

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 14, 2006/Phalguna 23, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 155

Losses due to strike by AAI employees

†2246. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the losses suffered by Government due to strike in the first week of February, 2006 in protest against handing over Delhi and Mumbai airports to the private sector; and

(b) whether sufficient efforts were not made earlier to avoid the said strike?

Shortage of parking bays at Mumbai Airport

2247. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai Airport does not have adequate number of parking bays for aircrafts for night parking;

(b) if so, whether airlines have been asked by AAI to park aircrafts overnight at neighbouring airports like Pune, Ahmedabad etc.; and

(c) what is the response of the airlines to this request?

Direct air service between Amritsar and London

2248. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start direct flights from Amritsar to London in near future;

(b) the status of the proposal; and

(c) by when, inaugural flight is likely to start?

Construction of bays at airports

2249. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India is in the process of construction of 143 bays at 45 airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of non-metro airports that are proposed to be upgraded to world-class standards indicating those falling in the State of Orissa?

Expenditure incurred on training of pilots

2250. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount incurred by Government on the training of pilots of Government owned airlines during each of the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware that these pilots are lured by private airlines with lucrative offers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for the protection of interests of the pilots and also Government owned airlines?

Guidelines on helicopter operations

2251. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revised comprehensive guidelines have been issued recently to tighten the norms for helicopter operations in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially those relating to assessment of weather forecasting in the hilly areas where weather can change very fast?

Sanction of a new modern airport for Chennai

2252. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move for sanction of a new Modern International airport for Chennai as has been done for Bangalore in the wake of heavy spurt and steep increase of traffic in Chennai due to the growth of information technology, the proposal of diverting all flights bound for South-East Asian countries through Chennai Airport and the need of patients from Asian countries for fairly cheap and qualitative treatment at Chennai; and

(b) whether the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has already raked up a proposal for a new airport at the cost of around Rs. 1000 crores in an extent of 2000 acres?

New International airports

2253. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports which were given the status of international airports during the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to declare some more airports as international airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Slow progress of airport modernisation

2254. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

are moving at a snail's pace so far as modernisation of country's airports is concerned; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Flying requirement for issue of licence

2255. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pilots including in private airlines are not fully acquiring the flying experience as stipulated in Civil Aviation rules; and

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

Revamping of boards of IA and AI

2256. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to revamp the boards of IA and AI;

(b) whether it is a fact that as a part of revamping Government are thinking of appointing functional directors;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any consultations with the Public Enterprises Selection Board have been held in this regard; and

(e) if so, what is the outcome of the consultation process?

New airports

2257. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiatives have

been taken by Government during the last one year to open up more airports in various cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Criteria for upgradation of airports

2258. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 189 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st February 2006 and state:

(a) the details of the existing airports recently upgraded into international airports with criteria adopted for such upgradation;

(b) whether such upgradation is contemplated in respect of other airports, including Mangalore Airport and set-up new airports at other locations; and

(c) if so, the details with the reasons and the time-frame for completion of each project?

Development of Belgaum airport

2259. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to take up the improvement of terminal building and security measures of the Belgaum airport in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the proposed works; and

(c) what is the present position?

Private airline operators

2260. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) following acquisition of Sahara Airlines by Jet Airways, how many companies are presently operating in domestic air market; and

(b) the percentage of their market share, company-wise?

Funds for modernisation of airports

2261. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating modernisation of airports apart from Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating time-frame for the same; and

(c) the estimated funds needed to be invested towards the same with its probable sources?

Development of aviation sector in Uttaranchal

2262. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to develop the aviation sector in Uttaranchal from the tourism point of view in the hilly state;

(b) if so, in what manner;

(c) whether some proposals of the State Government in this regard are pending with the Centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when, these schemes will be materialized?

Opposition to sell-off of public utility services

2263. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airport unions have opposed sell-off of public utility services in the field of aviation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Development of Mangalore airport

2264. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified Mangalore (Bajpe) airport for development under Phase-I of the non-metro airports development programme;

(b) whether the Expression of Interest (EoI) for architectural design has been received from bidders and evaluated for the project; and

(c) by when the work on development is likely to be started by AAI?

Facilities at overseas IA offices

2265. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to improve the passenger amenities at IA offices/counters at UK, USA and other major countries;

(b) whether Government have received complaints/suggestions in this regard from some Members of Parliament in 2005; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Theft cases at Airports

†2266. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is threat to security as a result of increasing incidents of theft at various airports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to tackle the said problem?

Training to Pilots

†2267. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether pilots are not being trained as compared to the increasing number of aeroplanes and passengers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to fill up this gap?

Demand for pilots

2268. SHRIP.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demands for pilots in

the next four years may reach more than three thousands;

(b) if so, whether we have capacity to produce such numbers of expected pilots in the next four years;

(c) whether Government are planning to start new Aeronautics training schools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Inquiry into IPO Scam

2269. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently indicated that his Ministry propose to look into the recent IPO scam;

(b) if so, whether this enquiry would be independent of the inquiries being conducted by the RBI and SEBI; and

(c) if so, the details of its terms of reference?

