsidies to aid
financial institutions**

2039. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government while pumping in thousands of crores of rupees in public sector banks and financial institutions like UTI, EXIM Bank, IDBI, SIDBI to bail them out of the red and to counter balance their Non Performing Assets (NPAs), withdrew subsidies from agriculture sector and poverty alleviation programmes and cut down interest rate on small savings and Employees Provident Funds, during 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and

(b) if so, the details of the bail out funds and the bad debts written off during these years, and how far it widened the budget gap in each year?

**Attachment of office of Secretary,
Maharashtra Government by IFCI**

2040. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Debt Recovery Tribunal has allowed IFCI to attach the office of the State Co-operatives and Textile Secretary of the Government of Maharashtra for default of over 50 crores;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for initiating such action against Maharashtra Government;
- (d) whether the DRT has taken such action against any State Government in the past; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Expenditure incurred on payment of TA/DA

2041. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

- (a) the names of Industrialist who are in the Prime Minister's Trade and Advisory Council; and
- (b) how much expenditure is incurred annually on the payment of TA/DA etc. to the member of Advisory Council?

Impact of foreign investment on domestic industries

†2042. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the domestic Indian Industry is almost dying out on account of foreign investments; and
- (b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

Compulsory demat

2043. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for making demat compulsory when it is optional even in countries like the US;

(b) whether small investor has been adversely hit by the fixed charges by National Security Depository Ltd. (NSDL);

(c) what has been the impact of compulsory demat on the growth of the capital market; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to review the working of the NSDL?

Advancement of loans on payment of interests

†2044. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that loan is advanced on interests by financial institutions for developmental schemes of the country;
- (b) if so, the names of the financial institutions alongwith loan advanced for development, sector-wise during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;
- (c) the amount of loan advanced by these institutions separately alongwith the names of development sectors, during the first nine months of the current year; and
- (d) the average rate of interest on these loans?

Additional Central assistance to Gujarat

2045. DR. A.K. PATEL:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

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

- (a) whether Central Government have received a proposal from Government of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Gujarat to modify the norms for releasing the additional Central assistance on the basis of seventy per cent grant and thirty per cent loan;

(b) whether it has been considered by Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor when such relaxation has been granted in case of externally aided projects of certain States in past?

Grant of soft loans to Andhra Pradesh

2046. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged Central Government for consideration of one time grant of soft loan;

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

(c) the steps are being taken by Government to improve the economy of the State Government?

Income tax dues

2047. SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

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

(a) the top twenty individuals and corporate bodies who have defaulted in paying income tax during the last two years with maximum income tax arrears as on 31st January, 2003 and as on date;

(b) whether Government are considering to make the recovery of income tax from these defaulters; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Online training for insurance sector by US

2048. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the US-based companies have offered on-line training in insurance sector;

(b) if so, whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has agreed to the proposal; and

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

Corporate governance

2049. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lack of efficient and honest corporate governance has emerged as a matter of grave concern for the Banks, the R.B.I. and Government; and

(b) whether Government are currently working on proposals stressing strict accountability norms for auditors and financial analysts, besides re-defining their liabilities?

Mounting arrears of disputed tax of corporates

2050. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disputed

tax liability of the corporate sector is on the rise;

(b) if so, the total liability and the details of the individual liabilities;

(c) what are the reasons for this mounting arrears; and

(d) what steps are being taken to recover these dues?

RBI's policy for home loans

2051. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently announced credit policy of the RBI has given a boost to home loan market;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that to a large segment of the organised sector, even with the expected fall in home loan interest, owning a home is out of reach;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to consider further reduction in home loan interest or provide some subsidy to facilitate middle and lower rank employees of organised sector to purchase houses;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

RBI's credit policy

2052. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the leading banks are considering to lower the interest rate on all their services and products, including Prime Lending Rates following the credit policy recently announced by the Reserve Bank of India;

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

(c) whether this rate-reduction have a positive impact on the home loan market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

New value added scheme of Vijaya Bank

2053. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vijaya Bank propose to launch a new value added scheme;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) what are the salient features of that scheme?

Deposits of Self-Help Groups in Banks

2054. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total deposits in the commercial banks mobilised from the Self-Help Groups in the NGOs sector during last three years, State-wise;

(b) what was the rate of interest banks paid to these Self-Help Groups in the NGOs sector on these deposits, during the said period; and

(c) what are the total advances of banks to these Self-Help Groups in the NGOs sector and the rate of interest charged by banks, during the said period?

