

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 16, 2006/Vaisakha 26, 1928 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 155

Unused runways at airports

3176. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of runways at different airports in the country are not in use;

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

(c) whether any action is being taken to make them usable;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rehabilitation of slum around Mumbai airport

3177. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has prepared a blueprint to rehabilitate the eligible slum dwellers on the periphery of Mumbai airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total number of slum dwellers to be rehabilitated and the total cost involved; and

(c) whether Government have fixed time-schedule for the rehabilitation work, if so, by when it will be completed?

Study on new airport at Mumbai

3178. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1365 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th December, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the simulation study of conflict free operations for existing airport at Mumbai and proposed airport at Navi Mumbai undertaken by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. (CIDCO) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when the study is likely to be completed?

Recommendation of KAW Committee

3179. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the KAW Committee favoured the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation as the sole apex body for safety and economic revolution of the aviation sector;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the suggestions of the KAW Committee are in conflict with the plan of the Ministry; and

(d) if so, what are the areas of difference and the manner in which Government propose to sort out the matter?

Delay in evening flights

3180. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the routine delays of all Indian Airlines flights which take off after 4 p.m. every day;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines management is unable to cope with the delays which build up after every flight;

(c) whether it is also a fact that every Indian Airlines flight from Delhi to Hyderabad in the evening has been late by a minimum of two hours every day in the last three months;

(d) whether any effort will be made to monitor the delays which have now become routine and expected and definite every day; and

(e) the steps proposed to consider ways to reduce such definite delays?

Increasing air services

†3181. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of air routes in the country wherein domestic air services have been increased;

(b) the names of States benefited by such increase;

(c) the details of existing air routes alongwith new routes where respective proposals for increasing flight services and introducing air service are under consideration during the year 2006-07; and

(d) the details of proposals received from State Governments in this regard alongwith those approved and pending as on 31st January, 2006, State-wise?

Unutilised bilateral agreements

3182. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 47 of the 101 airlines bilateral agreements signed between India and other countries are unutilised;

(b) whether it is also a fact that of the 54 operational bilaterals, carriers from both countries are offering services only in 26 cases;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the severe dearth of flights coupled with unviable locations are the reasons for a number of bilateral pacts lying unused; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to make use of all bilateral pacts?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Air service agreement with Pakistan

3183. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan has revived the air service operation between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has agreed for Indian Airlines operation in that country;

(c) whether Pakistan had pointed out that they have no problem in having an open sky policy between India and Pakistan;

(d) whether Pakistan has also agreed to allow all the Indian Airlines to fly over Pakistan;

(e) if so, what are the main agreements reached in this regard; and

(f) to what extent it has been helpful for both the countries?

New international airport at Ludhiana

3184. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to have a Greenfield International Airport at Ludhiana;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to develop/upgrade certain infrastructure necessary for the Airport;

(c) whether any request has been received from the State Government of Punjab to allow International flights from Halwara Air Force Station; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this matter?

Upgradation of Patna and Gaya airports

3185. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to encourage pilgrim tourism during this year of 2550th anniversary of Lord Buddha's Mahaparinirvana from the countries with large Buddhist population;

(b) whether there is any plan to upgrade the Patna and Gaya airports to facilitate the pilgrim travel; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Air service between Dhaka and Guwahati

3186. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh is planning to introduce a new direct air service between Dhaka and Guwahati to boost the trade ties with the North-East;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the GMC Airlines of Bangladesh held discussions with officials of the Ministry to begin the service to North-East; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Development of airport at Adampur

3187. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Adampur (Punjab), military air base at present is ideally suitable for the development of a civilian international airport; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering any proposal in this regard?

Incidents of tyre burst of aircraft

3188. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently several incidents of tyre bursts of aircrafts took place;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that recently several planes had to be landed in emergency due to technical defects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of technical staff for IA planes

‡3189. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian Airlines aeroplanes have been grounded due to shortage of tools and technical staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to maintain the regular supply of tools and also to recruit the staff?

Poor infrastructure facilities in flying institutes

3190. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pilot graduates from many of the flying clubs in India are trained on outdated technology and hence 40 per cent of them fail the flying test administered by private airlines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the flying institutes across the country have Cessna 152 and Cessna 172 aircrafts on which students are trained and most of them do not even have simulators; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to enforce some rules for flying institutes so that they are forced to upgrade their infrastructure?

