

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the May 14, 2002/Vaisakha 24, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—150

Sale of AI property in Mauritius

4953. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the residential property
owned by Air India in Mauritius is being
sold;

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

(c) the details of the plan to invest the
amount received from the above deal?

Compensation to off loaded passengers by AI

4954. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India gives compen-
sation to passengers off loaded from US-
bound flights;

(b) whether similar compensation is not
offered by Air India to travellers off loaded
from flights bound for other destinations;

(c) whether some foreign airlines do pay
such amount in small sums and some even
don't pay;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to remove the
anomaly?

Fall in passenger load in national carrier

4955. PROF. M. SANKARA-
LINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passenger
load have fallen in national air carrier
because of the competition from Jet and
Sahara airways; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government
propose to come out of such a situation?

World class airports in metropolitan cities

4956. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
upgrade international airports in metropolitan
cities to the standards of world class
airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner these projects are
proposed to be financed?

**Snag in PM's plane at
Singapore airport**

4957. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the fleet of aeroplanes with the Indian Airlines is more than ten years old;

(b) if so, the age-wise details of the aeroplanes;

(c) whether the plane which carried the Prime Minister to Singapore and Cambodia recently developed snags at the Singapore Airport;

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

(e) the steps being taken to replace and renew the fleet?

**Fare structure of IA for
NE Region**

4958. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are offering a bailout package to Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are planning to rationalize the fare structure especially with reference to North Eastern sectors to compensate the losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Hand trolleys at Hyderabad
Airport**

4959. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether old designed and insufficient number of hand trolleys are in use at the Hyderabad Airport both at domestic and international terminals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to make available new modern designed hand trolleys in sufficient number at Hyderabad Airport within a time-frame?

Amritsar airport

4960. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3651 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th April, 2002 and state:

(a) the details of ongoing projects for development of Amritsar Airport both national and international indicating the target set for commissioning;

(b) the details of introduction of international flights to and from Amritsar; and

(c) the flights to be started in the near future?

DME at Madurai Airport

4961. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up High Power Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) at Madurai Airport considering such facilities have been extended even to smaller airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Participation of foreign investors in domestic flights

† 4962. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the aeroplane manufacturing countries in the world are competing with each other to influence and create market in India;

(b) if so, the number of owners of foreign aeroplane manufacturing companies who participated in International Aerospace Conference held in Hyderabad recently;

(c) whether Government have also invited the foreign investors to participate in domestic flights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Credentials of private airlines

4963. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint regarding the credentials of the private airlines operating in the domestic sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government against such private operators in the civil aviation sector?

New private airlines

4964. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new private airlines are seeking permission to operate from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding the existing private airlines operating in the domestic sector;

(d) whether Government have made any evaluation regarding the functioning and management of the private operators so far; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Bilateral agreements for operating flights in India

4965. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has bilateral agreements with as many as 96 countries all over the world and of these only 49 airlines have exercised the option of operating out of India;

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

(c) whether Government are considering to change this commercial agreement so that more and more airlines come forward?

Airport experience

4966. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "International airport? More like a railway-station" appearing in the Indian Express dated 5th April, 2002 highlighting the poor services and the deplorable conditions of general cleanliness prevailing at the Mumbai Airport;

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

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken to improve the surroundings and the services at the Mumbai Airport in keeping with the high standards of cleanliness maintained and facilities available at other comparable international airports in the world?

Purchase of aircrafts by AI

4967. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airbus will deliver three A 310s, 200-seater planes to Air India in the month of April, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Air India has already five A310s in its fleet;

(c) if so, what will be the total cost per aircraft; and

(d) to what extent it will be helpful to Air India?

Air service from Guwahati to Bangkok

4968. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when Guwahati-Bangkok flight by Air India is likely to start;

(b) what will be the frequency of this service;

(c) the other details in this regard; and

(d) whether Government expect a boost to international tourism by starting this service?

Unemployed pilots

4969. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trained pilots in the country who are presently unemployed;

(b) the number of recognized flying institutes/clubs and the seats available for training fresh recruits as pilots;

(c) the number of pilots presently engaged in both public and private sector airlines in the country; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to utilize the services of the trained pilots?

Condition of international airports in the country

4970. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the international airports in the country are in very bad shape causing disgrace to the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for this shabby maintenance of these airports;

(c) what action is being taken against the defaulting officials in charge of the maintenance of these airports; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the conditions of these airports *vis-a-vis* the country's image?

Compensation to villagers displaced due to Shamshabad Airport

4971. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether villagers displaced from the proposed international airport at Shamshabad, Andhra Pradesh are demanding compensation and proper rehabilitation from authorities;

(b) whether the villagers are demanding their lands back which has been acquired for construction of the airport; and

(c) if so, what is Government's response in this regard?

Export of subsidised wheat

4972. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is pushing subsidised wheat into world market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the quantity of wheat to be exported and the amount of revenue expected to be generated through this process?

Package for natural rubber companies

4973. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to announce a package of fresh measures with regard to import of natural rubber with a view to safeguarding the interest of natural rubber growers in the country;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the package announced in this regard; and

(c) to what extent it will help the natural rubber growers in the country?