Taxes outstanding against industrial/commercial units

2055. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of income tax, excise duties and other commercial taxes outstanding against the top 50 industrial/commercial units, unit-wise during the last three years, year-wise and as on date;

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

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

Total budgetary provisions

2056. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) department-wise total budgetary provision made (Plan and Non-Plan separately) for each Ministry, actual release of funds and utilization made during each of the last three financial years; and

(b) the Ministry-wise percentage of budgetary provision made to comply ten per cent allocation for NER indicating actual amount released and amount utilized year-wise during this period?

Notices given by Enforcement Directorate to MNCs

2057. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Enforcement Directorate has issued any notices to over 17 Multi-national Companies for violating FERA by paying part of expat employees salaries abroad without seeking RBI permission; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the companies and name of these companies?

Appointment of internal auditors for companies

2058. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Company Affairs has a proposal to introduce a system of random scrutiny of financial statements of Indian companies and guidelines for appointment of internal auditors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Special recovery squads for recovery of NPA

2059. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken by the Ministry to set up special recovery squads to recover NPA from the defaulters;

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

(c) what are the other functions of such squads;

(d) whether the Ministry have set up any time-limit for the repayment of the dues by the defaulters; and

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

Flouting of rules by foreign banks

2060. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some foreign banks are flouting the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for regulating the functioning of commercial banks in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make such banks adhere to the RBI's directives particularly relating to closure of their operations in the country?

Settlement of tax dispute under Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty

2061. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have presented a new procedure for the speedy and time-bound settlement of tax dispute under the Double Taxation Avoidance countries entered with other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the revised procedure takes adequate precaution to ensure that the Indian companies registered in foreign country do not avoid the taxation as has been the practice hitherto?

Decline in domestic investment

2062. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of domestic investment has been declining over the years;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to encourage higher investment in order to achieve higher growth rate?

Amendment of Stamp Duty Act

2063. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Securities Contract Regulation

Act, Income Tax Act and Stamp Duty Act, during the current session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed amendments would embrace the recommendations of Justice Kenia Committee Report and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when, the proposed amended legislature are expected to be put in place?

Per capita debt

2064. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita debt at present;

(b) how it compares with that in 1996; and

(c) the details of measures taken to liquidate the debt burden?

Closing down of SBI Home Finance Ltd.

2065. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SBI has taken any decision to close down the SBI Home Finance Limited;

(b) if so, whether the SBI propose to absorb the employees working in the Home Finance Wing and to avoid a retrenchment;

(c) whether there are any previous instances when the staff of the subsidiaries have been absorbed by the promoting Bank; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Prepayment of external debt

2066. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to RBI there is now a proper time for India to make prepayment of external debt especially when there are provisions in terms allowing prepayment and the foreign exchange reserves have risen to US \$ 67 billion, the 7th largest in the World; and

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

Delisting of shares from stock exchanges

2067. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued detailed guidelines on delisting of shares from stock exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these guidelines make provision for an opportunity to be given to the investors for an exit option when the shares are delisted from the stock market; and

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

Prosecution of people under FERA

2068. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases under section 56 of the FERA, 1973, where fines have been paid but the prosecution continues;

(b) what is the benefit of spending public

money on prosecuting the people who have already paid their fines;

(c) whether such guidelines for prosecution exists and if not, whether Government propose to review such cases; and

(d) if so, what action will be taken against the erring officers, who have prosecuted the people outside the ambit of such guidelines?

Notices issued under Securitisation Act

2069. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the major companies/borrowers of the Indian Corporate Sector and the amounts they have borrowed from banks and have not repaid back till now;

(b) whether notices under Securitisation Ordinance (Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Ordinance, 2002) have been issued to the defaulters; and

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

Achievements of economic reforms

2070. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed and analysed the achievement of economic reforms in tackling the poverty and raising the standard of living of poor and lower middle class people in this country;

(b) if so, Government's assessment thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that economic reforms have failed to increase GDP at the desired level;

(d) if so, whether it is due to improper implementation of the policies under economic reforms or otherwise; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure that the benefits of economic reforms reach poor and common man?

Pendency of work at Registrar of Companies in Delhi

2071. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that work at Registrar of Companies, Delhi is very slow and pendency of applications is on the rise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present Registrar is not co-operating with the professionals who visit his office for getting various approvals for their clients;

(c) if so, what action is being taken to set things right; and

(d) what is the total backlog of applications under various acts pending in the Department for more than six months?