Working of Air India office at Delhi

3191. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the passengers travelling by Air India in the City Office of Air India in Connaught Place, New Delhi;

(b) whether Government are also aware that a passenger has to wait for hours in the Air India office even to reconfirm his booking;

(c) whether he is aware that in the Air India office only 4-5 counters work at a time in Delhi;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) what are the steps which will be taken in this regard; and

(f) the average number of passengers travelling daily by Air India from Delhi?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Expansion of air service from Bhopal

†3192. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating on some proposals for commencing air services on some new routes;

(b) whether Government would consider air service from Bhopal to Kolkata in view of increasing demand for the same; and

(c) if so, the present status thereof?

Construction of airport at Gulbarga

3193. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to construct airport at Gulbarga District in Karnataka;

(b) if so, how many acres of land is required for this project;

(c) what is the total estimated cost of the project;

(d) how much amount has been provided in the budget for the current year 2006-07;

(e) how much time will be required for the completion of this airport work; and

(f) what is the contribution of Karnataka for this project?

X-ray machines at airports

3194. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not taking steps to ensure that the maximum number of x-ray machines operate at all times to screen baggage at security points at all airports;

(b) the reasons for allowing one screening x-ray machine for hand baggage to operate at Hyderabad and other airports; and

(c) the specific reasons on why more x-ray machines are not operational at all airports in the country?

Lack of facilities at Hyderabad airport

3195. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that slippery floors and very inconvenient designs are being constructed at the arrival areas of Hyderabad airport;

(b) whether it is a fact that no consideration has been given to passenger comforts and needs at Hyderabad airport;

(c) whether earlier complaints and representations on the sub-standard construction at Hyderabad airport have drawn the attention of Government;

(d) the reason for Government not acting immediately on such matters; and

(e) the steps proposed to inspect the basic facilities at Hyderabad airport?

Construction of bays at Hyderabad airport

3196. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India has taken up construction of six bays at Hyderabad and four bays at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-frame has been set to complete these Bays;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reason for putting Visakhapatnam airport in Phase-II to develop it to the world class standards; and

(f) by when the Visakhapatnam airport is going to get its facelift?

Guidelines for Bangalore airport project

3197. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade Bangalore Airport into a Greenfield, Corporate, Joint Sector airport, built and managed to international standards through the National Fund for Airport Development;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that implementation of the project is held up on account of the delay in framing certain rules and guidelines pertaining to Advance Development Fee (ADF) and modalities for passing on of the fee collected etc.; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and steps taken to expedite framing of the rules/guidelines?

Mandatory checking of aircrafts

3198. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that these days Indian Airlines and Air India aircrafts are not checked properly before flying most particularly on 15th April, 2006;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that recently some tyre pieces of such aircrafts were found at Delhi and Mumbai airports;

(c) the reasons for not taking action for

proper checking of the aircrafts and persons responsible for such negligences;

(d) what action is being taken against them; and

(e) the total number of air passengers for Indian Airlines and Air India suffered loss due to these negligences and how the flights were delayed?

Improvement in flight operations

3199. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the value of passenger air traffic during the last three years, year-wise and sector-wise;

(b) the details of infrastructure development at the airports during the past three years;

(c) the reasons for the regular delay/cancellation of flights etc.; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the efficiency of flight operations?

Development of Surat airport

†3200. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plan for development of Surat airport; and

(b) the provisions made in the Union Budget for the same during 2006-07 alongwith the details of its implementation?

New airport near Delhi

†3201. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ambitious planning for constructing another domestic

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

airport within the radius of 75 square KM and one more international airport within the radius of 150 square KM of Delhi is under consideration of Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the similar planning in respect of Mumbai is under consideration with Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Sale of Delhi airport land

†3202. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of land available with Delhi airport in terms of areas as on date and the estimated market value thereof; and

(b) the area of land of Delhi airport sold alongwith the rate on which the said land was sold and date together with the names of persons to whom it has been sold on the said rate as on date?

Aviation sector in Rajasthan

3203. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to develop the aviation sector in Rajasthan, from the tourism point of view looking at the tourist potentiality of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and in what manner;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

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

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what is Central Government's

reaction and by when, these schemes will be disposed off?