Dual responsibility of investors

2270. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the institutional investors in the country have fiduciary responsibility while many investors have only corporate responsibility in terms of protecting the return on their investments;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to address this dichotomy with details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Grants-in-aid for tricentenary anniversary of Gur-Ta-Gaddi

2271. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sought sanction of maximum grant-in-aid for tricentenary anniversary of Gur-Ta-Gaddi at Nanded city; and

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

Smuggling of currency to Hong Kong

2272. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian currency is being freely traded in Hong Kong these days;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indians are not allowed to take with them Indian currency abroad; and

(c) whether Government have the circumstances in which the Indian currency was smuggled abroad and if so, with what results?

Banking operations by foreign companies

2273. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) where overseas financial companies are evincing interest in setting up banking operations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals received and approved so far;

(c) the details of FDI limits and other terms and conditions, including priority lending norms, that the promoters are required to adhere to before and after being permitted to establish banking operations in the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that sector specific priority lending norm and double taxation are some of the issues inhibiting banking operation by foreign entities in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Governments reaction thereto?

Indirect tax rate

2274. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has the highest indirect tax rate;

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

(c) whether Government propose to launch schemes for poor people by which they have to pay less indirect taxes?

Non-spending of budget allocation by Ministries

2275. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest figures available with the Comptroller General of Accounts (CGA), many Ministries have not spent the budget allocated to them in the Plan expenditure for the year 2005-06; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to encourage the Ministries

to spend the entire amount of allocated funds?

Withdrawal of guarantee on LIC policies

2276. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private life insurance sector has complained to IRDA that Government guarantee on more than 16 crore policies sold by LIC has created a bias for LIC policies among the public;

(b) whether Government propose to withdraw its guarantee on LIC policies in view of LIC having met the IRDA's solvency margin last year;

(c) whether the withdrawal of Government guarantee on LIC policies require an amendment to the LIC Act; and

(d) whether such withdrawal of Government guarantee on LIC policies will change the character of security of the existing policies?

Requirement of cash withdrawal reporting by banks

2277. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cash withdrawals from current accounts in banks mostly become a part of the black economy and if so, whether to establish the trail such transactions lead to, Government have imposed cash withdrawal tax;

(b) whether most of the Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural banks and banks in

private sector/co-operative sector are complying with the requirements of reporting such transactions to the Income Tax Department; and

(c) whether most of the Regional Rural Banks are lagging behind in complying with the requirement of cash withdrawal reporting?

Bringing more service providers under tax net

2278. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Excise and Customs is considering to bring more service providers under the tax net;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CBEC propose to do away the condition that service provider is a commercial concern;

(c) whether the societies and non-profit organizations should also pay 10.2 per cent service tax; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Spending on Infrastructure development

2279. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government instead of spending in infrastructure development has reserved 20 per cent of its revenue as surplus with RBI;

(b) what is the purpose of having that much of unspent money when the Banks are battling for liquidity crunch; and

(c) whether it is helping Government to curtail fiscal deficit and inflation?

Reduction of rate of excise duty on vehicles

2280. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have reduced the rate of excise duty on motor vehicles in the budgets of 2001-02 to 2003-04 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the major motor vehicle manufacturers did not pass on the benefit of excise duty reduction to consumers and retained the reduced excise amount of about Rs. 927.31 crores;

(c) whether these manufacturers during 2001—04 increased the cost of their vehicles despite reduction in the prices of major raw materials used by the manufacturers; and

(d) what action Government propose to take against vehicle manufacturers for cheating public?

Violations by overseas insurance companies

2281. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the overseas insurance companies which have been permitted to do business of insurance in the country;

(b) what are the rules and regulations which have been issued to such overseas insurance companies for safeguarding the investors money;

(c) whether Government have received number of complaints about the violation made by some overseas insurance companies; and

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

Mobile banking for rural areas

2282. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue General Credit Cards for the villagers involved in non-agricultural activities on the pattern of Kisan Credit Cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have prepared a plan for mobile banking in such rural areas which lacks the regular banking facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have prepared a plan to extend loans to the villagers throughout the year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

Reduction of foreign loans

†2283. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the status of foreign loan, by the end of last month;

(b) the liability of foreign loans on financial structure of the country and the total amount of loan taken by the present Government during current year;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are facing great difficulty in repayment of foreign loans; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce foreign loans and the latest status in this regard?

Repayment of loans by industrial houses

†2284. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many industrial houses and industrial units have not repaid loans from Public Sector Banks on time;

(b) the names of the industrial houses and industrial units individually, who have not repaid the loan amount exceeding one lakh during the last five years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these firms have been provided loans again despite non-payment of the loans once earlier; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Probe into manipulation in stock market

2285. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the regulators of the stock market such as RBI, SEBI, IB, ED & DRI to probe in the possible manipulation in the stock market;

(b) whether any meeting of an Internal Committee of Advisors on the capital market has been called recently to discuss threadbare the present trade; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome of the discussions?

Development of infrastructure of BIMSTEC countries

2286. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ORIX Corporation of Japan and Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd. (I.L.&F.S.) have recently entered into a joint venture agreement in his presence to finance the development of infrastructure projects in principal Asian markets like Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to moot any proposal to persuade the joint venture body to finance the development of infrastructure of Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand economic co-operation countries; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Salaries linked to performance of bank employees

2287. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on a set of parameters which will enable employees of PSU Banks to get salaries linked to performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when, the scheme is likely to be implemented?