Restructuring of CBDT/CBEC

2072. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBDT/CBEC are being restructured in order to improve the performance and increase the revenue collections;

(b) if so, the measures taken and the results of these measures;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the tax targets were not met during the last three financial years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken to improve the situation?

Rise in inflation

2073. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees with the observations of the RBI Governor that Apex Bank is comfortable with the present inflation rate which has crossed 4 per cent mark in first week of February, 2002 and the wholesale price index being 3.72 per cent as compared to a mere 1.39 per cent a year ago; and

(b) if so, whether this rise in inflation is proposed to be contained and what are the detailed steps for the same?

Effect of rise in prices of petrol and diesel

2074. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact on inflation due to periodic increase in the prices of petrol and diesel;

(b) whether the regular inflationary trend is a matter of great concern to the common people of the country; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to contain the inflation?

Recovery of NPAs of PSU banks

2075. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the R.B.I. has given strict orders for the recovery of Non Performing Assets of the PSU banks;

(b) the names of PSU banks which have initiated action in this regard, branch-wise and recovery-wise;

(c) whether any target has been fixed by those PSU banks for the recovery of the NPAs for the current financial year and coming financial years; and

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

Single level management for SBI banks in Uttaranchal

†2076. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring various branches and offices of State Bank of India working in Uttaranchal State under single high level management arrangement for State level co-ordination and adjustment; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Broadening of tax base

2077. SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are satisfied with the initiative taken to broaden the tax base;

(b) whether by increasing the tax base the revenue collection has actually increased when compared to the expenditure incurred on in its administrative overheads; and

(c) if the tax collection is same as earlier, whether Government propose to exempt some sections of society for filing Income Tax returns to save the overhead costs of its administration?

VRS compensation by banks

2078. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of VRS compensation that the banks have so far given out;

(b) how many employees have opted for VRS and how many applications have been accepted; and

(c) how the VRS has been financed?

New bonds by ICICI

2079. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICICI has issued any new bond recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Reduction in domestic savings

†2080. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a fall in the gross domestic savings; and

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

Shifting the branch of Canara Bank

2081. DR. M. N. DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a branch of the Canara Bank was operating from a building situated adjacent to the Rail Bhawan;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the same has been shifted to another place; and

(c) if so, the reasons for shifting the branch?

abroad can make *via* international credit cards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Foreign investment in insurance Sector

2082. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase limit on foreign investment in life insurance sector;

(b) if so, what is the present limit of foreign investment in insurance sector; and

(c) what would be the foreign investment after the proposed hike in this regard?

High powered committee on printing of currency notes

2083. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered committee regarding printing of currency notes has given its report;

(b) if so, whether the recommendations of the above committee have been considered; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Foreign exchange payments through international credit cards

2084. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has recently eased rules governing foreign exchange payments that Indians travelling

Defaulter companies in Gujarat

2085. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 30 companies based in Gujarat and their promoters have misappropriated public money by misusing the funds raised from public issue of shares and debentures;

(b) if so, the names of the promoters with their companies;

(c) how much money has been misutilised/siphoned off by the promoters of these companies; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take against the defaulters under the Companies Act?

Guidelines for settlement of NPAs of banks

2086. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has lately issued revised guidelines to afford to the Public Sector and other banks another opportunity for settlement of the chronic non-performance assets problem under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Act;

(b) if so, the details of the revised guidelines and the main modifications made in the existing guidelines and the NPA accumulation with each of the Public Sector Bank; and

(c) the steps taken by those banks in pursuance of the revised guidelines?

**American credit rating on foreign
currency debt**

2087. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent report of the American Credit Rating Agency Moody's Investors service upgrading its rating on India's sovereign foreign currency debt, grading it as "Substantial"; and

(b) if so, what are the previous three grading reports of the American Credit Rating Agency, what aspects and criteria are taken into account by the American agency, and the degree of improvement registered on each count which affected the grading of India by the agency?

**Repayment of loans by Cooperative
Societies of Maharashtra**

2088. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NABARD has requested the State Registrar of Co-operative Societies of Maharashtra demanding a one-time repayment of loans worth Rs. 750 crore from Land Development Banks;

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

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has liquidated the Land Development Banks due to huge losses; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by NABARD to realise the amount from these Banks?

