

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the April 16, 2002/ Chaitra 26, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

International airport at Shamshabad

2368. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a State of the art international airport is proposed to be constructed at Shamshabad, near Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the main features and estimated cost thereof; and

(c) what is the State Government's contribution thereto?

New International airports

2369. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are opening new international airports keeping in view the "Open Sky Policy" to facilitate tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of the domestic airports which have been identified for

further development as International Airports; and

(d) what are the details of the plans for the same?

Amendment to Route Disbursal Guidelines

2370. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bagdogra figures in the list of Category II routes under the Route Disbursal Guidelines, issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any proposal to amend this has been submitted to Government by Directorate General of Civil Aviation;

(d) if so, what action has been taken by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on this proposal so far; and

(e) what are the details of the routes being covered by all the scheduled airlines, route-wise?

Direct flight to China

2371. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no direct air link
with China; and

(b) if so, the action taken to start a direct
passenger flight to China to boost bilateral
ties and tourism?

IA flights on unviable routes

2372. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the
Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have been
plying its services on several routes which
are unviable;

(b) if so, the details thereof and losses
suffered on such routes during the last three
years;

(c) whether Government's policies have
been causing losses to the Indian Airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to
revise its policies to make it profitable?

**Accident of an aircraft at Palam
Airport**

2373. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the
Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased
to state:

(a) whether an aircraft of Indian Airlines
rammed into the parameter wall of the Palam

Airport as reported in all the Newspapers
on 9th March, 2002;

(b) if so, the exact loss suffered to the
aircraft as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have fixed any
responsibility in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to
avoid such incidents in future?

Expansion of Bilaspur Airport

†2374. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to
develop runway into a full fledged Airport
at Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, what action would be taken for
the expansion of this airport to make it more
convenient;

(c) the proposed outline of the same;
and

(d) what is the present capacity of
Bilaspur Airport?

Performance parameters of IA

2375. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the
Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased
to state:

(a) the performance parameter of Indian
Airlines in terms of seat load factor, market
share in percentage, the total number of
passengers in the month of October 2001
as compared to August 2001; and

(b) how it stands as compared to
Air Sahara and Jet Airlines?

New airport at Ajmer, Rajasthan

2376. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Rajasthan Government has demanded that an airport be constructed at Ajmer, a Pilgrim Centre in Rajasthan;

(b) whether a demand has also been made to provide flights for all parts of the country from there; and

(c) if so, what is Government's response to these demands?

New airport in Uttarkashi

2377. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to construct a new airport in or around Uttarkashi;

(b) whether any helipad/airport is functioning in Uttarkashi;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when, Government are going to construct a new airport in Uttarkashi?

Upgradation of fleet operation

2378. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any commendable steps to upgrade fleet operation of National Airlines in comparison with Foreign Airlines during the last three years in keeping with the competition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Renaming of Lucknow Airport

2379. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to rename Lucknow Airport as

Lucknow-Kanpur Airport with a view to give fillip to International tourism as absence of name of 'Kanpur' from international air network all over the globe, often results in prospective tourists from getting/visiting this industrial capital of Uttar Pradesh; and

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

Expansion of IGIA

†2380. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indira Gandhi International Airport is over burdened with passengers and air traffic;

(b) if so, whether Government are formulating any scheme for expansion of the said airport; and

(c) if so, the amount earmarked for implementation of the said scheme and by when the said scheme would be completed?

Legislation on surplus staff at SEZs

2381. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are preparing legislation enabling the investors in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to sack surplus staff at short notice;

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

(c) whether the new measures would be applicable to contract labour as well as to those with regular jobs;

(d) whether besides SEZs, these measures will be operative in several Export Promotion Zones prevalent in the country; and

(e) if so, by when, the proposed legislation is likely to be put in place?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Indo-France Trade Agreement

2382. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have discussed the delicate issue of market access and agreed for periodical bilateral consultation to dismantle trade barriers;

(b) if so, whether any discussion between the two countries in this regard was held;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

New EXIM Policy

2383. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has decided to launch a massive programme to achieve one per cent share of the global trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new EXIM Policy of Government reflects this decision and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether important sectoral demands from various export promotion units have been accommodated to make the new programme successful and if so, the details thereof?

Clearance of FDI proposals

2384. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared fifteen FDI proposals;

(b) if so, the quantum of money involved in these FDI proposals; and

(c) the projects on which these foreign investments have been accepted?

Medium term export strategy

2385. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) the sectors identified for medium term export strategy to attain the export growth target during 2001—2006;

(b) the countries identified for export potential; and

(c) the steps taken for targeting East European countries and CIS to achieve export strategy?

Decline in price of coffee

2386. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to heavy decline in prices of coffee, the Indian coffee plantation sector is losing approximately rupees 2000 crores;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through Coffee Board to bring back stability in coffee prices;

(c) whether Government have held discussions with coffee planters/promoters in this regard; and

(d) if so, the groups with which Government had discussions recently and the outcome of the meetings?