Maintenance of proper record of pensioners

2288. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA
TAIMUR:
SHRI EKANATH K.
THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two years after the new pension scheme for Government employees was implemented, neither the Ministry nor the Central Pension Accounting Office have the exact number of people covered by new pension scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in connection with the management of information regarding States and number of autonomous bodies are covered under the scheme?

Hive off of public debt administration jobs of States

2289. SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTABRATA
MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has proposed to hive off the public debt administration jobs in respect of State Governments;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been consented by Government; and

(c) whether the State Governments have been consulted in the matter?

Low capital base of old private banks

2290. SHRI CHITTABRATA
MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capital base of old private sector banks in the country is very low and many of them are likely to report losses if Basel-II norms are made operational; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to prevent some of these old private sector banks from collapsing?

Loss of revenue due to VAT in Andhra Pradesh

2291. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States which have implemented VAT;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has incurred loss due to introduction of VAT;

(c) if so, the loss incurred by Andhra Pradesh due to VAT since its adoption;

(d) whether the Central Government have compensated the State of Andhra Pradesh for the revenue loss incurred by it due to introduction of VAT;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

System to check tax evasion

2292. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there can be an initiative to have comprehensive fool-proof system to check evasion of tax;

(b) whether there is any effective new proposal to unearth the huge black money hidden from the eyes of law;

(c) while fixing the target for collection of Income Tax/Excise Duty, what are the factors taken into consideration; and

(d) whether the potentiality of the area and environment culture, capability, personality, motivation of the collecting personnel concerned, special favourable factors in existence etc. have been taken into account, while fixing the target?

Health cess for poor people

2293. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal during the year 2005-06 for levying health cess to fund the health care needs of the poor in the country;

(b) if so, details of the above proposal, including the action taken thereon;

(c) the total percentage of GDP spent for health as on today; and

(d) the details of proposal if any, to increase the percentage of GDP spent for health?

Innovative schemes by insurance companies

2294. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any innovative schemes have been introduced by Government owned insurance companies to meet the challenges posed by the private insurance companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of funds for natural calamities

2295. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allocate a certain definite sum of money under a special head to meet the expenses in case of natural calamities like floods, droughts etc. in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Income Tax exemption to Maharashtra Maritime Board

2296. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has approached his Ministry for exemption in favour of Maharashtra Maritime Board from the payment of Income Tax; and

(b) if so, by when a favourable decision is likely to be taken?

Guidelines for merger of banks

2297. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the guidelines for acquisition and merger of banks;

(b) whether Government have stipulated that all old private sector banks to have a minimum net worth of Rs. 300 Crores and in the case of commercial banks, they are mandated to have a wider investor base with no single entity holding more than 10 per cent stake;

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

(d) whether it is a fact that it is proposed to allow FDI in banks; and

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

Details of amount recovered by NBFCs

†2298. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether comprehensive details of amount recovered from deposits by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) is not provided either to registrar of the company or to the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether the amount of depositors is not refunded as RBI have no control over these NBFCs;

(c) whether provisions made by many State Governments to monitor the activities of these companies and save the depositors from losing their money are insufficient; and

(d) if so, the details of such NBFCs, State-wise?

Application of loans under PMRY

2299. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applicants for loan under PMRY scheme in different States and Union Territories during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the number of applicants whose cases were considered for sanction of loans during the same years;

(c) the number of those in whose favour the loans under PMRY Scheme have actually been disbursed in full during these years; and

(d) whether there is wide gap between those applied and those getting disbursement, if so, the reasons therefor?

Formula for pension of Government employees

2300. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a formula has been proposed by the Parliamentary Research Service for the pension of Government Employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are also planning to implement it for private employees?

Setting up of Sixth Pay Commission

2301. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Sixth Pay Commission;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time when the Commission is likely to be set up, the composition of the Commission and the terms of reference of the Commission;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Central Government employees are to be offered with VRS after completing fifteen years of service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Revival of Land Development Banks

2302. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revive the Land Development Banks (Bhu Vikas Bank) within three months to help provide loans to the farmers for capital investments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to increase the provision for agricultural loans from Rs. 80,000 crore to Rs. 1.60 lakh crore; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Registration of Banking Codes and Standards Board of India

2303. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken measures to register the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) as an independent society, which will draw membership from banks and conduct field visits of banks; and

(b) if so, the details as to how the BCSBI

propose to function and the positive effects it will have on customer service in banks?

Income tax rebate to patients

†2304. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the patients suffering from Thalassemia and some other diseases are given some rebate in income tax under Income Tax Act; and

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

Audit of market intermediaries

2305. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Institute of Company Secretaries of India had submitted memorandum to SEBI to do audit of market intermediaries;

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

(c) what is the SEBI's response and by when the audit is likely to be started?

Constitution of Sixth Pay Commission

2306. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute Sixth Pay Commission;

(b) the proposed date for its constitution and mandate;

(c) the dates when the Fifth Pay Commission was constituted, report

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

submitted and implementation of its recommendations;

(d) whether various States had to implement its recommendations too;

(e) the details of increase/decrease in the revenue expenditure indicating its volume and year-on-year percentage of the Central and State Governments which were directly attributable to the implementations of the Fifth Pay Commission; and

(f) whether States were taken into confidence about the proposed Sixth Pay Commission?