**Interest rate differentials between US
and India**

2089. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Non-Resident Indians are depositing their money to seize opportunity presented by the interest rate differentials between the US and India;

(b) if so, its impact on Indian economy; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce the interest rate difference between the two countries?

Tax free bonds

2090. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 52 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether a final decision to issue tax free bonds for holders of US-64 units of UTI has been taken and whether any special provision for senior citizens to allow them higher rate of interest on these bonds has been taken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Policy on FDI from China

2091. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to put on hold the FCI proposals of Chinese nationals and companies till a comprehensive policy on FDI from China is drawn up;

(b) if so, whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has drawn up a comprehensive policy on FDI from China;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the activities of such companies which have already started business in India?

Core group for export sector

2092. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

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

(a) whether in bid to give a much-needed boost to the export sector the Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs has announced the setting up of a core group to interact with exporters to sort out micro-level issues;

(b) if so, what are the core issues that will be undertaken by this proposed group;

(c) whether any report or points have been prepared which needed Ministry's approval; and

(d) if so, to what extent the setting up of the core group has given boost to the exporters?

Verdict on Mauritius case

2093. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBDT through a circular had stipulated that certificate of residence from the Government of Mauritius is sufficient proof of the concerned company's Mauritian origin;

(b) whether subsequently the Delhi High Court had quashed the CBDT notification resulting in an appeal before the Supreme Court; and

(c) whether the Supreme Court has since given its verdict on the appeal and if so, the details thereof?

Debt burden of States

†2094. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that loan repayment obligation of States has increased substantially after the enhanced burden of revised pay on revenue expenditure of all States;

(b) whether the reason for this increase is present policies adopted at the national level and also policies related to small savings;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to convert all outstanding loans of States in block loans, re-calculate the interest rates on block loans and to reduce the current bank rates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Exploration of new avenues for crude production

2095. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India will not be able to be self-sufficient in the production of crude oil in the near future;

(b) if so, whether Government are collaborating with foreign countries for exploration and production of crude oil there on production sharing basis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

India Hydro Carbon Vision-2025

2096. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Group on India Hydro Carbon Vision-2025 has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made; and

(c) what action Government have taken on the recommendations?

Export of petroleum products

†2097. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several petroleum products are exported;

(b) if so, the details of petro products exported during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and in the first nine months of 2002-2003 along with the quantity;

(c) the quantity of export by public and private sector oil companies; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the export price of the said products was less than the price of the products sold to the consumers in the country, if so, the details thereof?

IOC's investment in Sri Lanka

2098. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) the total investment of Indian Oil Corporation in Sri Lanka and its further expansion plans in that country; and

(b) the details of its investments in petroleum sector in Mauritius and expansion plans in Bangladesh?

Demand for kerosene in A.P.

2099. SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:

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

(a) whether the demand for kerosene is constantly increasing in rural and urban areas due to power shortage in Andhra Pradesh particularly in backward districts;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to hike the quota for kerosene to the drought prone areas of Andhra Pradesh to enable them to meet the rising demand of kerosene; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Upgradation of Cochin refinery

2100. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) the steps taken to upgrade the BPCL's Cochin refinery in this financial year; and

(b) the details of the steps including the time by when the work is likely to begin?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Contract for HBJ upgradation project

2101. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether the GAIL awarded contract recently for HBJ upgradation project (42" LSAW LINE PIPE);

(b) if so, the number of tenders received from India and from foreign countries;

(c) the reasons for rejecting reputed foreign tenders outright in spite of their low quotations; and

(d) the action proposed to enquire and fix responsibility for such irregularity?

Import of Petroleum Products

†2102. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that petrol, diesel, natural gas, naptha and other petroleum products are imported;

(b) if so, the quantum of each of the above item imported during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and the first nine months of 2002-2003; and

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange utilised for this import together with the reasons for the import of these items?

Demand and production of petroleum products

†2103. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of petrol, diesel, natural gas, LPG, naptha is going down as compared to their production;

(b) if not, the assessment of their demand and production during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 and during the last six months of 2002-2003; and

(c) the quantity of the extra production of these products exported at the end of the year along with their prices?