Expert Committee on SEZs

2387. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Expert Committee has submitted a report proposing separate legislation for Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the text of the proposed legislation;

(c) by when, the legislation is likely to be put in place; and

(d) whether any specific proposals have been made by the Committee for boosting the country's exports and if so, the details thereof?

Trade relation with Nepal

2388. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Nepal unhappy with trade pact" which appeared in the Statesman dated the 21st March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Nepal Government has expressed unhappiness on the recently renewed trade treaty with India;

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

(d) the details of other steps taken by Government to boost trade deals with Nepal?

Export of fruits

†2389. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to enter into the World's market with any kind of brand name denoting quality and the best of the items meant for export from India;

(b) if so, whether Government would make efforts to export fruits like mangoes, apples, oranges etc., to be competitive and market-oriented one in the world's markets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Exploration of new markets

2390. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the strategic perspective of the exports in view of the domestic surplus; and

(b) the action taken to explore new markets like Afghanistan and other Latin American countries?

WTO Agreement on Agriculture

2391. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether Government have put up proposals for inclusion of Natural Rubber, Coir and Jute as agricultural commodities under WTO Agreement on Agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what efforts are being made to persuade WTO for an early decision in the matter with the help of other rubber producing countries?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Export of agricultural products

2392. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRA IAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of agricultural products has increased in 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of targets fixed for the current year and the likely achievements?

Promotion of organic tea

2393. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRA-IAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tea exports have been declining for quite some time;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have launched a new promotion of organic tea; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the targets fixed in this regard?

Promotion of tea

2394. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government give subsidy incentive for the promotion of tea leaves in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has the potential to grow high quality tea; and

(d) if so, the role being played by the Tea Board in marketing and promoting of high quality tea both in India and abroad?

Supply of Sugar to Nepal

2395. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka has entered into an Agreement with Nepal to Supply Sugar of the Mysore Sugar Company; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the transaction requires Government of India Performance Guarantee;

(c) if so, whether Government of India have offered Performance Guarantee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Cost of production of tea

2396. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tea Industry is facing crisis situation with price falling steeply during the recent years;

(b) the price of tea in 1998 and its price at present;

(c) whether cost of production has gone up during these years; and

(d) the steps being taken to bring about improvement in the situation?

Bilateral trade agreements

2397. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which India has bilateral Trade Agreements;

(b) the broad features of these Agreements; and

(c) the proposals for the near future in this regard?

Balance of trade position

2398. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the balance of trade position of the country as on date; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to improve the situation?

Deterioration of basic industries

†2399. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of basic industries of the country is being deteriorated day by day and growth rate has been merely 2.7 per cent as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the performance of petroleum, coal, power sector and steel sector has been very poor and the growth rate has declined to 1.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the condition of these sectors and make them remunerative?

Agricultural products under the purview of QRs

2400. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the removal of Quantitative Restrictions has not changed the overall rate of growth of imports or even their consumption;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of various agricultural products coming under the purview of Quantitative Restrictions?

Declaration of Pandu as Dry Port

2401. SHRI INDRAMONI BORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to declare Pandu near Guwahati as Dry Port;

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

(c) by when, formalities will be completed to declare Pandu as Dry Port?

Anti-dumping cases

2402. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of anti-dumping cases registered against various countries during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) the details of the cases;

(c) the progress of each case in brief; and

(d) the details of steps the Director General of Anti-Dumping is taking or proposed to take to curb dumping in the country?

Coffee producing States

2403. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coffee producing States in the country;

(b) the quantum of coffee produced in each State during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the details of necessary steps being taken by Government to increase the production of coffee in the country?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

FDI in food retailing

2404. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering to allow 49 per cent FDI in food retailing;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether such retailer be allowed to sell rural industrial products as well; and
- (d) what is intended to be achieved by doing so?

FDI in agricultural insurance

2405. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there was a proposal from Planning Commission to allow 100 per cent FDI in insurance dealing with agricultural products in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether any proposal has been received from foreign companies in this regard?

Buyer for subsidiary of Indian Bank

2406. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Bank is searching for a buyer for its subsidiary;
- (b) if so, whether the efforts have been successful; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Changes in UTI

†2407. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to bring about basic changes in Unit Trust of India;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this direction; and

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

Operation of banks without licences

†2408. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banks are operating without licence in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps against such banks;

(c) the reasons behind people dealing with such banks; and

(d) whether Government propose to take necessary steps to make people aware in this regard from time to time?

Abolition of policies by LIC

2409. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that LIC has abolished some of its plans; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for stopping those policies?

Committee on capital market

2410. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to convert the high-level Committee on capital market into a permanent body for coordinating/functioning of various regulators;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the final decision in this regard has already been taken; and

(c) if so, to what extent it will be beneficial?