Renewal of Indo-Bangladesh Trade Pact

4974. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an effort to renew the 1980 trade treaty, India has agreed to provide duty-free access to 40 items under 16 categories from Bangladesh;

(b) whether Bangladesh refused to budge in the matter of expediting the transit and transshipment policies to enable Indian goods

to move through Bangladesh to the North east; and

(c) what other issues were discussed at the Commerce Secretary level meeting between both the countries?

Removal of curb on export of agricultural products

4975. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have lifted curbs on export of agricultural products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Transport subsidies to NE States

4976. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the special subsidies and incentives being granted to the NE States including transport subsidies indicating Central Coordinating Agency, State-wise annual claim, actual disbursement, disbursing agency, during the last three years; and

(b) the date of introduction and proposed date of termination of above mentioned schemes?

Sunder Committee Report on movement of cargo

4977. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sunder Committee on integrated movement of cargo has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations made by the Committee to facilitate the export movement;

(c) the number of inland container depot and container freight stations in the country; State-wise; and

(d) the details of States that have availed of the scheme of assistance for development of export infrastructure on the basis of export performance?

Survey on Industrial growth

4978. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent survey by the Associations Councils of Confederation of Indian Industry has shown that majority of the sectors have exhibited moderate growth rates and some have indicated clear signs of revival;

(b) if so, whether the survey covered 116 manufacturing sectors and 12 service sectors for April—March, 2001-2002 over corresponding period in the previous financial year;

(c) if so, what are the details of the survey;

(d) whether Government have examined the report; and

(e) if so, what are the other facilities and considerations being provided to the industry to have a better growth in future?

Downsizing of Tobacco Board

4979. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the statutory strength and the present strength of Tobacco Board;

(b) the number of vacancies in the Board and since when each vacancy is there;

(c) whether Government propose to trim the size of the Board to make it more effective; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

New State trading outfit

4980. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the new Exim policy the import of diesel and petrol is to be handled only by State trading enterprises;

(b) if so, in what manner this proposal could be enforced without the consensus of private players in the oil sector since the petroleum sector has been de-regulated and new marketing companies have entered; and

(c) whether Government would identify a State trading outfit to handle a sensitive commodity like petroleum products the past record of India's State trading enterprises being dismal and STC being wound up and disinvested?

Meeting of coffee growers with Prime Minister

4981. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of Indian Coffee growers met the Prime Minister before his departure for Indonesia;

(b) if so, whether the delegation was assured that Government would look into their problems; and

(c) the details of the steps Government have taken in the matter?

New FDI proposals

4982. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have approved 57 Foreign Direct Investment proposals worth Rs. 1,113 crores;
- (b) if so, what are the details thereof;
- (c) what are the projects to be undertaken; and
- (d) by when these projects are likely to be undertaken?

Indo-Bangladesh Trade Agreement

4983. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Bangladesh Commerce Secretaries met in the month of April, 2002 to review the trade agreements which was to expire during the month of April, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether both the countries have reached an agreement to renew the trade pact;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) to what extent trade between the two countries will improve?

Agreement with Russia

4984. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a delegation of Russia visited India in the 1st week of February, 2002;
- (b) if so, what subjects of mutual interest were discussed with them;
- (c) the agreements reached during the visit and other details in this regard; and
- (d) the assistance expected therefrom?

Import of goods

†4985. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of goods imported year-wise during the last three years together with the foreign exchange spent thereon;
- (b) the steps taken to produce and manufacture the goods imported into the country; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Jewellery park at Karwar

4986. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to establish jewellery parks at various locations, including Karwar in Karnataka, in Joint or Private Sector, to facilitate export of gold and jewellery production and to help the gem and jewellery units, which are basically cottage industries, to come under organised sector; and
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which the proposal is likely to materialise?

Service charges on unregistered tobacco growers

4987. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are imposing a differential penalty of Rs. 2.00 per kg. plus 20 per cent service charges

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in case of unregistered growers in respect of excess tobacco crop;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the amount of penalty collected thus from each of the State/Union Territory during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has conveyed the feelings of its tobacco growers that the penalty is on the higher side and has requested for relaxation of the rate of penalty and service charges; and

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

Impact of removal of QRs on export-import

4988. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the influence of removal of quantitative restrictions on imports and exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it has increased the overall efficiency of the economy?

Closure of Asbestos manufacturing units

4989. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to shut down Asbestos Sheet manufacturing units in India as it can cause lung cancer to the workers exposed to it;

(b) if so, by when manufacturing of Asbestos Sheet is likely to be closed keeping in view the fact that it is already banned in most of the developed countries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Benefits to farmers from Agricultural Export Zones

† 4990. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that farmers are being benefited substantially with the setting up of special Agricultural Export Zones;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take any steps for making it more effective; and

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

New auto policy

4991. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new auto policy is claimed to be a roadmap for the automobile industry after the removal of quantitative restrictions; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this policy and its impact on the future growth of the industry?

Concern expressed by U.S.A. on trade barriers

4992. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite India's recent elimination of quantitative restrictions and reduction of import duties, the United States has raised fresh concerns about the barriers in trade with India on account of high taxes and tariffs;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the US Trade Representative's report for 2002 on foreign barriers has taken note of India's dismantling of QRs and tariff cuts;

(c) if so, what are the main objections raised in the report; and

(d) the extent to which India has been able to remove the concern of US Government on trade barriers?