Income tax paid by BCCI

†2307. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual income of the BCCI;

(b) the amount being paid per year by the BCCI as income tax and service tax; and

(c) if no tax is paid, the reasons therefor?

Increase in rate of interest on short term seasonal deposit

2308. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of interest on short term seasonal deposit has been increasing year after year;

(b) if so, the rate of interest for 2003-04, 2005-06 and the current year; and

(c) the reasons for the increase, in the context of decreasing interest regime?

Pension reform for Government employees

2309. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately been considering some proposal for Government employees' pension reforms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

Increase in customs duty on steel

2310. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that steel industry has demanded increase in customs duty on steel;

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

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Credit to agriculture sector

2311. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has set up an Expert Group to formulate the necessary strategy for raising investment with a view to increasing credit to the agriculture sector by 30 per cent;

(b) whether the Report of the Expert Group, which was supposed to submit its report in May, 2005, has submitted its report;

(c) if so, what are the salient features of the report; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Contributions made in National Relief Fund to banks

2312. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Public Sector Banks which receive contributions made by the public to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund;

(b) whether Government would consider the desirability to authorize all the branches of the Public Sector Banks in the country to receive contributions to the Fund which would be in the interest of both the Fund and the citizens; and

(c) if so, by when the necessary orders in this regard are likely to be issued?

Fresh study on black money

2313. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to undertake a fresh study by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy to assess quantum of black money in the country; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

Linking of pension reforms with financial reforms

2314. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to pursue the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 2005 in its present form;

(b) whether Government propose to

link pension reforms with financial reforms in order to reduce the pensionary liability of Government and shift it to the private market; and

(c) whether a document from the World Bank released during 1984 'Averting the old age crisis' has been referred to by Government in this regard?

Insurance cover to rural areas

†2315. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that insurance companies of private sector are not paying any special attention towards rural areas though four to five years have passed since their business started;

(b) whether Government are considering to take any steps to provide insurance facilities to most of the population of rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Price rise due to spurt in share market

†2316. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the unprecedented rise in share market, there is increase of nearly 20 per cent in the price of foodstuff (Thali) for common man in the country;

(b) whether Government are going to take any measures to check the inflation and to provide food to all; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Levy of surcharge on income tax for Gujarat earthquake

2317. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount has been collected by Government by levy of surcharge on income tax for Gujarat earthquake;

(b) how much amount has been disbursed to Gujarat out of the collected surcharge;

(c) how much amount is yet to be disbursed to the State Government of Gujarat; and

(d) by when the remaining amount would be disbursed and what are the reasons for delay in disbursement?

Change of damaged notes

2318. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to various banks to change damaged/spoiled currency notes;

(b) if so, what are the details of such instructions;

(c) whether it is a fact that banks are not advertising through media advertisements for such facility; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to publicise the instructions of RBI?

Uniform sales tax on petroleum products

2319. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is different percentage of sales tax charged by

various State Governments on petroleum products and whether Central Government have received any representations from the State Governments for fixing uniform sales tax like VAT on petroleum products in the country;

(b) whether Government are seriously considering to fix uniform sales tax on petroleum products in the near future; if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Capital investment in the villages

†2320. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that economic reforms and globalization have caused more harm and less benefit to the villages;

(b) whether it is also a fact that relative success could not be achieved in the field of capital investment in the villages despite various efforts;

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken in this regard during last three years, year-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Raising of tax GDP ratio by weaker States

2321. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have advised the financially weaker States to raise their tax GDP ratios and make effective use of funds in the social sectors;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of such States identified and the progress so far achieved in this direction;

(c) whether Government have also advised the weaker States to enact the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act which would enable them to borrow directly from the market; and

(d) if so, the response from each State received so far?

**Opening of bank branches in
Juhapura, Ahmedabad**

2322. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Juhapura, a locality of the city of the Ahmedabad, with a population of two and a half lakhs, no bank has opened its branch;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact the poor people of that area are denied any banking facility; and

(d) if so, what are the remedial measures being proposed?

Posting of working couple

2323. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a policy of Government to post the husband-wife employed under Central Government at the same station to enable them to lead normal family life;

(b) if so, whether under the transfer/ placement policy for Group A officers belonging to Indian Revenue Services (CBEC and CBDT), posting of a working couple is permitted at same station; and

(c) the list of such Group A officers whose requests for posting have been accepted in last three years and the list of Group A officers whose requests have not been accepted alongwith the reasons therefor?

**Income tax benefit to pharma
companies**

2324. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are allowing 15 per cent Income Tax benefit to Pharma Companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Structural Adjustment Loan to
Maharashtra**

2325. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra and other State Governments have requested the Central Government for a one time grant of soft loan and forwarding their Structural Adjustment Loans (SAL) to the World Bank, to help them overcome the current financial crisis;

(b) if so, the extent of one-time grant and SAL sought by Maharashtra and other States; and

(c) the Central Government's response to the State Government of Maharashtra and other State Governments?