Smuggling of goods into Bangladesh

3204. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment on the money value of the goods which are smuggled into Bangladesh from India through porous border during one year;

(b) what is the estimated loss of revenue from Indian side; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up open markets at the border through which goods can be sold legally and revenue can be earned?

Upgradation of the post of Income Tax and Central Excise Inspectors

3205. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply of Unstarred Question 5350 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th May, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to upgrade the posts of Inspectors of Income Tax and Central Excise as Group 'B' Gazetted posts in view of their Pay Scale of Rs. 6500-10500;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Tax evasion in marble and opium trade

3206. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate quantum of tax evasion in marble and opium trade;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether there are official auctions in opium trade; and

(c) what are the effective steps to avert tax evasion in these areas?

(e) the results in the process achieved so far; and

(f) whether effective measures have not been taken to control black money; if so, the reasons therefor?

Deactivation of PAN cards

3207. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over a million Permanent Account Numbers of the estimated 43 million issued may soon be deactivated on account of the revelation that individuals have received more than one number;

(b) whether Government officials have identified the duplicate PAN cards issued; and

(c) if so, the action proposed thereon?

Circulation of black money

3208. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any report from any circle, about the amount of black money on circulation in Indian markets at present;

(b) if so, the amount of black money at present in markets;

(c) whether there are possibilities that a part of the black money is turning into white to add to the Income Tax and getting invested into welfare services;

(d) if so, whether any assessment has been made to this effect;

Vacancies of non-official directors of banks

3209. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of non-official directors in the Public Sector Banks as on 1st January 2006, bank-wise and category-wise; and

(b) by when all the vacancies are likely to be filled?

Strike by SBI employees

†3210. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of country-wide strike of the State Bank of India employees on the economy of the country and to what extent Government have suffered loss of revenue due to the strike;

(b) the details of demands of the Bank employees and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the concrete steps Government have taken to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the general public due to the strike of Bank employees?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Vigilance on use of official stationary

3211. SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the huge wastage of official stationary items in Government offices and the fact that crores of rupees can be saved if a strict vigilance on the use of official stationary is kept;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Disbursal of loans under PMRY to Andhra Pradesh

3212. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2299, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 2006, and state:

(a) what are the reasons for not disbursing even 50 per cent of nearly 42,000 applications in 2004-05 and 18,000 in 2005-06 submitted under PMRY during 2004-05 and 2005-06 (up to December, 2005) in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what is the criteria followed in finalising the applications;

(c) the amount sanctioned under PMRY to the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the amount utilized during the above period?

Review of Structural adjustment loan to Punjab

3213. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS
KAUR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests to recommend the State Government of Punjab's proposal for Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL) assistance, of the order of a total of US \$800 million, to the World Bank, have been pending with Central Government, pending review of the SAL scheme in the light of the Twelfth Finance Commission recommendations;

(b) whether the guidelines for SAL have since been reviewed and revised in the light of the Twelfth Finance Commission recommendations, if so, the details of the revised guidelines; and

(c) what is Government's decision on the Punjab Government's request and the recommendation, if any, since made to the World Bank in the light thereof?

Streamlining of clearance process of Customs Department

3214. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the measures taken by the Customs Department to streamline the existing clearance processes/procedures to facilitate easy clearance and augment Customs revenue;

(b) whether there have been cases of evasion of duty and collusion of customs officials with evaders of duty, if so, what are the measures taken to check this malpractice;

(c) whether it is a fact that the delay in finalising provisional assessment has led to postponement of revenue to Government to the tune of several crores of rupees; and

(d) if so, what are the effective measures initiated to avert such delays in future?

Core banking system for Public Sector Banks

3215. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the customer-centric initiatives taken by the Public Sector banks to compete effectively with private sector and foreign banks in terms of the existing product portfolio on offer and introduction of new products and services to match those of its competitors;

(b) whether Government have issued any directions for adopting Core Banking/ Any Branch banking system to all Nationalised Public Sector Banks in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when, it will be operational in the country?