Industrialisation of Andhra Pradesh

4993. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of schemes being implemented and the incentives being given by Government for the rapid industrialisation of Andhra Pradesh?

Growth Centre in Borai, Chhattisgarh

†4994. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Chhattisgarh for setting up of growth centres in Borai, District Durg;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the required funds would be provided for setting up of the centres?

US embargo on import of steel pipes from India

4995. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is likely to be an embargo on import of steel pipes from India with the US producers of Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG) filing a trade law

petition on exporting countries including India;

(b) whether many exporters of steel pipes from India would be affected by this anti-dumping measure initiated by the OCTG producers of the US; and

(c) whether Government propose to contest the anti-dumping investigation proceedings and if so, what steps are being taken to represent the Indian exporters of steel pipes?

Jammu and Kashmir as a Tax Free Zone

4996. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to turn Jammu and Kashmir and also Uttaranchal into a "Tax Free Zone" for the next ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the above plan is likely to be implemented?

Production of Virginia tobacco

4997. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka produces best quality virginia tobacco in the country;

(b) if so, the details of production of Tobacco for the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to the target fixed by the Tobacco Board the growers were made to pay a penalty of Rs. 15 crores;

(d) whether it is a fact that Tobacco Board has fixed the target of production detrimental to the interests of the growers for the years, 2002-2003; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details of steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of the growers?

Export potential of Rajasthan

4998. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to examine export potential of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of exportable items of Rajasthan;

(c) the details of quantity of these items exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to promote export from Rajasthan?

Amendment of the Patent Act

4999. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association has demanded an amendment to the patent Act to meet national emergencies; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to take advantage of the DOHA declaration of WTO to promote access to medicines to all at affordable prices?

Demand of Indian cardamom

5000. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for Indian cardamom in international market has increased in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether production of cardamom is keeping pace with its demand in the domestic and international market;

(c) if so, the production of cardamom during the last two years;

(d) whether the cardamom growers have been getting remunerative price for their produce; and

(e) if so, the incentives being provided to farmers to increase its production?

DEPB rate on important petrochemicals

5001. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stepped up the DEPB rate on important petrochemicals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner it would be helpful in improving the condition of these industries?

Bilateral trade with US

5002. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a comprehensive bilateral dialogue between India and the US;

(b) if so, the areas of commerce and trade on which this dialogue will primarily focus;

(c) the quantum of investment which is expected from US in the year 2002-2003; and

(d) the areas in which the investment is expected in the coming years?

New mid term export strategy

5003. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have outlined a new mid term export strategy for the next five years to achieve one per cent share in the world trade;

(b) what is the export growth of the country in the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is thinking of any new market approach; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

India's failure to implement the patent provisions

5004. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States have stepped up pressure to designate India as a priority foreign country under the American Special 301 provisions;

(b) if so, whether this is because of failure of India to implement the requisite patent provisions by 2000 as spelt out in the World Trade Organisation's trade related intellectual property rights agreement;

(c) if so, the reasons for India's failure to implement the same; and

(d) whether any effort in future are being made to implement the same?

Textile case against US

5005. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India would take US to WTO body in textile cases as reported in

the Indian Express, dated the 16th April, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Money Laundering Bill

5006. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring offences under Customs Act, 1962 and Income Tax Act under the purview of the proposed Money Laundering Bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed Money Laundering Bill is likely to be brought before Parliament?

Distribution of foreign aid

5007. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are drawing up a plan to end the present system of only five States bagging the lion's share of external assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a new formula has been evolved to distribute the foreign aid among the States on a fair and equitable basis with emphasis to correct regional imbalances; and

(d) by when, the new plan is likely to be put in place?

Growth rate in agricultural, banking and insurance sector

5008. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that agriculture, banking and insurance have registered a negative growth during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the sector-wise details in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have fixed any targets for these sectors; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to boost growth in agriculture?

Financial norms for power projects

5009. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKA-RASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified firming up of easier financing norms for power sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have redefined the guidelines for group lending to power projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures taken for providing adequate financial help to power sector?

Bicycle sector under excise net

5010. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from cycle and cycle accessories manufacturers, mostly small scale manufacturers, through Members of Parliament and otherwise about the imminent closure of large number of such units with the imposition of fresh excise duty under the current year's Central Budget;

(b) if so, whether bicycle sector has all along been exempted from excise duties, being a poor man's vehicle; and

(c) the reasons for bringing the bicycle sector under excise net?

Customs duty evasion by firms

5011. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of evasion of Customs Duty by firms operating under the various export promotion schemes since 1995, year-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) whether any defaulting firms/offenders have been prosecuted/punished for evasion of Customs Duty; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Constitution of Twelfth Finance Commission

5012. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute the Twelfth Finance Commission soon;

(b) if so, whether views of State Governments have been taken into consideration before constituting the Twelfth Finance Commission;

(c) what is the constitution of the Commission; and

(d) by when, this Commission is likely to submit its recommendation?

Hike in motor insurance rates

5013. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKA-RASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are against the hike in motor insurance rates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received the Ansari Committee Report on raising motor insurance premium;

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

(e) if not, by when the report is expected?