Report of Eleventh Finance Commission

2411. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eleventh Finance Commission has submitted its full and final Report to Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Report;

(d) whether Commission has suggested/ recommended any compensation to 'progressive States' like Andhra Pradesh based upon their performance;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of funds to Jharkhand by NABARD

2412. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the NABARD to Jharkhand for implementation of various projects in the State during each of the last three years, project-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted for selection of these projects; and

(c) the time by when each of these projects is likely to be completed?

LTC for Central Government employees

2413. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the LTC facility for the Central Government employees has been kept in abeyance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance is thinking of reviewing its decision for reintroduction of LTC facility for employees of the Central Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Definition of agricultural income for taxation

2414. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the definition of 'Agricultural Income' for taxation;

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

(c) the details of amount of revenue to be generated through this proposed step?

Amount realised by disinvestment

2415. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount realised so far by disinvestment of various public undertakings since 1991;

(b) the purpose for which this amount has been used so far; and

(c) the steps taken to keep the amount, realised from disinvestment, in reserve and use only for paying back the huge debts of the Country?

Withdrawal of income tax exemptions to charitable institutions

2416. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to withdraw income tax exemptions hitherto granted to charitable/educational institutions, due to rampant misuse at the hands of the beneficiaries;

(b) whether Dr. Raja Chelliah Committee has also suggested to review the extension of such exemptions to plug leaks on revenue collections; and

(c) the other measures planned to rev up tax revenue collection?

Capacity utilisation of NOIDA Mint

2417. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government Mint in NOIDA is not being fully utilised and its production capacity ranges between 17 to 45 per cent only;

(b) if so, the deployment pattern and volume of production of Government Mint in NOIDA; and

(c) the reasons for not increasing the production target to full capacity utilisation to minimise coin import?

World Bank assisted health projects

2418. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of health projects launched in the country with World Bank assistance, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the fund allocated for these projects during the last three years, State-wise?

Posts of Translators in RBI

† 2419. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of officers of official language and Translators lying vacant in offices under Reserve Bank of India;

(b) the general tenure and procedure with regard to posting and transfer of officers of official language at one place;

(c) the pay scales, allowances and facilities given to the said officers; and

(d) the percentage of work of Reserve Bank of India being carried out in Hindi at present?

Banks policy for NPA

2420. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has permitted the public sector banks to design and implement their own policies for recovery and write off of Non Performing Assets with the approval of their respective Boards; and

(b) if so, how many of the public sector banks have introduced schemes for such recovery and write off together with the details thereof?

Officers on deputation to autonomous bodies

2421. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Class I Gazetted Officers from the Office of the Customs and Excise, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance who have continuously been on deputation to the autonomous bodies for the last more than five years;

(b) the terms and conditions of these officers prescribed by Government for the purpose and the action taken so far by Government to withdraw these officers from the autonomous bodies in the interest of the concerned department; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the action taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

CBI raids on institutions

† 2422. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the institutions against which raids have been conducted by CBI on the charges of causing losses to Government to the tune of crores of rupees during the last two months;

(b) what are the reasons for generally not taking any action against the accused companies; and

(c) what are the company-wise details of action taken against accused companies during the last two months and the amount of revenue collected by Government from those companies?

Country-wide strikes by bank employees

2423. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 538 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the strikes by the bank employees not only put the people to lot of difficulties but also result in large financial loss; and

(b) in what manner Government propose to discourage such country-wide strikes?

Foreign exchange reserves

† 2424. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 88 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) the details of foreign exchange earned

during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(b) the details of goods being imported through this foreign exchange?

Trouble in UTI's MIP land

2425. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Trouble brewing in UTI's MIP land" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi, dated the 13th February, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Net Asset Values (NAVs) of the various MIPs which came in the market between 1998—2001 is much below Rs. 10/-;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would help the small investors to get their principal amount at Rs. 10/- per unit; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Losses in U T I

2426. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 68 schemes of the UTI only 12 schemes were able to gain profit of Rs. 13.93 crore during July-December, 2001 and the rest of the schemes (56) posted a huge loss of Rs. 1,653.62 crore; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto along with the remedial measures taken by Government to offset the huge loss?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Loss in passport production

2427. 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 "CAG reveals loss in passport production" appearing in the Deccan Chronicle on 26th December, 2001;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to identify persons responsible for the loss and to specify penal measures to be adopted against them; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to prevent the recurrence of such lapses in future?

Revenue shortfall

2428. 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 entitled "CAG raps Centre for revenue shortfall" appearing in the Business Standard dated 16th March, 2002;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the CAG's report?

Sick industries registered with BIFR

2429. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the incidence of industrial sickness since 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of sick industrial companies registered with BIFR during the year 1997; and

(d) the number of sick industrial companies registered with BIFR during the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001?

Dividend of public sector industrial institutions

†2430. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been increase in the dividend of public sector industrial institutions in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the total dividend received by Government from March, 1998 to March, 2001;

(c) whether there has been increase in the capital investment also in these industrial institutions during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details of quantum of increase in capital investment?