Non-utilization of foreign aid

†3216. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has in its report pointed out that most of the amount received as external and foreign aid for power, road, urban development, water resources, health, agriculture and social sector could not be utilized till 2004-05;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government pay about Rs. 165 crore as penal interest for not spending the said loan amount; and

(c) if so, its justification and the details thereof?

Opening of more LIC branches

3217. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up more LIC branches in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up more satellite branches in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Easwaran Committee report on tax reforms

3218. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations contained in the Easwaran Committee report on Tax reforms has been implemented;

(b) if so, in which Tax Acts these have been reflected; and

(c) whether it has resulted in real simplification of the filing of Tax Returns as the Saral (Simple) Income Tax return is still complicated to fill in?

Loans to Rajasthan by NABARD

3219. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has approved/ sanctioned any loans to Rajasthan under its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-XI;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this loan would be used for construction of irrigation projects, new roads and bridges etc.;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the total financial assistance that has so far been made available by this bank during the current financial year for development of infrastructure in Rajasthan;
- (f) whether there are any proposals from Rajasthan, pending consideration with NABARD/Centre in above context, at present; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and their present status?

RBI's proposal for doorstep banking

3220. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that RBI plans a big push for doorstep banking;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how far this will help the rural banking system in the country to bring the rural population within the banking system especially in the most backward region of Orissa?

Potential linked credit for Orissa

3221. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that NABARD is formulating potential linked credit plan for Orissa;

(b) whether this plan envisages credit gap for 2004-05 and 2005-06;

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the State Government of Orissa has asked for bridging this gap; and
- (e) if so, the action plan of the Centre to render help in the matter?

Dilution of stake in 16 PSUs

3222. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to raise about Rs. 10,000 crores by diluting its stake in 16 PSUs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (c) what is the action plan of Government to use these funds for development of infrastructure especially in the backward rural areas of Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh etc. to improve their economy?

Increase in dearness relief to pensioners

3223. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that the order s issued by the Department of Pension for increase in dearness relief to pensioners from time to time do not reach branches of the Public Sector Banks disbursing pensions for months together thereby causing unnecessary delay in the disbursement of additional relief to the pensioners; and
- (b) if so, what procedure is being

followed for the purpose and what steps are contemplated to ensure that the relevant orders reach all the concerned branches within a week of their issue through internet and fax or other expeditious means?

Full Capital Account Convertibility

3224. SHRI CHITTABRATA
MAJUMDAR:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering Full Capital Account Convertibility; and

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

Task force on tax related issues

3225. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR
SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Task Force of Ministries of Commerce and Finance for greater coordination and resolution of tax related issues faced by the exporting communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Task Force is likely to be set up?

Debt-deposit ratio of banks in Jharkhand

†3226. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the prescribed target of debt-deposit

ratio of banks in Jharkhand during the financial year 2005-06;

(b) what is the achievement against this target; and

(c) the steps being taken to achieve the target prescribed for the next financial year?

Disinvestment of shares in PSUs

3227. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to disinvest shares in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

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

(c) whether it is a fact that some allies of Government are opposing the disinvestment; and

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

Review of credit policies of Banks

3228. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to make banks to go beyond the traditional role of purveyors of credit and become collaborators with others in finding a holistic solution; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this direction so far and in future?

Investigation of companies involved in oil for food scam

3229. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether investigations have been carried out by Income Tax department and Enforcement Directorate into the accounts of all the 125 companies named in the report of the United Nations Independent Inquiry Committee (Volcker Committee) for their involvement in evasion of income tax and payment of kickbacks to former Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq as assured by him at the Annual Economic Editors Conference in November, 2005;

(b) if so, the salient findings thereof; and

(c) the details of action initiated by the respective departments in the light of their probes?

Introduction of charges for services by SBI

3230. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India has recently re-determined/introduced charges for various services they are offering to their clients like making of drafts, withdrawals, etc.;

(b) the details of the services for which the clients are charged by the SBI and the rates therefor;

(c) whether these rates are much higher as compared to those of other nationalized banks; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) what are Government/SBI guidelines/instructions, if any, on the subject; and

(e) the reasons for SBI not falling in line with other nationalized banks and charging a higher rate?

Kisan Credit Card scheme

3231. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kisan Credit Card scheme is being implemented in the country now;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of funds sanctioned under the scheme during the first year of the scheme and during the current year; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to extend this scheme to benefit more farmers?