Infusion of working capital to HEC

†2326. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mittal and Jindal Steel Companies have expressed the intention to get certain steel equipments manufactured by HEC;

(b) whether the above Companies have made any proposal to provide working capital to HEC; and

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

Public Sector Enterprises in Tamil Nadu

2327. SHRIS. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central Public Sector Enterprises functioning in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) the economic status of each of the Central PSUs in the State;

(c) the efforts proposed to be made to revive any sick Central PSUs in the State;

(d) whether it is a fact that number of Central PSUs set up in Tamil Nadu is very less when compared with other States; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken more Central PSUs in the State?

Revival package for Heavy Engineering Corporation

†2328. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the observations of Jharkhand High Court wherein the package announced by the Central Government for Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. has been considered insufficient;

(b) whether Government propose to announce any new package for revival of HEC in view of the observation of Jharkhand High Court; and

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

Instructions to PSUs

2329. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified some PSUs and instructed them to show profits during the next one year;

(b) if so, the names of such PSUs and the details of instructions issued to them;

(c) whether HMT Ltd. is continuously increasing losses for the past many years; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to give financial package to HMT in order to get profits in future?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

LPG coverage in Uttar Pradesh

2330. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population of Uttar Pradesh being served by LPG as on 1st January, 2006;

(b) by when entire population in cities and towns with a population of upto five thousand and more in the State are likely to be covered by LPG; and

(c) the details of plans formulated by Government oil companies for achieving the above objective?

Introduction of 5kg. cylinders

†2331. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce 5 kg. cylinders keeping in view the difficulty in carrying load in hilly and inaccessible areas;

(b) if so, whether the light weight cylinders had been introduced; and

(c) whether such cylinders have proved effective and they are still in use or their use has been discontinued?

Distribution of kerosene

2332. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a policy for the distribution of kerosene to the poor sections of the society;

(b) whether Government propose to make any changes in the price structure;

(c) whether Government have identified any loopholes in the existing system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Requirement of petroleum products

2333. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) was stopped from acquiring 45 percent stake in Nigeria's OML 130 Oil Area (Akpo field) which would have given India 3.5 million tones of crude oil annually for 20 years;

(b) if so, how Government propose to ensure adequate availability of petroleum products requirements of India in the coming ten years, especially when number of vehicles per year per family are increasing; and

(c) what is the present ratio of indigenously produced petroleum and the imported crude-based refined petroleum products?

ONGC's power plants

2334. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power plants of ONGC especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the profit earned by each plant during last two years;

(c) whether there were any slow ups in any plant; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Shortage of kerosene

2335. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BAL
APTE:

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

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of kerosene oil in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the supply of kerosene in the country?

Compensation given by ONGC

2336. SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC compensate the farmers for acquiring their lands;

(b) if so, the norms fixed therefor;

(c) whether Government have received complaints regarding irregularities in providing compensations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken thereon?

ONGC's joint venture with shell

2337. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC and

Shell have inked a deal on overseas oil exploration projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of their joint ventures in India in petro-chemical sector?

ONGC's oil production in western off shore

2338. SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTABRATA
MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1687 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th August, 2005 and state:

(a) the status of grant of Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) to ONGC in response to their request in December, 2002; and

(b) the reasons for delay in granting the lease to ONGC for expediting resumption of production?

Discovery of oil and gas in Andhra Pradesh

2339. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has struck four new oil and gas findings 8 kms. off Amalapuram coast in Andhra Pradesh in two structures namely GS-15-9 and GS-15-10; and

(b) if so, the details of the discovery?

Purchase of bio-diesel

2340. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided
to purchase bio-diesel extracted from plants
like JATROPHA for mixing it with diesel;

(b) if so, the expected annual yield of
bio-diesel per annum, and the cost thereof;
and

(c) the steps taken for procurement of
bio-diesel for the purpose?

Investment in refining sector

2341. SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BAL
APTE:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) whether petroleum products like
petrol, diesel, LPG etc. are being sold to
the consumers in the country on the basis
of import price, despite the fact that there
is huge domestic investment in the refineries
in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the beneficiaries
of such huge domestic investment;

(c) the reasons for not percolating these
benefits down to the common consumers
in the country;

(d) whether Government would
consider to formulate a new oil pricing
policy to safeguard the interest of the
consumers in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Expenditure on advertisement by ONGC

2342. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the
Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total advertisements given by
ONGC in 2005-06 to newspapers,
magazines, TV channels and all other media,
giving separate figures for the print and
visual media;

(b) what is the purpose of ONGC giving
advertisements;

(c) whether ONGC has any plans to
increase its advertisements in the coming
year; and

(d) the reasons for such expenditure by
ONGC?

Fire at oil storage depots

2343. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the incidents of fire in
storage and distribution of petroleum
products happened in each oil companies
during the last three years;

(b) the losses suffered by each company
as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have asked the
public sector oil companies to take
necessary steps to prevent the incidents of
fire in storage distribution of petroleum
products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Safeguards for Indo-Iran pipeline

2344. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Iran pipeline would route through the troubled regions of Baluchistan; and

(b) if so, what safeguards have been taken by Government to keep the pipeline intact?

Oil prices in international market

2345. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the current trends in oil prices in world market; and

(b) how they are likely to affect India?