Illegal imports of cardamom and tea

2431. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been illegal imports of cardamom, tea, arecanut, coconut and pepper through non-designated ports and under invoicing; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the action taken to curb these illegal imports?

(c) the action taken against the banks and the companies; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

Loan for export of commodities

† 2432. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to grant loan on cheaper rates for export of commodities;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this direction; and

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

Tax free agricultural equipments

† 2433. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make agricultural equipments tax free;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps so far in this regard; and

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

Diversion of funds by banks

2434. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has detected that over 1000 companies had diverted loans taken from banks like Oriental Bank of Commerce, Canara Bank, Andhra Bank, Indian Bank, State Bank of India and its associates;

(b) if so, the amount diverted by the companies;

NPA's of banks

2435. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total aggregate losses to various banks due to Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) during the year ending 31st December, 2001, bank-wise;

(b) the total amount of NPAs on account of default by beneficiaries under various Centrally sponsored schemes and their percentage to total aggregate NPAs of banks;

(c) the total amount of NPAs on account of default in payment by various industries and their percentage to total aggregate NPAs; and

(d) what punitive action Government have taken/propose to take against wilful defaulters who have capacity to repay the loans?

Expenditure Reforms Commission

2436. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission set up by Government has submitted its final Report;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government on the recommendations made by the Committee;

(d) whether any target has been set up by the Commission to contain fiscal deficit progressively; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Meeting on cross-border drug traffic

2437. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a US sponsored two day international narcotics strategy meeting in Ankara held in February this year, India joined issue with Pakistan on cross border drug traffic mainly on the possible movement of 350 tonnes of heroin from Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, the stands taken by India and Pakistan on the issue and decisions taken to prevent the smuggling and otherwise?

Customs exemption on life saving drugs

2438. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance is looking into customs exemption issue on life saving drugs; and

(b) if so, the names of the national and multinational companies who are flouting rules of excise and customs and the details of amount pending against them as customs and excise duties?

Debt burden of the States

2439. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the debt burden owned by States to the Centre as on March-end of 2001 and the projection for the end of 2002, State-wise; and

(b) the States, who have signed MoU with Government for fiscal reform and have received incentive from the Central Incentive Scheme?

Settlement of depositors' claim

2440. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation has started settling the claims of depositors of Krushi Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

NABARD's loan for creation of rural infrastructure

2441. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has sanctioned loan worth several crores for creation of infrastructure in 12 States under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF),

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

(c) the areas/schemes in Jharkhand under/for which the said amount is likely to be utilised, district-wise?

Audit of accounts of the District Councils in NER

2442. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has conducted audit of the accounts of District Councils in the North-Eastern States during the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the irregularities and the total amount involved;

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government have taken to ensure proper utilisation of funds allocated to District Councils?

(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the reaction of the State Governments to this proposal?

Decline in net profits of commercial banks

†2443. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to 11.3 per cent decline in banks' net profit, as per a report of the RBI;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decline in scheduled commercial banks' net profit during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(c) the guidelines issued by Government to stop decline in profit of the banks in future?

Increase in limit on market borrowing by States

2444. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to allow the States to borrow more than the present limit from the market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Freezing of Dearness Allowance to State Government employees

2445. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have asked the State Governments to freeze the rates of Dearness Allowance to the State Government employees;

Corrupt practices in cooperative banks

2446. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cooperative banks have been found to be indulging in corrupt practices during the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of cooperative banks involved;

(c) whether enquiries have been held in this regard and persons guilty have been punished; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check recurrences of frauds etc. in the banks?

Expenditure on foreign tours

2447. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tours undertaken by various Union Ministers/senior officials and MPs' delegations to various countries during the last year;

(b) the number of countries visited by them;

(c) what are the achievements of these visits;

(d) the total expenses incurred on these visits in foreign exchange;

(e) in what manner these trips have been planned as essential; and

(f) what steps are being taken to minimise such unwanted expenses?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Abolition of BIFR

2448. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering abolition of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction;

(b) if so, by when it is actually to be effective; and

(c) what alternate schemes are being considered to monitor and give relief to sick industrial units across the country?

Restructuring of State finances

2449. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restructure State finances;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to change their policies in allowing States to incur indebtedness in giving the loans under plan and allowing them market borrowings;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken for proper management of State finances?

Insurance cover for natural calamities

†2450. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far formulated any Insurance scheme under which insurance cover would be provided to the poor people who have lost their houses/families/business in the fierce natural calamities like earthquake, floods and cyclones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Income-Tax evasion by Corporate Houses

2451. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of huge tax evasion by Corporate Houses reported during this year;

(b) the total amount of tax evaded individually by such corporate houses;

(c) the number of those who have been prosecuted so far;

(d) the steps taken to prevent such type of tax evasion in future; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the process of investigation is lacking momentum and is very slow and if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to speed up the process?