Suggestion of FICCI for economic growth

5014. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged Government that they should take steps to stimulate investment and demand to come out of the present economic slowdown;

(b) if so, whether the quality of Government expenditure should be such as to add to the assets and improve efficiency of the system for improving competitiveness of the system;

(c) whether Government have agreed to the suggestions; and

(d) if so, the steps being considered in this regard?

Memorandum of FICCI for simplifying customs procedures

5015. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether FICCI has submitted a memorandum to him for simplifying the customs procedures;

(b) if so, whether they have suggested that phasing out the peak customs duty to reach 20 per cent in three years should be done on priority for raw materials and not finished goods;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has agreed to consider the suggestions of the FICCI; and

(d) if so, to what extent it will be done away in the Budget?

Regulation of professional conduct of auditors

5016. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether post-Enron, in which the collusion of the auditors was established, Government are planning to effectively regulate the professional conduct of the auditors in India;

(b) whether Government would make it mandatory for the corporate to appoint an auditor at the discretion of its minority shareholders and not by the controlling group;

(c) whether Government would also propose that auditors should be barred from acting as consultants and from representing IT cases of the companies who are their clients; and

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

Financial crunch in States

5017. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments are feeling the financial difficulties as a result of not getting the anticipated amounts of Central assistance because of the slump in revenue mobilisation by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the amount meant for transfer to the States as part of their share in the Central revenue mobilisation, State-wise; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to financially assist the States particularly those facing acute financial difficulties?

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take to check such transactions?

Expansion of foreign banks

5018. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the local bankers have opposed the policy of giving liberal sanctions for the expansion of foreign banking activities in the country;

(b) if so, the number of foreign banks togetherwith their branches operating in the country;

(c) the names of the new banks seeking Government's permission to start their operations;

(d) the reasons for Indian bankers not granting permission for the setting of new banks/expansion of existing banks; and

(e) what is Government's policy in this regard?

CBI probe into money received abroad through students

5019. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government officials and politicians are spending lakhs of rupees per year on their children for higher studies in developed countries;

(b) if so, whether CBI has decided to probe the sources of financing the expensive higher education in developed countries by the children of such officials/politicians;

(c) if so, whether some students abroad are receiving money through hawala and other money laundering channels; and

Money laundering racket

5020. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in The Hindustan Times dated the 12th April, 2002, the Ministry of Finance has unearthed Rs. 350 crore racket carrying out a massive money-laundering operation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a CBI enquiry has been ordered or is proposed to be ordered into the matter; and

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

Promotion of officers of Associate Banks of SBI

5021. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of the rank of AGM in the Associate Banks of SBI who were promoted as DGM during the year 2000 and 2001, bank-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of the above mentioned officers, bank-wise and year-wise; who were transferred on promotion according to policy;

(c) the number of such officers who were not transferred in violation of the policy, bank-wise and year-wise; and

(d) by when, they are proposed to be transferred and if not, the reasons therefor?

Diversion of funds by private companies

5022. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has detected that a large number of companies have diverted funds taken from public sector banks and State Bank of India and its associates;

(b) whether this type of instances have come to notice in regard to foreign banks also;

(c) if so, the cases of diversions that have come to notice during the last three years and the names of scheduled banks in whose cases diversion of loans has taken place; and

(d) what steps have been taken to check this practice and recover the funds so far?

Depositors of Charminar Bank of Hyderabad

5023. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 82,000 depositors of Charminar Bank of Hyderabad belong to one community residing in five districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Reserve Bank of India has expressed apprehension that a large number of banks run the risk of harbouring ISI influenced depositors; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to check banks going the Charminar Bank's way?

Joint Committee for investigating trade and business links

5024. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any Joint Committee to investigate the trade and business links of some of the companies with the Middle East countries and Singapore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the companies under investigation?

Vacancies of Income Tax Inspectors

5025. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of general category vacancies, both direct and departmental, separately, in the grade of Income Tax Inspector in Delhi, NOIDA, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad as on 1st May, 2002;

(b) since when these vacancies exist, indicating the date of earliest and last vacancy at the above places, place-wise; and

(c) by when and how these vacancies would be filled up?

Privatisation of Employees' Provident Fund

5026. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise Employees' Provident Fund;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Trustees of EPF is not in favour of privatisation; and

(c) if so, the reasons for privatising EPF?

Separate Act for Central Economic Intelligence Bureau

5027. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to enact a separate Act for the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau, so that it can function as an apex body for economic crimes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that lack of field formations for the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau has hampered its activities;

(d) when the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau started working; and

(e) the services from which the post of Director General and Special Secretary in the Central Intelligence Bureau can be filled up?

New VRS for public sector banks

5028. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Banks' Association has given final touches to a new VRS to offload over 50 per cent of the 7.73 lakh workforce of the public sector banks;

(b) whether the new VRS is a natural corollary to the VRS enforced last year; and

(c) if not, the difference between the earlier and the proposed VRS?

Permission to States for getting loans from World Bank/foreign countries

5029. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been contemplating a new economic policy

permitting the State Governments to supplement the overdrafts from the Reserve Bank of India with Structural Adjustment Loans from the World Bank and the Central Government's grants with grants direct from foreign countries, to enable the States to overcome revenue deficits; if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and

(b) whether any of the State Governments has been granted such permission, if so, the details thereof?