Complaints against LPG dealers in Andhra Pradesh

2346. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received by Government against LPG distributors regarding irregularities during the last three years especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the action initiated against those found guilty?

Downfall of oil companies

2347. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the PSU oil companies are losing out to private oil companies;

(b) if so, the reasons for this downfall; and

(c) what remedial measures Government are taking in this regard?

Opposition to introduction of bio-diesel

†2348. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of bio-diesel at present in the country and the target fixed for the year 2006;

(b) whether it is a fact that bio-diesel is cheaper and pollution free in comparison with petrol;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to increase the production and consumption of bio-diesel in the country;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some people are opposing it due to their vested interests; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Off-shore LNG storage at Andhra Pradesh

2349. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Central Government for sanction of an off-shore LNG facility to supply LNG as an alternative gas for the four gas based power projects, which are commencing commercial operations in 2005-2006 in Andhra Pradesh in view of the current situation of gas not

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

being available on the scheduled dates for the four up-coming power projects, which necessitates an off-shore LNG Terminal as an immediate alternative solution;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Action against oil companies in adulteration cases

2350. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in case of adulteration of fuel by petrol pumps operator, oil companies could not be sued; and

(b) if so, the reasons for keeping the oil companies outside the purview of complaints or prosecution?

New oil and gas blocks for exploration

2351. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have offered 55 oil and gas blocks under the sixth round of bidding;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals along with the total estimates of oil and gas reserves;

(c) what percentage of India's oil and gas requirements will be met by domestic production once these blocks start production; and

(d) by when production from these blocks is expected to start?

Shortage of kerosene in Jammu

2352. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of kerosene allotted to Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is acute shortage of kerosene oil in Jammu area; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the quota?

Mixture of water in LPG cylinders

2353. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints were received in Delhi that LPG cylinders supplied in September, 2005, contained water along with the gas cheating thereby the consumers;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received in Delhi during that month alongwith the names of the gas agencies which supplied such cylinders; and

(c) the action taken against the defaulting companies and their employees for cheating the consumers?

Exploration of alternative fuels in Himachal Pradesh

†2354. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have tried to find out any alternative of Liquefied Petroleum Gas in the form of fuel in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

backward and hilly areas particularly in Himachal Pradesh to conserve environment and to stop continuous cutting down of forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when Government would consider finding out the alternative?

Subsidized LPG beneficiaries

2355. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries under subsidized LPG during the last one year, till date in the country, ruralwise and urbanwise;

(b) the details thereof districtwise especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government are likely to enhance the rates of LPG and want to remove subsidy in a phased manner; and

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

Production of alternative fuels

2356. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to reduce the dependence on crude oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when the dependence on crude oil is expected to be reduced; and

(d) by when the commercial production of alternative fuel is expected to start?

Fire in oilwells of ONGC

†2357. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of out break of fire in oil wells of ONGC taken place during the last year and the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of loss of life and property incident-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

Development of Nandi Hills in Karnataka

2358. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has requested the State Government of Karnataka to send the detailed plans and estimates relating to its proposal to take up overall development of Nandi Hills including the ropeway in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Karnataka has sent the detailed plans and estimates to the Centre; and

(c) whether the Central Government has received the detailed plans, if so, the action, if any, taken in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Allocation of funds for ancient and historical buildings in hilly States

2359. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Commission have allocated any funds for upkeep of several ancient and historical buildings in the Hilly States, particularly in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh have submitted any action plan to Central Government in this behalf; and

(d) if so, the amount Government have sanctioned/released to each State mentioned above so far during 2005-2006 for conservation and protected monuments, till date?

Inflow of foreign tourists

2360. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists visiting the country has been decreasing day-by-day due to prevailing law and order problem being faced by the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have called upon the developed countries to take precautions while issuing travel advisories concerning India; and

(c) if so, the response received by Government in this regard?

Maintenance of ancient heritage sites

2361. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint that the maintenance of ancient heritage has not been possible due to financial crisis;

(b) whether it is a fact that ancient monument of Sanchi, Vidisha, Khajuraho etc. are dilapidating during rainy season; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Government in this regard, particularly for famous Bodhi pilgrim Sanchi?

Wild Life Tourism Projects in Orissa

2362. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

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

(a) the number of Wild Life Tourism Projects which have been sanctioned till now from the inception of the National Policy 2002 in Orissa;

(b) the quantum of funds which have been allocated for these projects till date, project-wise; and

(c) what are the achievements made after the sanctioning of the Wild Life Tourism?

Construction of low budget hotels

2363. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 155

star hotels are coming up across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan of Government to construct low-budget hotels, which would be within the reach of a common tourist; and

(d) the details of hotels that would come up in Orissa to meet the increased demand of tourists in that State?

Manuscripts from Orissa as national property

2364. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether some manuscripts from Orissa have been recognized as national property;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of manuscripts that have been recorded and also those that have been estimated; and

(d) the action plan of the Centre to help the Orissa to preserve and protect these manuscripts and accord recognition as national property to more manuscripts?

Tourism Development Projects

2365. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

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

(a) whether United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had

committed for tourism development projects in India as per the agreement signed between her Ministry, Department of Economic Affairs and UNDP on 15th July, 2003;

(b) if so, how many projects have been running at present, State-wise; and

(c) the quantum of funds spent and the funds to be allocated for this projects?