Compassionate appointment in bank

†2452. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3162 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd August, 2000 and state:

(a) whether Government have since provided jobs on compassionate grounds to the dependents of those bank employees of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana who died during January, 1997 and December, 1998; and

(b) if so, the details of their names, places of appointment and designations, if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Implementation of VAT in States

2453. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any specific measures to help the States when Value Added Tax (VAT) is implemented;

(b) whether Government also propose to compensate the States at the time of implementation of VAT;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to sustain loss of consumer States like Kerala due to the implementation of VAT; and

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

Defaulter co-operative banks in Gujarat

2454. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of co-operative banks working in Gujarat;

(b) the details of the co-operative banks which have defaulted;

(c) the action being taken against them;

(d) whether Government/RBI are monitoring the functioning of these banks;

(e) if so, the reasons as to why they were not asked earlier to streamline the banks whose financial position was dwindling; and

(f) the steps being taken to avoid such defaults in future?

Excise Duty on readymade garments

2455. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Excise duty collected on branded and non-branded readymade garments separately in the current financial year *i.e.*, 2001-2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that the honest non-branded readymade manufacturers have closed down their units due to the burden of 16 per cent Excise duty;

(c) if so, whether Government would reconsider the imposition of Excise duty on non-branded readymade garments; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Implementation of ERC recommendations

2456. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh instructions were issued in early December 2001, to various Ministries/Departments to implement scrupulously by 31st December, 2001, the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission on downsizing the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific results achieved towards the plan to downsize the Government and to curtail establishment related expenditure;

(d) whether it is a fact as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 8th December, 2001, that several new posts at various levels have been created consequent to further splitting of certain Ministries into different Departments recently; and

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

Small co-operative Banks in Andhra Pradesh

2457. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a series of small co-operative banks in Andhra Pradesh is on the verge of collapse;

(b) if so, the steps taken to set right the situation to install confidence in the depositors;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study to know the status of such small co-operative and other private banks all over the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Central assistance to States

2458. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central assistance to States has fallen considerably than the projections during the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to reach the targets in the coming year?

Broad based budgetary proposals

2459. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he held discussion with different strata of society viz industrialists, trade unions, agriculturists etc. before the formulation of the broad based proposals;

(b) whether the State Governments have also urged upon Government to have similar consultation with them so that they could present their view point to Government;

(c) whether the involvement of State Government will keep in the proper implementation fixed by the Central Government in the budget; and

(d) if so, in what manner Government propose to have broad based budgetary consultations with the State Governments?

Transfer policy in the Department of Economic Affairs

†2460. SHRI SHYAM LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Section Officers/Assistants/Senior Clerks/Junior Clerks have been working in a particular Section for the last ten years in the Department of Economic Affairs;

(b) if so, the total number of such officers and staff, section-wise alongwith tenure thereof and the reasons for the posting in a particular section for such a long period;

(c) the details of transfer policy in the Department;

(d) whether any action plan has been prepared by the Department for the transfer of such officers/staff; and

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

Functioning of NBFC's without RBI registration

2461. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has come across instances of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) carrying on business without obtaining the certificate of Registration from the RBI and accepting public deposits without the permission of the RBI; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India against such NBFCs?

Financial assistance for rehabilitation of SSI units in Gujarat

2462. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of Commercial Banks and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in providing finance for setting up, modernisation and rehabilitation of SSI units in Gujarat during the last three years; and

(b) the details thereof year-wise and Bank-wise?

Rate of interest on long term deposits

2463. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Senior citizen get a raw deal from Sinha" which appeared in Hindustan Times on 11th March, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the reduction in the rate of interest on long term deposits to take care of old age requirement of Senior Citizens had made the plight of retired life more miserable;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give some relief on this account atleast to senior citizens; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Revenue mobilisation drive

2464. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned, "Sinha's revenue mobilisation drive to hit middle class hard" appearing in Hindustan Times dated 4th March, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that only 7 per cent of population pay income tax that too mostly middle class people; and

(c) if so, what are Government's plans to mitigate the hardship caused to middle class people?

ADB aid for fiscal reforms in Kerala

2465. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank (ADB) suggested any curtailment/changes in the present benefits of the Government employees of Kerala on the ADB's technical assistance project for "Supporting fiscal reforms in Kerala";

(b) if so, the details thereof including curtailment/changes made in the last six months alongwith the curtailment/changes to be implemented;

(c) whether an *aide de memoirs* has been exchanged between Asian Development Bank and the Government of Kerala during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the total aid and conditions for the loan?

Slump in economic growth

2466. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that economic growth has slumped during 2000-2001 despite robust growth in manufacturing sector; and

(b) if so, what is the comparison of this growth with that of the previous three years?

Writing off of debts by banks

2467. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of non performing assets of each of the Public Sector Banks as on 28th February, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently huge amount of debt has been written off by a Public Sector Bank; and

(c) if so, the details of the amount written off by each of the banks the reasons therefor?