Escalation in cost of Sakhalin gas project

2104. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sudden escalation in the project cost of Sakhalin Oilfield exploration being undertaken by ONGC Videsh Ltd.;

(b) whether OVL's share of investment in the Russian oilfield will now overshoot its original investment of \$1.74 billion by about \$1 billion;

(c) whether ONGC's investment advisors had deliberately underplayed the element of possible escalation while getting the original investment fund approval for \$1.74 billion; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Revival of terminated dealership by BPCL

2105. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil marketing companies are not empowered to take decision on issues of revival of terminated retail outlets and SKO-LDO dealership and condoning any delay in the commissioning of retail outlets/dealerships;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Bharat Petroleum Corporation had revived two terminated retail outlet dealerships during last year;

(c) if so, the grounds on which the said retail outlets/dealerships were terminated earlier; and

(d) the grounds on which Government permitted BPCL to revive those retail outlets/dealerships?

Production of crude petroleum and natural gas

2106. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual average quantum of crude oil and natural gas which are being produced in the country;

(b) the details of annual average quantum of crude oil and natural gas imported; and

(c) the details of schemes, projects in force and proposed schemes and projects to expand the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas in India?

Irregularities in the functioning of petrol pumps

†2107. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irregularities have been found in the functioning of the petrol pumps situated in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the petrol pump owners have been punished for these irregularities?

Dealerships for petroleum products

2108. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of criteria/norms fixed by Government for opening petrol/diesel and LPG dealership in the country;

(b) the details of petrol/diesel and LPG dealership set up during the Ninth Plan in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of these dealership proposed to be set up in the different parts of the country during the Tenth Plan?

Domestic production of crude oil

2109. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the share of imports of crude oil *vis-a-vis* the total production thereof at the end of the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans;

(b) the details of measures taken by Government to increase domestic production of crude oil during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) in what manner these have been successful; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the strategy proposed to be adopted during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

New gas agencies at Supaul District (Bihar)

†2110. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal of starting gas agencies at Supaul, Pipara and Karjain Bazar of Supaul district in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when gas distribution centres are likely to become operational at the said places?

Provision of CNG to Uttaranchal

†2111. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some steps are going to be taken by his Ministry to provide CNG fuel in those States which are sensitive from the point of view of environment;

(b) whether there is a proposal to connect Haldwani and Dehradun of Uttaranchal State which is sensitive from the point of view of environment, with Aanvla and Sahibabad gas pipe line; and

(c) if so, by when?

Agreement between OIL and RAPL for gas supply

2112. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to revise the agreement signed between RAPL and OIL to supply gas at cheap rate

for the establishment of Gas Cracker Unit of Assam;

(b) whether the agreement for supplying gas to RAPL has been made between RAPL and ONGC;

(c) if so, the details of terms and conditions;

(d) whether the negotiation is on to have agreement of LPG supply to RAPL by IOC; and

(e) if so, by when it will be signed?

Policy on allocation of Naptha and Sulphur

2113. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of LPG, Naptha, SKO, HSD, ATF and Sulphur of the oil companies during the last three years, year wise, item-wise, oil company and their refinery-wise;

(b) in what manner Naptha and Sulphur were allocated to different sectors like fertilizers, power etc., sector-wise during the said period;

(c) whether Government have prescribed any policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Accidents at oil refineries

2114. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of minor and major accidents which occurred in various oil refineries of different oil companies, during the last three years, year-wise and refinery-wise; and

(b) the refinery-wise details of steps each

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

oil company has taken to make their refineries safe?

Appointment of consultant by IOC

2115. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has any plans to appoint a consultant to streamline its production planning process; and

(b) if so, the details of Bids received regarding the appointment of a consultant?

Commerciality viabies of new discover

2116. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new deposits of oil and gas have been discovered in different parts of the country in the last six months;

(b) if so, the States where these deposits have been discovered;

(c) whether these discoveries are commercially viable; and

(d) if so, what would be their impact on Indian economy?

Allotment of petrol pumps to dependants of CISF

2117. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have followed a policy of rewarding the widows of personnel of CISF with allotment of petrol pumps and LPG agencies after their spouses' deaths in Kashmir;

(b) the number of such applications

pending from spouses of CISF personnel killed in action in Kashmir;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have originally promised such assistance;

(d) the reasons for the deliberate go-slow of Government in this regard; and

(e) the date by when such promises are likely to be met by Government?

Allotment of petrol pumps on lease basis

2118. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that public sector oil companies are allotting petrol pumps on lease basis for eleven months;

(b) if so, the details of such allotments made by the each of these oil companies in Bihar and Jharkhand as on 31st January, 2003; and

(c) the plan for allotment of more such petrol pumps in these States during the current year?