Bank lending for food and agro processing sector

5030. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loans given by banks to food and agro processing sector fall under priority sector lending and achievement of banks in this regard is monitored regularly by RBI; and

(b) if so, the details of the performance of each public sector bank in lending to food and agro processing sector during the last two years, year-wise and State-wise?

Entry of NABARD into rural life insurance

5031. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) propose to enter into rural life insurance business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NABARD is looking for Indian or foreign partner to start the business;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the success achieved in this regard, so far?

Misuse of Kisan credit cards

5032. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the farmers are using Kisan credit card and Kisan hold card scheme for purchase of goods, such as TVs, Motor cycle and refrigerators rather than farm inputs;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of cards issued to the farmers during the last financial year; and
- (d) the amount advanced to purchase equipment against these cards during the above period?

Relaxation for insurgency affected regions

5033. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of special incentives, relaxation and exemption extended to underdeveloped/insurgency affected as well as landlocked areas including those extended to officers posted therein;
- (b) the objectives and outcome thereof;
- (c) whether Government propose to consider declaring Jammu and Kashmir region as tax free area; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and anticipated result thereof?

Reduction in deposit rates of banks

5034. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether with a substantial increase in bank deposits on the one hand and a decline in credit offtake on the other, banks are left with no option but to reduce the deposit rates;

(b) if so, whether the RBI is also going to reduce the interest rate on its Relief Bond;

(c) if so, whether any guidelines in this regard have been issued to the banks by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Small savings scheme for pensioners

5035. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to announce a special small savings scheme for the benefit of pensioners;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to offer relief to the pensioners to compensate for the exemptions withdrawn in the 2002-2003 budget?

TDS for senior citizens

5036. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Senior citizens may not escape TDS" appearing in the Economic Times dated 25th April, 2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) the reasons for putting such a stringent condition on the senior citizens already hit by the cut in interest rates on small savings; and

(d) the steps, if any, proposed to be taken to provide them some relief?

TDS on free rail pass facility

5037. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway staff, including retired officials, enjoying free railway pass facility would be taxed at source henceforth;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the orders and the date from which it would be made effective;

(c) the approximate tax amount per annum which Government would garner from the employees; and

(d) whether Government have received threats from railway employees for going on strike; if so, the measures proposed to be taken to educate and pacify them?

Losses incurred by RRBs

5038. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have been incurring financial losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether RBI propose to provide refinance facility to the loss making RRBs so as to make them financially viable;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have appointed any Expert Committee to study and revamp the functioning of RRBs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Status of domestic manufacturers of soda ash

5039. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 569 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th March, 2002 and state:

(a) the details of the domestic demand-supply position, comparative prices of indigenous and imported soda ash during the last two years;

(b) the status and composition of the domestic manufacturing and user industry of soda ash;

(c) the names of the organizations who have represented for revision of duty on soda ash, and whether Government have given them a hearing to sort out the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government would invite them for further discussion to thrash out the matter and if not, the reasons therefor?

Disbursement of loans by public sector banks

5040. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of disbursement of loans by each public sector bank, category-wise;

(b) the number of applications received by each bank for the year 2001-2002;

(c) the number of applications processed and the amount disbursed;

(d) the minimum time taken for processing of applications; and

(e) whether it is a fact that many banks have not disbursed loans as per the target and if so, the reasons therefor?

Relaxation in borrowing powers of States

5041. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu recently requested the Prime Minister to relax the blanket curbs on the powers of the State Governments to borrow for development projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a similar request was made sometime back by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider the request formally; and

(d) if so, by when, and if not the reasons therefor?

Bureaucratic laxity

5042. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government laxity hampers research says award winning scientist" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 22nd March, 2002;

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

(c) the measures proposed to be adopted to curb the bureaucratic laxity and indecisiveness which, as per the aforesaid report, are hampering the progress of research in the country?

National Crop Insurance Scheme

†5043. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) since when the National Crop Insurance Scheme has been launched;

(b) the States where the same has been effected;

(c) whether the same has been effected in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh also; if so, since when and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken/being taken to effect the same in the said States?

World Bank assistance for Jharkhand Community Development Project

5044. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any team of the World Bank had visited some districts of Jharkhand in February, 2002 regarding Jharkhand Community Development Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome of its visit; and

(d) the quantum of assistance given/proposed to be given by the World Bank to each of these districts and to Jharkhand Community Development Project?

NPA norms for NBFCs

5045. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI recently revised NPA norms for NBFCs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NBFCs are not properly implementing the various guidelines of RBI to check NPAs;

(d) if so, the details of such violations which came to the notice of Government during the last three years and action contemplated thereon; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that NBFCs properly follow the guidelines of the RBI?

Discrepancies of private cargo airlines

5046. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the customs authorities in Delhi have investigated various discrepancies against Sam Avia in the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to tone up the functioning of the customs at various airports to prevent such discrepancies of the private cargo airlines?

New insurance policies in Gujarat

5047. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the General Insurance Companies have stopped giving new policies in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the insurance companies have received claims worth crores of rupees for the damage caused to industry during the recent riots;

(d) if so, the total amount of claims received by the companies; and

(e) whether it is because of this that Insurance companies have stopped issuing fresh policies?