Reduction in annual grants for Karnataka

2468. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have decided to reduce the annual grants for Karnataka by about Rs. 600 Crore for the year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and possible implications of the reduction on the financial health of the State; and

(c) the cuts suggested in the annual plans for other States?

Debt recovery Tribunals

2469. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases finally decided by the Debt Recovery Tribunals relating to Non-Performing Assets of Public sector banks; and

(b) the total amount of loans/interest recovered and the amount of interest written off in respect of those cases?

Sharing of profit on petroleum products

2470. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to give 50 per cent of profit on petroleum products to State Governments; and

(b) if so, how much estimated amount Maharashtra is going to get?

Supply of natural gas to Rajasthan

2471. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special price for use of natural gas, supplied by M/s Oil India Limited, New Delhi to Rajasthan works out to be more than Rs. 3057/- per thousand SCM including transportation charges, as against the average price of Rs. 1783 per thousand SCM;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a high price for the natural gas supplied to Rajasthan; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to supply natural gas to Rajasthan at an equitable price in line with the average national price level?

Mini-refineries by ONGC

2472. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC proposes to set up mini-refineries near exploration sites and other places;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any such refineries had been commissioned by ONGC during the last year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Dismantling of price control in petroleum sector

2473. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have dismantled the price control in the petroleum sector *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2002; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to see that the fluctuations in the global Crude Oil prices do not frequently affect the prices of petrol or diesel in the domestic market after the beginning of new era?

Production of Petrex

†2474. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission to use a liquid called green petrol (petrex) in the vehicles as fuel;

(b) whether it is suitable for vehicles; and

(c) the details with regard to its production and distribution system?

Valuation of companies

2475. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has sought to justify the amount paid by IOC for the

purchase of shares of IBP by taking into account the replacement cost of retail outlets of IBP;

(b) if so, whether Government are doing the valuation of companies in the oil and other sectors as well as on replacement cost basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Dividend from ONGC

2476. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approached Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to fork out Rs. 10,000 crores from its reserves as dividend payment for the equity held by Government in ONGC;

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

(c) what is ONGC's reaction thereto?

Withdrawal of facilities to ex-employees of ONGC

2477. SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the medical facilities enjoyed by the ex-employees and their spouses so far have been restricted by ONGC with an intention to curtail expenditures and to make more profits;

(b) if so, whether it is not an anti-employee stance; and

(c) whether Government would review it and ask the ONGC to revise their decision to help its ex-employees and their spouses?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Exploration of CBM in Jharkhand

2478. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government expect an investment of around Rs. 270 crore for the exploration and production of coal bed methane in the five blocks awarded to the ONGC-IOC combine;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC-IOC have plans for joint venture of investing Rs. 70 crore in Bokaro and Rs. 39 crore in the North Karanpura blocks in Jharkhand;

(c) whether Government have sanctioned six new pilot projects for the production of gasohol, mixture of 5 per cent thanol and petrol;

(d) if so, the details of these projects; and

(e) the name of the places where these will be set up?

Retail outlets in Chhattisgarh

2479. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of COCO and Jubilee RO which are in full operation in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the names and addresses of individuals/companies running COCO and Jubilee RO;

(c) the validity period of all such COCO and Jubilee RO in the Chhattisgarh State, which are already functioning; and

(d) the details of COCO and Jubilee RO where construction is underway or yet to start?

Demand and supply of LPG in Jharkhand

2480. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated monthly demand and supply of LPG in Jharkhand, district-wise;

(b) whether some rural areas/districts are being neglected in supply of LPG;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to meet the full requirement of LPG supply in the State?

Supply of LPG in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh

2481. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of supply of LPG in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, with number of connections and agencies catering LPG supply; and

(b) what measures are being taken to improve LPG supply in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh?

Crude Pumping Station at Paradip

2482. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are deferring the implementation of Paradip Oil Refinery Project till 2004;

(b) whether the project would become a victim of the vicious circle of cost and time overruns and hence the threat of gradual withdrawal of the project;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the IOC is planning to set up a Rs. 600/- crore crude pumping station at Paradip; and

(d) if so, the details thereof keeping in view the sentiments of people of Orissa?

Committee on royalty on crude

2483. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the date of submission of the report and salient findings and recommendation about new fixation of royalty on crude;

(b) the action taken on those recommendations; and

(c) the date finalised to effect the revised rate based on the new formula?

Scam in IOC, Panipat

†2484. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Bhartiya Tel Nigam Panipat Main Huea Ghaple Ki Jaanch Report Do varsh se Thande Baste Main" which appeared in the Rashtriya Sahara, New Delhi dated the 8th March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken on the inquiry report of Vigilance Department so far; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty persons so far?

Functioning of OIDB

2485. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the role and purpose of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) in the oil industry;

(b) whether after APM dismantling the OIDB will continue to exist;

(c) if so, whether OIDB benefits will cover private sector also; and

(d) if so, the changes proposed in the functioning of the OIDB and if not, the reasons therefor?