Pipeline projects in Bihar

2119. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any representation from Bihar Government regarding pending pipeline projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on the representation so far?

**Allotment of dealership to SC/ST/
Physically Handicapped persons**

2120. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is being approached by All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped People upliftment on the issue of allotment of gas/petrol/kerosene oil agencies to SC/ST between 27th March, 2001 to 31st January, 2003;

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

(c) the State-wise total backlog of gas/kerosene oil agencies/petrol pumps available for allotment to SC/ST and Physically Handicapped;

(d) since when, such backlog is available;

(e) the steps taken by Ministry to allot such agencies/pumps during the last four years; and

(f) by when backlog of allotment will be completed?

**Diversion of LPG cylinders for
commercial use**

2121. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that LPG cylinders meant for domestic use on which high subsidy is given by Government, are being diverted for commercial use particularly by those selling cooked food in the metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) if so, what mechanism has been evolved by Government in collaboration with the respective State/Union Territory administrations to check this misuse;

(c) whether any surprise checks have been conducted in the metropolitan cities to apprehend those indulging in such misuse, during the last three years;

(d) if so, the results thereof, city-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Task force on exploration of oil
resources**

2122. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

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

(a) whether Government have set up a task force to add to the momentum to the exploitation of the country's gas resources;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the task force;

(c) whether Government are inviting foreign direct investment in the exploration and exploitation of gas reserves in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the areas and reserves to be subject to exploration and exploitation operations and the steps taken and being taken in that direction?

Subsidy on LNG

2123. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of subsidy given by Government for LNG;

(b) the details of subsidies for the last three years;

(c) the details of ownership of LNG Terminals;

(d) the details of LNG Terminals, location-wise and capacity-wise; and

(e) the details of proposed LNG expansion for the next five years, year-wise, promoter-wise and location-wise?

Effective use of natural gas

2124. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of natural gas in the country today;

(b) in what manner Government are making effective use of natural gas for industrial purpose; and

(c) the details of the strategy adopted during the Tenth Five Year Plan to exploit natural gas for use in industries?

Experiment of Bio-diesel

†2125. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to study the possibility of the use of Bio-diesel in railways, an experiment was made in Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results of the experiment?

Production of Bio-diesel

2126. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bio-diesel is being considered as an alternative fuel;

(b) if so, the details of research made in this connection; and

(c) the action taken to obtain its patent to ensure its sufficient availability in India by mass tree plantation in rural wastelands?

Supply of gas to industrial consumers in Delhi

2127. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAL has suspended supply of gas to industrial consumers in Delhi region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the NCR National Gas Industrial Consumers, Association has alleged arbitrary hike in oil prices by GAIL; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to resume supplies to industry at fair prices?

List of protected monuments

2128. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether High Court of Delhi has asked Archaeological Survey of India to publish a list of protected monuments to enable people to know about this to guard against blatant encroachments, as reported in the Indian Express dated the 28th December, 2002;

(b) if so, whether this has been published in the press; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the proposed action plan of ASI to give a face-lift to these ancient monuments?

Financial assistance for development of tourist spots in A.P.

2129. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal for financial assistance for development of tourist spots in the State;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) what are the names of historical spots in Andhra Pradesh being financially assisted by the Central Government at present?

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

(d) the expenditure estimated to be incurred on this work?

Development of Buddhist Centres in Andhra Pradesh

2130. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that there is historical evidence of Buddhism at several places of Andhra Pradesh, particularly Nagarjuna Sagar, Bhattiprolu, Amaravathi etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that by developing these places tourism can be encouraged and a lot of foreign exchange can be earned; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to develop these tourism spots?

Developing Garhmukteshwar as a tourist place

†2131. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop religious city Garhmukteshwar as a tourist place;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

Development of sea-beaches

2132. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to develop the sea beaches in the country to attract both domestic and foreign tourists;

(b) the beach-wise details of the plan formulated;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose to the concerned States during the last three years; and

(d) the details of co-ordinated efforts made with other Ministries/Government departments?

Clearance to tourism projects

2133. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several tourism projects received from the various States are pending with Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and the reasons for their pendency; and

(c) by when the above pending tourism projects are likely to be cleared?