Different pricing regime for foreign tourists

2366. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a differential pricing regime is being practiced for the visiting foreign tourists to India, in as much as foreigners need to pay more for checking into a hotel, for air travel or subscribing to periodicals or even to visit monuments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the justification for continuing with the prevailing practice, especially in view of the incentives being offered to lure in foreigners and the cash-rich expatriates; and

(c) the details of steps being taken, if any, to remove the discrimination the foreigners are subjected to?

Development of tourist spots in Uttar Pradesh

2367. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist spots in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Central Government has provided financial assistance to the State Governments particularly Uttar Pradesh for the proper maintenance/development of the said tourist spots during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the amount has been fully utilized, State-wise; and

(d) if so, the revenue earned from the tourist spots particularly Uttar Pradesh, State-wise?

Negligence of historical sites by ASI in Kolar district

2368. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Palya Fort—a 560-year old historic fort belonging to the Palegar era in Gummanayakanhalli, Bagepalli in Kolar, is in ruins, without any care taken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b) whether Government have any proposal to preserve the fort as a heritage site; and

(c) if so, by when the final directions is likely to be issued to ASI?

Acquisition of Mysore Palace

2369. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1793 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the matter has been finally disposed of by the Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

Monuments and sites under ASI

2370. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received from the State Governments for conservation of additional monuments and preservation of sites and structures of archaeological and heritage values, State-wise, during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 upto 28th February, 2006 and the number of monuments and sites taken over by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI); and

(b) the number of cases with the detailed reasons for turning down the requests of the State Governments in the matter during the same period?

Construction of more hotels for tourists

2371. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed that one lakh hotel rooms will be required in the next few years to cater to tourists; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to cope-up with such a huge demand?

Flight operations for key tourism destination

2372. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has approached various airlines to operate

flights to some key tourism destination in various States;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Incredible India campaign

2373. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

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

(b) whether the Central Government has undertaken any survey in the above context;

(c) if so, the details of the help and special aid that has been rendered by the Central Government to improve its infrastructure;

(d) what is the action plan of the Centre under 'Incredible India' campaign to help the State to develop its tourism industry;

(e) whether Government have sanctioned projects to showcase rural life, art, culture, and heritage in Rajasthan; and

(f) if so, the destinations of the sanctioned projects and grants allotted, project-wise?

Maintenance of monuments by ASI in Punjab

2374. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the monuments maintained by ASI in Punjab, district-wise;

(b) the details of the funds allocated for each of these during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to develop the major ones into tourist centre?

Aerial ropeway to Lalbagh Gardens in Bangalore

2375. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sought financial assistance from the Centre for installation of an aerial ropeway to Lalbagh Gardens in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the amount of Central assistance sought for; and

(c) when was the proposal received from the State Government and what is the present status of the same?

Development and promotion of tourism in Uttaranchal

2376. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various projects for the development and promotion of tourism in the State of Uttaranchal pending for clearance;

(b) what action has been taken by Government on the proposals?

**Upkeep and restoration of monuments
under National Culture Fund**

2377. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of agreements signed with corporates under National Culture Fund for upkeep and restoration of monuments;

(b) the total amount of money collected from the corporates so far;

(c) whether Government are of the view that the amount so collected is enough to maintain satisfactorily the monuments in respect of which the agreements are signed; and

(d) if not, in what manner Government propose to arrange for the inadequacy of funds?

**Development of Srikalahasti in
Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh**

2378. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the development of Srikalahasti in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh has been taken up under Rural Tourism Scheme in the Tenth Plan period;

(b) if so, what is the total amount required to complete this project; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed and the amount so far released for this project?

**Shortage of hotels for tourists in
Delhi**

†2379. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of hotels for lodging tourists in Delhi, the officials of her Ministry are accommodating them in their own residential places; and

(b) if so, whether her Ministry has made any arrangements to find out the facts, if so, the details thereof?

**Conference on drinking water
problem**

2380. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the two day State Minister's Conference held in New Delhi on January 31 and February 1, 2006, the Prime Minister stressed the need for squarely resolving the drinking water problem under a Five Point Programme by 2009;

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

(c) the present status of rural and urban population and habitations still devoid of drinking water facility in different States and Union Territories?

**World Bank report on India's water
supply and sanitation**

2381. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank had released

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

a draft report on "India's Water Supply and Sanitation," recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Governments reaction thereto?

Water sources in the country

2382. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been undertaken to find the known sources of water around the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Irrigation of agricultural land

†2383. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to make nearly 90,000 hectare additional agricultural land irrigable by March, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-bound annual target has been fixed to achieve said target;

(d) if so, the annual targets thereof and the years in which additional land have been irrigated so far as per the target; and

(e) the area of additional irrigated land each year?

Participation in Irrigation Management Programme

†2384. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Participation in Irrigation Management Programme (PMI) started and the present state thereof;

(b) the States which have implemented the programme at present and the reasons for non-implementation of the programme by rest of the States;

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government till date for publicising the programme and impart training and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the number of targeted areas to be covered under the Tenth Plan and the details thereof?