British Gas's offer for Panna, Mukta and Tapti fields

2486. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has turned down British Gas's offer for operatorship of the Panna, Mukta and Tapti oil and gas fields;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any other offer for providing operatorship of these oil and gas fields are under consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is going to be finalised?

Indo-Bangladesh Gas project

2487. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been arrived at, between the Bangladesh and India with regard to the development of Bangladesh Natural Gas pipeline project from Bibiyana Gas Field in north east Bangladesh to Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of gas expected to be exported to India and the time by which the gas is likely to be made available to India?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Petrol pumps in Tamil Nadu

2488. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of 24 hours service petrol pumps operating presently in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of new outlets proposed to be set-up in Tamil Nadu district-wise and location-wise;

(c) the number of outlets which are proposed to be allotted for ex-servicemen and women entrepreneurs; and

(d) the average sale of petrol and diesel in Tamil Nadu per day?

Benami petrol pumps in NCR

2489. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned, "Adulteration adds fuels to petrol business" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 2nd March, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that benami petrol pumps spread across the National Capital Region are earning huge profits through this illegal trade; and

(c) if so, the details of strong steps being taken by Government to stop this adulterated fuel business in the capital?

Appointment of dealers by IBP Company

†2490. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 131 given in

the Rajya Sabha on 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) the details of relevant documents and information sought for by IBP company from M/s Ganga Auto Aids, Kapashera, New Delhi;

(b) whether accurate relevant documents and information were provided to the company by them in those 117 cases which were disposed off;

(c) whether Government will investigate into the whole matter and scrutinise the documents and dispose off the cases of rest of the persons;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Slow progress in oil exploration

2491. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of oil exploration has slowed down and many sites to oil findings have not been found during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of sites which have been identified during this period; and

(d) the steps taken to start commercial exploration from these sites?

Setting up of Science Centres

†2492. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of district Science Centres in various parts of the country State-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of effective steps to be taken by Government to set-up these Science Centres in such districts where these centres are not in existence; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction in this regard?

Development of beaches in Karnataka

2493. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka is having more than 200 Km. coastal line and undeveloped beaches;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there is abundant potential for the development of tourism;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give special package for the development of beaches in coastal Karnataka; and

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

Tourism industry

2494. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to adopt any well-planned/well-considered method for boosting tourism industry;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the funds earmarked for promoting tourism industry is not sufficient;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there are ample employment opportunities in the tourism industry; and

(e) if so, what are Government's plans in this regard?

Renovation of Taj Mahal, Red Fort and Qutub Minar

2495. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to boost the tourism industry;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned through tourism during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken since January, 2001 to renovate the most popular tourist places like Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Qutub Minar etc.?

Promotion of Tourism

2496. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the projects and financial assistance sanctioned, released and utilised for development and promotion of tourism sector in the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of achievements made so far in this regard; and

(c) the details of the new projects formulated and implemented in the country, project-wise?

Agreement for tourism package in Southern States

2497. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern States of the country have signed an agreement to strengthen and facilitate tourist operation in Four Southern States;

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

(c) whether Government are considering any new packages to improve the confidence of domestic and international Tourism?

Development of heritage properties in Gujarat

2498. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposals to develop heritage properties in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to select such heritage sites/ locations in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any proposals are being discussed with the owners of heritage properties in Gujarat; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Neglect of heritage sites by State Governments

2499. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that heritage sites/properties throughout the country are being neglected by various State Governments;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take stern action against the State Governments who are neglecting these heritage sites/properties; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

National tourist places

†2500. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to develop the places associated with the life of Mahatma Gandhi as National Tourist Places;

(b) if so, the places in the country which are likely to be developed as 'National Tourist Place'; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be started in this direction?

Economic assistance to various organisations

†2501. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that economic assistance is provided by Government to the various organisations to expand various cultural and literary activities;

(b) if so, the total economic assistance provided togetherwith the names of the organisations to which these assistance was provided during the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the details of the work and the sphere of work of each organisation?

Special package for improvement of tourist place

†2502. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to announce a special

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

package for improvement of tourist places in view of the earnings from tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of places identified by Government for this purpose?

Ongoing programme of ASI in North Eastern Region

2503. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing programmes of ASI in the NER for excavation and maintenance, State-wise;

(b) whether a detailed proposal and plan of action for the archaeological sites in Assam was submitted by ASI Guwahati circle;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal and action taken and proposed to be taken;

(d) whether a proposal from the Directorate of Archaeology, Government of Assam for development of archaeological sites are pending for sanction; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay and by when these are likely to be sanctioned?

Opening of Sangeet Natak Academy at Guwahati

2504. SHRI INDRAMONI BORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Sangeet Natak Academy is planning to open office at Guwahati for the North East, if so since when;

(b) what would be the powers and functions of this set up; and

(c) whether any budgetary provision has been made in this regard?