Special plan assistance to Himachal Pradesh

3232. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the special plan assistance for the annual plan 2005-06 provided to Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether any special plan assistance is being provided to Himachal Pradesh during the year 2006-07; if so, the amount to be provided; and

(c) whether the special plan is provided in addition to the plan approved by the Planning Commission?

Externally Aided Programmes for North-Eastern States

3233. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Externally Aided Programmes sanctioned so far in favour of the North-Eastern States, State-wise;

(b) the number of the EAP schemes forwarded by each of the North-Eastern States along with the number of schemes sanctioned or refused; and

(c) the names of the schemes and the status of the proposals in case of Tripura put forward in the years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005?

investigating major importers of bulk drugs who are allegedly diverting imports to the local market without paying anti-dumping duties; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against those held responsible and what steps are being taken to check such fraud in future?

Review on entitlement of free local calls to officers

3234. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even today the Central Government employees are allowed 650 local calls for two months on their residential telephones provided by office;

(b) if so, when this limit was fixed and whether a review/revision of the same has become overdue, particularly due to the coming up of a variety of packages both by the MTNL/BSNL and other private service providers;

(c) whether Government propose to review the existing instructions in the changed scenario; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Crackdown on bulk drug importers by DRI

3235. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has unearthed a major racket as part of a crackdown on bulk drug importers avoiding payment of anti-dumping duties;

(b) whether DRI is currently

Status of charitable institute to BCCI

†3236. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2307 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 2006 and state:

(a) the definition of charitable institute;

(b) the types of institutes which are covered under the category of charitable institutes; and

(c) the ground on which BCCI has been given the status of charitable institute?

World Bank assistance for drinking water projects in Tamil Nadu

3237. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take World Bank assistance for drinking water projects especially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the latest position of these projects as on today?

Aid to sick small scale industries in Andhra Pradesh

†3238. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether scheduled and nationalised banks are providing financial aid to sick small scale industries in Andhra Pradesh for their revival;

(b) if so, the details of the financial aids provided by these banks to such small scale industrial units during the last three years including the current year, district-wise; and

(c) the details of the efforts made/being made by the Central Government for the revival of sick small scale industrial units in various States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

(b) whether it is a fact that employees on *ad hoc*/leave vacancies who have been regularized after 2004 get pay benefits from previous date of their appointment whereas they are denied other benefits available to regular employees from that date;

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

(d) the criteria followed for such employees in the matter of choice of pension schemes; and

(e) the steps taken to remove the anomalies in the matter?

Decline in deposits in Public Provident Fund

3239. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deposits in the Public Provident Fund accounts in the national capital have shown a decline during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the actual deposits in the Fund for the fiscal as compared to those for the earlier two years i.e. 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) whether, in view of the above position, Government propose to increase the limit of maximum deposit under the Fund from the existing Rs. 70,000 to one lakh; and

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

Guidelines of new pension schemes

3240. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed guidelines and modalities of the new pension scheme;

Functions of PFRDA

3241. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority was proposed to be set up last year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the constitution, terms of reference, functions and jurisdiction of PFRDA and the present status thereof?

Rationalisation of stamp duty

3242. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to rationalize stamp duty to make it uniform;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the action taken in this regard?

Mismatch between demand and supply of credit in banking sector

3243. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a mismatch between demand and supply of credit in the banking sector; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government to raise the level of bank deposits?

Aid to tribals in Jharkhand by banks

3244. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of tribals financed by banks in Jharkhand in the last five years for commercial/industrial/service sector activities upto 5 crores, 5 crores to 10 crores, 10 crores to 20 crores, 20 crores to 50 crores and 50 crores and above, year-wise, district-wise, bank-wise, institution-wise and activity-wise?

Fixing of uniform customs and excise duty structure

3245. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is immense instability in industrial sector in the country due to diverse schemes and subsidies of State Governments as well as different Central and customs duty structure in various parts of the country?