Completion of irrigation projects in Orissa

2385. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had evaluated the development of different irrigation projects running in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of the projects, district-wise and project-wise; and

(c) what is the expected date of the completion of these projects?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

National Coastal Protection Project

2386. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Coastal Protection Project (NCP) has lately been drawn out by Government;

(b) if so, the details of the NCP phase-wise and the estimated cost thereof;

(c) whether funding of the project is to be shared by external funding agencies, if so, the details of shares of the funding agencies including the Central and State Governments; and

(d) the share of such funding to be met by the State Government of Maharashtra and other maritime States?

Repair work of canals in Madhya Pradesh

†2387. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to the tune of 4.16 crores of rupees to the Central Government for carrying out repair work of various tributary canals of Sivani and Jabalpur;

(b) if so, by when the said amount would be approved for the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Inter-linking of rivers on South West Monsoon

2388. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from various institutions like Indian Institute of Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University, National Institute of Oceanography and India Meteorological Department met at National Academy of Science, Bangalore during the period 2005-06 and opined that more studies are required on the effect of inter-linking of rivers on South West Monsoon;

(b) if so, the action taken based on above report; and

(c) what is the status of the project on inter-linking of rivers as on date?

Inter-State water disputes

2389. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various Inter-State water disputes which are pending with the Supreme Court, High Courts, Central Government, Tribunals and Regulatory Authorities etc.;

(b) since when each one of them is pending;

(c) what is present status of each one of them;

(d) in what manner Government propose to settle the issues amicably and expeditiously;

(e) whether Government are aware that Inter-State water disputes over the sharing of river waters have affected the implementation of irrigation projects; and

(f) if so, whether Government have any new strategy/mechanism to solve and put an end to this endemic problem, which creates bad blood amongst the States of the Union?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Percentage of irrigated land

2390. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of irrigated land in each State and Union Territory of the country;

(b) the average percentage of irrigated land all over the country and the programme with target to enhance this percentage;

(c) the amount of funds sanctioned therefor in the Budget of 2005-06 and the amount actually spent upto 31st December, 2005; and

(d) the reasons for not achieving the target?

Modernisation of drains in Andhra Pradesh

2391. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted proposals in their memorandum for modernisation of four drains in the coastal areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 111.00 crores to improve irrigation drains as coastal areas suffer a major problem of poor drainage as a result of which a large thickly hebitated areas remain submerged whenever heavy rains and floods occur;

(b) whether Government have taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Inter-linking of major rivers

2392. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in regard to inter-linking of major rivers in the country and to provide water to water deficient regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have chalked out any time-frame in this regard;

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

(e) whether feasibility reports for linking rivers have been completed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu

2393. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of works pertaining to irrigation are lying incomplete in many States particularly in Tamil Nadu due to non-availability of requisite financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details of pending irrigation projects along with escalation cost thereof;

(c) whether any special financial assistance is being provided to these States for completion of these projects on priority basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Diversion of funds released as
Central Loan Assistance
under AIBP**

2394. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fast track projects introduced in 2002 for focussing on completion of selected projects within one year has failed to have the desired impact as none of the 29 projects of the fast track were completed despite spending Rs. 12,823 crores during 1996-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there have been cases of diversion/mis-utilization of funds released as CLA under AIBP; and

(d) if so, how much funds were diverted and what action has been taken against the guilty people?

Utilisation of water resources

2395. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Water Commission (CWC) was entrusted with the responsibility for furthering and promoting measures for control, conservation and utilisation of water resources throughout the country in areas of beneficial uses, irrigation and hydro-power and hydro-power generation, flood management and river conservation;

(b) if so, to what extent the CWC has met with the responsibility in flood management in Bihar, connecting rivers,

developing hydro-power generation, conservation and utilisation of water resources etc.; and

(c) whether the CWC has failed to provide Ganga water to Delhi to tide over the water scarcity problem and what action Government propose to take in the matter?

Water harvesting

‡2396. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an I.A.S. officer in Devas, Madhya Pradesh has carried out an innovative experiment regarding water harvesting;

(b) whether such an experiment can be followed in other parts of the country also; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this direction?

**Special grants to Krishna Valley
Irrigation Project**

2397. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal to the Central Government for seeking special grants towards the Krishna Valley Irrigation Project and other irrigation projects running in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Inclusion of inter-State river waters
in Concurrent List**

2398. SHRI VARINDER SINGH
BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
bring inter-State river waters in Concurrent
List to give more powers to the Centre;
and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Completion of irrigation projects in
Andhra Pradesh**

2399. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared
or propose to clear irrigation projects in
States;

(b) if so, the details of the projects
approved, State-wise, particularly in the
State of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether all the projects are proposed
to be launched during the current year;

(d) if so, the total expenditure proposed
to be incurred during the current year;

(e) whether any time schedule has been
fixed for completion of the sanctioned
projects in Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Water conservation

2400. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes related to
water conservation being implemented by
the Central Government in view of failure
of monsoon in the country, particularly in
the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last
two years;

(b) the salient features of such scheme;

(c) whether Government have taken
any steps to replace old water conservation
schemes with a more effective scheme in
order to achieve the desired results;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of the States in which the
said scheme has since been launched; and

(f) the funds allocation made for the
purpose of Andhra Pradesh?

NEW DELHI;
The 8th March, 2006
Phalguna 17, 1927 (*Saka*)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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