Funds allocated for development of tourist parks

2505. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount spent by Government for the development of tourist parks in different parts of the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the total number of projects sanctioned, the total amount for each project allocated and the total amount utilised so far during the last three years; and

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

Losses of duty free shops

2506. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that duty free shops and related business has accumulated heavy loss during the financial year;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for recovery of losses and make business profitable again?

Maintenance of Taj Mahal by private agencies

2507. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contract for maintaining the Taj Mahal has been entrusted to some private concern and not to Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the terms and conditions of the agreement entered with the private concern for its maintenance?

Effect of war with Pakistan on tourism industry

2508. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange earned through tourism during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the possibility of war with Pakistan has affected the tourism industry this year; and

(c) what is the foreign exchange earned through tourism in the current year *viz-a-viz* last year?

Tourism potential in Rajasthan, Goa and Kerala

2509. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking to increase tourism in States like Rajasthan, Goa and Kerala which are otherwise destinations for foreign tourists; and

(b) the details of number of tourists who visited these States during the last three years and targets for the next three years?

Allocation of funds for ASI

2510. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India is suffering without sufficient funds; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the remedies proposed by Government to allocate more funds for Archaeological Department to conduct their research in a better way?

Special Economic Package for tourism Industry in Jammu and Kashmir

2511. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism is the only key industry in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether terrorism has completely destroyed tourism in Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) whether steps would be taken by Government to extend special Economic Package for rebuilding Tourist Industry in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, by when?

Desiltation of dams

2512. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that silting of dams is on the increase and this had led to the reduction in useful life of those dams;

(b) if so, the details of multi-purpose dams in the country; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to combat siltation in future and desiltation of those dams?

Draft national water policy

2513. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a draft national water policy has been formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether and to what extent certain views on ownership of water reportedly finalised in the two-day "Jal Sammelan" held recently at New Delhi under the aegis of

Tarun Bharat Sangh, a Non-Governmental Organisation and others has been accepted and incorporated in the draft policy; and

(d) the details of views of other Non-Governmental Organisations/experts etc. ascertained and incorporated in the draft policy and the specifics of those which have been left out with the reasons therefor?

Flood and irrigation problems of the Southern areas

2514. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests made by various quarters to link all the southern rivers to solve the flood and irrigation problems of the region;

(b) whether Government have come to any conclusion in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not making a beginning in this direction to put permanently at rest the flood and irrigation problems of the South?

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

†2515. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme has been formulated by Government with a view to providing immediate irrigational benefits to the farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the outline of the said programme;

(c) the number alongwith the names of the projects for which construction was started during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(d) by when irrigational facilities will be made available through these projects alongwith the area of land to be covered under it?

Policy on water sharing

†2516. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got formulated any guidelines for preparing unanimously acceptable formula with regard to water sharing;

(b) if so, the details of the said guidelines;

(c) when these guidelines were prepared;

(d) whether action has been taken to bring consensus of all the States on these directions; and

(e) if so, the details of the action taken and when such an action was taken alongwith the result thereof?

Land under irrigation

2517. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the area of cultivable land brought under irrigation, category wise;

(b) what is the figure of non-irrigated arable land; and

(c) what policy has been adopted to bring at least half of the total arable land under irrigation?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Preservation of tanks in
Karnataka**

2518. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of tanks are vanishing in Karnataka due to encroachment, siltation and expiration of cities;

(b) if so, the details of tanks vanished during the last three years in the State; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to preserve the tanks and the amount required for preservation?

requested for declaring Ichampalli Project as a national project;

(b) if so, when such a request was received in the Ministry of Water Resources;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a Project Report for a lift irrigation scheme below the Ichampalli Project;

(d) if so, when such a request was received in the Ministry of Water Resources; and

(e) the steps so far contemplated in this regard?

**Irrigation relations between Andhra
Pradesh and Maharashtra**

2519. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government play any role in inter-State joint venture for irrigation project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to encourage and boost the irrigation relation between Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra who have decided to implement Lendi Project?

Water harvesting in Rajasthan

2521. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a detailed study has been made of the innovative water harvesting and storage schemes being tried and implemented in the desert State of Rajasthan, which have reportedly helped the villagers towards easy access to and availability of water and even to grow cash crops;

(b) if so, the major lessons drawn from these schemes for their effective use and implementation at the national level; and

(c) the steps taken to provide such model schemes to other water deficient States in the country?

**Lift irrigation scheme below
Ichampalli Project**

2520. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has

Inter-basin water transfer

2522. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering

inter-basin water transfer in different regions of the country to tackle drought and floods in the face of growing water demands due to increase in population;

(b) if so, the details of efforts made by

Government for achieving consensus among basin States; and

(c) the fresh steps taken for early implementation of the proposal in order to avoid cost escalation?

NEW DELHI;
The 10th April, 2002
Chaitra 20, 1924 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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