Spending on social security benefits

5048. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per UNHDR-2001 India

has abysmal performance in education, sanitation and public health;

(b) whether it is a fact that 44.2 per cent of Indians live below \$1 a day and social security benefits expenditure is just 0.3 per cent of the Indian GDP;

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

(d) the steps being taken by Government to accelerate spending on social security benefits in the country rather than defence?

Contingency plan for realising tax outstanding against Sahara group

5049. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a contingency plan for realising outstanding tax arrears from the corporate houses which runs in thousands of crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether action is being initiated against tax defaulters like Sahara India Financial Corpn., Sahara Mutual Benefit Co., Sahara India and IFCI;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what action has been proposed against companies mentioned above?

Price of opium

5050. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the price of opium set by Government during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have any proposal for increasing the price of opium to curb drug trafficking; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Inquiry on transfer of copy right by
NISCOM**

5051. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Office of Prime Minister received letter on 5th November 2001 from Member of Parliament for initiating inquiry regarding foreign exchange received by Asian Health Environment and Allied Database and transfer of copy right to it by NISCOM/CSIR; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

Argentina as a model country

5052. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) held out Argentina as a model country since the country had followed all IMF prescriptions, privatised all major sectors and banks and pegged its currency on parity with the US dollar;

(b) whether Government are also aware that Argentina's economy has become bankrupt leading to violent food riots, massive job cuts, 18.3 per cent growth of unemployment mass protest and volatile political uncertainties in the country; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereof?

Aluminium Scam

5053. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to an appeal by All India Aluminium Secondary Manufacturers and Dealers which appeared in 'Indian Express',

dated 17th April, 2002, captioned "Aluminium Scam"; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or Government propose to take in this regard by bringing the truth to light and the culprits to book?

**Double tax avoidance treaty with
Mauritius**

5054. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether FDI flow will be affected if double tax avoidance treaty with Mauritius is terminated; and

(b) the amount of revenue loss to Government due to the Mauritius route during the last three years?

Public sector NBFIs

5055. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total number of public sector non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) existing at present;

(b) the total number of unregistered NBFIs existing in the country;

(c) the trend and progress of public sector NBFIs during the last three years; and

(d) in what manner value added is calculated in NBFIs?

Position of non-lapsable fund

5056. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) position of non-lapsable fund for the North East States as on today;

(b) the criteria/norms under which the fund is allocated to different States; and

(c) whether this fund is meant for State Governments only or for NGOs also?

Printing press for counterfeit rates in Saharanpur

† 5057. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the business of printing counterfeit currency notes in the country is still going on;

(b) if so, whether any factory has been unearthed in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh during the last six months;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any action against them so far; and

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

Relaxation on qualification for Section Officers Exams

5058. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India was giving relaxation including marks by; lowering qualification for Section Officer Grade Examination to SC/ST;

(b) if so, date from which it was withdrawn and again the date from which it was restored;

(c) what action was requested to be taken as per para 4 sub-para (i) to (v) and para 5 of DOPT Order No. 20011/1/2001-Estt. (D) dated the 21st January, 2002;

(d) the details of action taken as per (c) above; and

(e) by when, action as para (c) above will be taken?

FDI from Mauritius

5059. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large portion of the FDI in India is coming from Mauritius;

(b) if so, the total FDI (actuals) during the last three years and the FDI from Mauritius as percentage of the total during the corresponding period, year-wise;

(c) Government's explanation for such heavy concentration of Mauritius as FDI source;

(d) whether Government are certain that this so called FDI is not Indian Money reaching Mauritius through hawala route and thereafter returning to the country; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

New LPG bottling plants

5060. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG bottling plants set-up in different parts of the country;

(b) the details of proposals for setting up of new LPG bottling plants in the current financial year, State-wise and location-wise; and

(c) the details of effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Impact of Iraq crisis on crude oil prices

5061. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Iraq's refusal to the UN Weapon Inspectors to return has an impact on the prices of crude oil moving upward;

(b) if so, its impact on crude oil prices; and

(c) what is the present price of crude oil in the international market and how it is expected to affect the crude oil prices in India?

Erosion in IOC's profitability

5062. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) bagged 33.38 per cent stake in IBP for Rs. 1153.68 crores;

(b) if so, the factors which weighed for IOC to pay such a massive amount to bag 33.38 per cent shares of IBP;

(c) whether IOC wanted to keep aspiring entrants such as Shell and Reliance Petroleum out of petroleum retailing sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such a takeover would erode IOC's annual profitability by Rs. 49 crores;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether Government have forced IOC to cough up that high a sum for claiming IBP; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

Central Research and Development Institute for oil sector

5063. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up a Central Research and Development Institute for the entire oil sector for development of new technologies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Sharing of profit on petroleum products

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

(a) whether Government have received the concurrence sent by the Government of Gujarat on the issue of sharing of any amount of profit under the New Exploration Licencing Policy(NELP);

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon;

(c) the reasons for delay; and

(d) by when final decision is likely to be taken by Government?

Excess production of petroleum products

†5065. 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 production in the oil refineries of our country is more than

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the demand for consumption in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the items in respect of which production was in excess to the demand during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and the extent of such an excess; and

(c) what has been the gap between the demand and production by the end of December, 2001 during the current year?