New scheme to boost tourism

2134. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Central Government are formulating a new scheme to give boost to the tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have also been consulted for this;

(d) if so, what is their reaction; and

(e) by when the new scheme for tourism is likely to be started?

Increase of tourists in Kerala

2135. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala had an admirable growth rate of 11.37 per cent in international tourist arrivals in 2002 which is the highest recorded growth in past five years and there has also been increase in domestic tourists as well;

(b) if so, the comparative figures for the last three years;

(c) whether keeping natural flora and fauna in view the Prime Minister during his stay in the State has laid emphasis to develop tourism industry in Kerala; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Central Government in collaboration with State administration in this regard?

Revival of tourism industry in J&K

2136. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists who visited Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years alongwith the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(b) the details of Government's proposals to revive the ailing Tourism Industry in the State during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Conservation of heritage sites

2137. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing modalities/facilities are adequate for conservation of heritage (monuments) sites in the country, both budgetary and trained manpower-wise;

(b) how many such Heritage Sites exist in the country and whether Government are taking steps to create an effective synergy between the Government, voluntary organisations and people who are to be suitably sensitised; and

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

Promotion of culture in J&K

2138. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the name and number of schemes introduced/expanded for promotion of culture, State-wise, during the period from 1st April, 1999 to 15th February, 2003; and

(b) whether Government intends to introduce such schemes in J&K State giving region-wise details of Jammu, Ladakh and Kashmir?

Preservation of tourist spots in J&K

2139. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have categorised tourist places in Jammu and Kashmir;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether tourist places in Jammu and Kashmir are being damaged by the people carrying hotel and tourism business there;
- (d) if so, whether Government are taking concrete steps to preserve natural beauty of these tourist spots; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Preservation of old monuments

2140. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government assistance for preservation and protection of old monuments of Orissa including Sun Temple Konark (Black Pagoda) is not adequate;
- (b) the total assistance given to Orissa for the purpose during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) whether Government have any proposal to re-build the Sun Temple, Konark in Orissa keeping in view that major portion of Sun Temple has already been demolished?

Foreign tourist visiting Karnataka

2141. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of foreign tourists visited India during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 till date;
- (b) how many of them have visited Karnataka during the above period;
- (c) whether Karnataka Government has prepared any plan to double the number of foreign tourists visiting Karnataka by the end of this year;

- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the amount sought by the Karnataka Government to develop tourist places in Karnataka during 2002-2003; and
- (f) the amount if any, released to Karnataka during 2002-2003 under various tourism promotion projects?

World heritage status to Hyderabad City

2142. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether out of the 730 sites under the World Heritage Committee 23 are in India;
- (b) whether world heritage status is likely to be provided to Hyderabad City; and
- (c) if not, whether Hyderabad would seek UNESCO nomination for this year as one city from India could be given the status through the good offices of Government?

MoU with China to boost tourism industry

2143. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has signed an MoU with China to give boost to tourism industry, as reported in the Indian Express of 10th December, 2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether India has been accorded special status by China for this purpose?

**Development of B.R. Hills in
Karnataka**

2144. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the project for developing Biligiriranga Hills (B.R. Hills) in Chamarajanagar District in Karnataka as a tourist spot;

(b) if so, the details of the tourist promotion work taken up; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent during 2002-2003 on it?

Development of tourist circuits

†2145. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Plan has been formulated to develop some new tourism circuits during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the names of these circuits;

(c) whether some tourist places and sanctuaries of Uttaranchal have also been included in these circuits;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the alternative steps being taken by his Ministry for development of tourist places of the State?

Ghaghar River Action Plan

†2146. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to provide economic help for the Ghaghar River Action Plan;

(b) by when the said scheme is targeted to be completed;

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred for the construction of the said action plan; and

(d) the total amount which will be provided by the Central Government as an economic help in the said amount?

**Flood protection embankments on
Luna and Karandia rivers**

2147. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the New Indian Express captioned "walled with fear, villagers await shield against flood" dated the 27th December, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 15000 people of Luna-Karandia island are at the mercy of rivers Luna and Karandia with flash water becoming a regular feature and there is no flood protection embankments to shield them;

(c) whether crops are washed away and villagers face danger to their lives every year; and

(d) if so, the help rendered by the Central Government to the cash-starved State to save villagers?