Strategic storage of crude oil

5066. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether a high power committee of the Planning Commission has strongly recommended strategic storage of crude oil for ensuring oil security in the country;

(b) if so, whether the strategic storage of crude oil has assumed greater importance now due to significant build-up of refining capacity in the country;

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Marketing Strategy of oil companies

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

(a) the details of marketing and distribution strategies of Government owned oil companies in view of the withdrawal of APM and the proposed entry of private companies;

(b) whether Government propose to allow competition among these Government

owned oil companies so that consumer is fully benefited; and

(c) what steps Government would like to take so that the marketing and distribution costs are brought down to the minimum?

LPG agencies in Rajasthan

5068. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG agencies operating in Rajasthan;

(b) the number of consumers served by each of those agencies; and

(c) the details of the number of LPG connections given by them during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

Shortage of gas for power projects in Gujarat

†5069. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects in Gujarat which have not been completed due to the shortage of gas; and

(b) what is the time bound plan proposed by Government to meet this shortage?

Purchase of oil and gas from Gulf countries

5070. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any long-term plan to purchase oil and natural gas from Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have entered into such an agreement with any foreign country, if so, the details thereof?

Adulteration testing facilities for the petroleum products

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

(a) the number of testing facilities for detecting adulteration of petroleum products in Gujarat;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has represented for increasing the number of facilities; and

(c) if so, what is the response of the Central Government to the request?

Establishment of mobile octane testing centre in Gujarat

5072. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested financial assistance for establishment of stationery as well as mobile octane testing centres in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the request has been accepted by the Central Government?

Outcome of meeting on emission norms

5073. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to specify any particular fuel or vehicle type to check pollution;

(b) if so, whether they have also decided that it will only lay down vehicular emission norms and matching fuel specifications;

(c) whether this was decided at a meeting convened by him and was attended by the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and Minister of State in Prime Minister's office;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry has already submitted a comprehensive proposal in this regard to the Cabinet for approval;

(e) if so, whether this has been approved; and

(f) by when the Ministry is likely to issue instructions in this regard?

Crude oil production by Russia

5074. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia is set to overtake Saudi Arabia in crude production;

(b) whether this strategic advantage to be wrested by Russia will be beneficial to consuming economies like India and China and whether India has never been comfortable with the OPEC cartel controlled by Saudi Arabia; and

(c) whether Indian refineries do not have the technical capacity to process heavy Russian crude and if so, in what manner India gains from Russia's abundance in crude oil?

Conditions for Marketing of petroleum products

5075. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed

nine companies to market petroleum products after administered price mechanism is dismantled from April 1, 2002;

- (b) if so, the names of the companies;
- (c) the conditions to be fulfilled by these companies for the purpose; and
- (d) the other details in this regard?

Procurement price of ethanol

5076. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared three pilot projects for mixing of 5 per cent anhydrous alcohol (Gasohol) with Petrol to make the vehicle fuel eco-friendly and that oil companies are purchasing anhydrous alcohol from distilleries; and

(b) if so, at what rate, the anhydrous alcohol was purchased and if the trials are successful, what is going to be the maximum quantity of mixing of anhydrous alcohol with petrol?

Retrenchments of contract labourers

†5077. MS. ALKABEN BALARAM-BHAI KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether seniority/juniority norm is being followed in making retrenchments of contract labourers working in companies under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas after September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Private sector participation in oil exploration

5078. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of NELP in round 1 and round 2 Government are not able to attract major companies to invest in exploration of petro products in the country despite global tenders;

(b) if so, the quantum of additional crude oil found as a result of participation of foreign companies in oil exploration;

(c) the amount of money the private Indian and foreign companies together have invested in oil exploration so far; and

(d) what are their total returns so far?

Usage of renewable energy sources by ONGC

5079. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what kind of Solar Photovoltaic Systems and Renewable Energy Sources are being used by ONGC at their offshore platforms in Mumbai;

(b) since when these systems are being used to supply electricity to the platforms of ONGC;

(c) the criteria being adopted so far in choosing such systems and what has been the mode of purchase of these systems with the names of the foreign/domestic companies; and

(d) the total cost of such systems supplied to ONGC during the last two years with the names of suppliers?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Allotment of kerosene to UP

5080. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether kerosene is likely to be allotted to Uttar Pradesh and Haryana in proportion to the national average;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the quota of kerosene is proposed to be increased in view of the increasing population and the dependence of the rural people on kerosene;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Supplier of renewable energy system to ONGC

5081. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that renewable energy products are being used by Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC);

(b) if so, what are the names of the suppliers of these products and how has been their performance and the measures Government is taking to upgrade renewable energy systems at ONGC platforms;

(c) what criteria will be adopted in future for short-listing suppliers/manufacturers for upgrading/renovating renewable energy system to ONGC; and

(d) what is the total budget to use renewable energy sources to supply power to the offshore platforms of OnGC?

Adventure Tourism in AP

5082. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adventure tourism has been introduced in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative whether Government propose to introduce Adventure Tourism in the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Reserved vacancies of SC/ST

5083. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any backlog of reserved vacancies for SC and ST in the Ministry of Tourism and Culture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to organise a special campus recruitment drives to fill up the reserved vacancies at an early date?

Expenditure on excavations by Archaeological Survey of India

5084. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several excavations undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) over the years have not led to the production of a final report;

(b) if so, the list of such excavation works alongwith time when the each excavation was undertaken and the amount spent on each excavation so far; and

(c) the reasons for delay in production of final report in each case?

Blue print for tourism development

5085. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government plans big boost for tourism" which appeared in the Economic Times, dated the 15th April, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the plans for boosting tourism in the country;

(c) whether any blue print has been drawn-up in this regard for a balanced tourism development involving various parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total allocation therefor during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Excavations undertaken by ASI

5086. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government have prepared a list of excavations undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and have finalised a detailed report on these excavations; and

(b) if so, the major sites of excavations and how many of them date-back to the 1950s, date-wise and site-wise?

Involvement of ASI employees in smuggling of precious idols

5087. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some precious stone idols from South India dating back to 15th and

16th century on sale in the capital were recently seized by CBI in a fourth such incident during the last six months and out of them, three relate to idols from South India;

(b) whether Government have critically analysed the involvement of officers from Archaeological Survey of India team in this illegaltrade;

(c) whether Government have since apprehended the smugglers involved in these incidents; and

(d) if not, the latest progress of the cases?

Stamp duty

5088. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stipulated stamp duty on property sale ranges from 8 to 14 per cent but the duty on transfer of equity is just 0.5 per cent of the sale price;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the process, the buyers will be able to save about Rs. 200 crores on stamp duty;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that ITDC has already utilized this method for its 22 properties, 4 hotels which are stated to be sold on long-term lease-cum-management contract; and

(d) if so, what steps are being proposed by Government to save the stamp duty?

Setting up of major shrines in Tamil Nadu

5089. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently declared that Indian tourism would get a religious boost; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether revamping the set up of Vaishno Devi shrine has increased the pilgrims from 3 lakh to 60 lakh;

(c) whether Government would consider similar revamp in the set up of major shrines in Tamil Nadu and other Southern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) in what manner this revamp in the setup would help to develop tourism and tourists in these and nearby centres?

Undertakings and Corporations under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture

5090. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Undertakings and Corporations under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture;

(b) the details of their earnings and losses during the last three years;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to make them profitable;

(d) if so, whether they have borne fruit; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Suggestions of World Tour and Tourism Council

†5091. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions from the World Tour and Tourism Council to improve the basic facilities for promoting tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any

action on these suggestions so far; and

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

Promotion of regional tourism

5092. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for promoting regional tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether such a proposal will be considered and implemented soon?

Construction of memorials of literary personalities

†5093. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct some memorials at the birth places of great literary personalities;

(b) if not, whether Government would consider to construct some memorials in the memory of the Jnanpeeth laureates of Indian languages; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Expenditure on maintenance of memorials and monuments

†5094. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated expenditure incurred by Government on maintaining the memorials and heritages of national and historical importance scattered throughout the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether there is some financial crunch to maintain them; and

(c) if so, the action being taken to do away with the same?

Role of cine artists in promotion of tourism

5095. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/schemes launched for promoting domestic tourism;

(b) whether Government would take the help of artists and exponents in various fields for attracting tourists; and

(c) whether Government would consider utilising the services of cine artists for such advertisements to attract tourists in order to promote tourism?

Ground water level in Madhya Pradesh

5096. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground water level in the districts of Madhya Pradesh has gone down to the level of more than four metres thereby making the situation alarming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Watershed development project in Gujarat

5097. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced any plan to develop 62 lakh hectares of wasteland/degraded lands of the

country under new watershed development projects;

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the manner in which States are likely to be benefited particularly the State of Gujarat?

Water sharing talks with Nepal

†5098. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have held any talks on sharing of water of the rivers which flow in India but originate in Nepal;

(b) if so, the details of the official talks held with the Government of Nepal in this regard in the last few years; and

(c) the details of the proposals made by India for the talk?

Water shortage in Tamil Nadu

5099. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of acute water shortage in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to provide suitable financial assistance to Tamil Nadu for setting up treatment plants for making sea water into potable water;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Constitution of Ganga Management Board

†5100. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 410 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st August, 2001 and state:

(a) whether any draft has been sent to the Government of Uttar Pradesh in the process of deliberations held in this matter between two State Governments on the 27th April, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Uttar Pradesh Government thereon;

(c) whether Central Government will constitute a board by using the rights countered under the Act in case the State Governments fail for a year; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reason therefor?

Rainwater harvesting in urban areas

5101. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programme, Ministry is having for harvesting rainwater in urban areas;

(b) the details of technology which has been developed for popular use; and

(c) the quantum of water which is presently harvested from rain in different cities?

Special component to Andhra Pradesh under CADP

5102. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a special component namely 'Reclamation of Water Logged Areas in Irrigation Command under Command Area Development Programme;

(b) if so, the salient features of the component;

(c) the number of proposals approved, the estimated cost of these proposals and the estimated area reclined under the scheme till 31st March, 2002;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to extend the component to Andhra Pradesh and other States;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI,
The 8th May, 2002
Vaisakha 18, 1924 (Saka)

R. C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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