Height of Sardar Sarovar Dam

2148. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the action plan prepared by the NCA height of the Sardar

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sarovar Dam is to reach 100 mt. by June 2002 and 110 mt. by June, 2003;

(b) whether the target of raising the dam to height of 100 mt by June, 2002 could not be achieved due to delay in completion of R and R works to be carried out in the participating State and not extending co-operation by them; and

(c) if so, the mechanism evolved for resolving differences among the participating States and by when?

Lower ground water level

†2149. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of land irrigated by canals in the country has declined from 41.3 per cent to 31.3 per cent whereas the percentage of land irrigated from tubewells has increased from 14.3 per cent to 33.8 per cent;

(b) if not, the assessment of Government in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the level of ground water is going down due to the increase in the use of tubewells?

Clearance for Bheema Lift Irrigation Project

2150. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have been urged that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to give administrative clearance for the Bheema Lift Irrigation Project, which got the techno-economic clearance in 1996;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has finally given its clearance for the Bheema Lift Irrigation Project;

(c) if so, whether both the Centre and the State have agreed to provide financial help and assistance in implementing the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Protection of Guwahati from erosion

2151. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Guwahati city (Assam) is facing erosion problem at the site of Brahmaputra river specially from Sukhleshwar ghat to Kamakhya Temple for the last few years;

(b) whether it is a fact that if the erosion is not protected the M.G. Road at river site could collapse; and

(c) if so, the details of measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect Guwahati city by permanent solution?

Arsenic poison in Ganga basin

2152. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 449 million people in the Ganga basin are exposed to the danger of Arsenic poison;

(b) whether it is a fact that nearly 36 million people in Bengal delta alone are drinking contaminated water;

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

(d) the details of steps taken by Government and future plans?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Decline in ground water level in
Madhya Pradesh**

†2153. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of
the fact that level of ground water in many
districts of Madhya Pradesh has declined
steeply from its normal level;

(b) the reasons therefor and remedial
measures taken in this regard; and

(c) whether Government are assisting
States to enable them to provide potable
water; if so, the amount of money given to
Madhya Pradesh?

**Benefits for flowing Narmada water to
Sabarmati river**

2154. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the
Minister of WATER RESOURCES be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water of
Narmada river is to flow in Sabarmati river
under Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam
Project;

(b) if so, what are apparent benefits of
such water grid; and

(c) in what manner Government
contemplate such water grid in rest of the
nation?

**PM Water Harvesting
Scheme**

†2155. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are
considering to start "Prime Minister

Water Harvesting Scheme" for
construction, renovation and development
of the traditional water resources on the
line of the Prime Minister Rural
Employment Scheme and the Prime
Minister Road Scheme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the master
plan of district-wise water harvesting
structure has been prepared on the basis of
distant sensing technique to implement this
scheme; and

(c) if so the complete details thereof?

**Construction of medium size irrigation
projects**

2156. SHRI AIMADUDDIN
AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the
Minister of WATER RESOURCES be
pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the
construction of major and medium size
irrigation projects in the Jaipur region of
Rajasthan during the Tenth Five Year
Plan period; and

(b) the details of funds earmarked for
the same?

**Indo-Nepal joint survey of
Pancheshwar Project**

†2157. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will
the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be
pleased to state:

(a) whether any time limit has been
fixed to complete the work of Indo-
Nepal joint survey/investigation of
Pancheshwar Project; and

(b) if so, by when the work of joint
survey/investigation is likely to be
completed and the percentage of work
completed so far?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Special status to Rajasthan

†2158. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to accord special status to the State of Rajasthan on the lines of the States of North-East, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh under accelerated irrigation programme in view of the circumstances such as two-third area of desert of Thar, drought-prone area, long international border adjoining Pakistan and natural calamities affecting that State; and

(b) if so, details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

Irrigated agricultural land

†2159. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigated agricultural land during 1950-51;

(b) the total irrigated land in the country at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the amount spent since 1950 till the end of Ninth Five Year Plan for creation of additional irrigated land?

Protection of Umanand Island

2160. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Umanand Island at Guwahati, Assam is facing erosion problem for the last several years;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to protect the Umanand Island; and

(c) the details of financial allocation made by Government during the Tenth Five Year Plan to protect the above Island?

Private funding for inter-linking of rivers

2161. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to invite private participation for funding the massive project to inter-link rivers announced recently;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the modalities to invite private participation have been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of progress made by the task force constituted for the purpose?

NEW DELHI;
The 5th March, 2003
Phalgun 14, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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