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

(c) whether Government are seriously considering to fix uniform customs and excise duty structure in the country for reducing instability among industrial segment in the country; and

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

Loans to poor farmers in Uttaranchal

3246. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by Government for providing loans at low rate to free the most poor farmers from the clutches of money lenders in Uttaranchal covering the hilly and far-flung areas;

(b) whether Government contemplates any plan for providing seasonal loan to fertilizers, particularly during the sowing season; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Loans to students for higher studies

3247. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed certain annual amount for providing loans to students for higher studies;

(b) if so, the amount so fixed for higher studies to SC and ST students living in hilly and far-flung areas of Uttaranchal in view of their special categories in the society; and

(c) the amount actually provided to such students?

Exemption of mega power projects from customs levies

3248. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Mega Power Projects' are exempted from customs and Central excise levies;

(b) if so, the details with number of Central and State Governments' 'Mega Projects' enjoying such concessions, State-wise;

(c) whether State Government of Karnataka has requested to declare its 500 MW thermal power station at Bellary as a 'Mega Project';

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

(e) whether Government have identified Tadri, Distt. Uttara Kannada, Karnataka, as one of the sites for development of five Ultra Mega Power Projects with 4000 MW and above capacity in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the projects?

Financial allocation to States

3249. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a dissatisfaction among the well performing States on the ground that they have been penalized by not giving due financial allocation but given more to poor performing States on the plea of the Twelfth Finance Commission norms;

(b) whether there will be a re-look on the fixation of such norms;

(c) what are the norms adopted while assisting the States by way of Central allocation of funds for schemes, proposals, calamities etc.; and

(d) whether it is *ad-hoc*, objective, political demand driven or discretion driven?

Policy on disinvestment

3250. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of Government

policy on disinvestment and privatisation of Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) whether in the wake of liberalization, privatization and globalisation that are widely acknowledged, the slow process or nil progress of disinvestment and privatization will hamper the economy and interest of the country; and

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

Loan facilities to SSIs

3251. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any action to grant interest or problem free loans from the banks to the small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Manufacturing Competitive Council has recommended to Government for loan facilities to the small scale industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government in this regard?

Report on security related expenditure by Punjab

3252. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group constituted to determine the security related expenditure incurred by the State Government of Punjab during the period of militancy in the State, for the purpose of granting debt relief to that State, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made therein and the amount of outstanding debts incurred by that State on this account indicating the steps taken and being taken in the light of their report; and

(c) if not, what progress has so far been made by the Working Group and by when the report of the Group is expected?

Tax Saving Bonds by Punjab State Co-operative Bank

3253. SHRIMATI SUKHBUN KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab has submitted any proposal that the Punjab State Co-operative Bank may be allowed to raise funds through Tax Saving Bonds of the duration of more than three years, as are being floated by ICICI, IDBI and other banks to help reduce the cost of agricultural credit and make adequate funds available for farm-operations; and

(b) if so, what is Government's decision thereon?

Levy of hidden charges for services provided by banks

3254. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many banks including nationalized and private banks levy a host of hidden charges for various services provided by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that banks do not harass and exploit customers?

Credit flow to small and medium enterprises

3255. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans given out by Public Sector Banks in the last two years to small and medium enterprises, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that banks are willing to forego the default risk premium while charging interest rates from small and medium enterprises that have a clean record and have a higher credit rating;

(c) whether banks are shying away from lending to small and medium enterprises only because of lack of credit information; and

(d) how banks would increase the flow of credit to small and medium enterprises if credit rating companies report that small and medium enterprises do not have a good track record of credit (an opinion similar to that which the banks presently have)?

Disinvestment of Central Inland Waterways Corporation

3256. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to disinvest Central Inland Waterways Corporation;

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

(c) the present stage of the proposal?

**Review of full Capital Account
Convertibility**

†3257. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked Reserve Bank of India to give their advice and recommendations after reviewing the situation keeping in view the full convertibility of capital account;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Tarapore Committee in 1997 had recommended the convertibility of whole capital account which could not be implemented;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has again appointed a Committee of six members under the chairmanship of Shri S.S. Tarapore for the same purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the basic objectives of Government?

**Irregularities in financial works of
Ministries**

†3258. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CAG has pointed out gross irregularities in the performance of financial work of some Ministries and Undertakings of the Central Government resulting in loss of crores of rupees to the country;

(b) if so, the names of the Departments whose such reports have been received during last three years;

(c) the action taken against them; and

(d) the details of outcomes from the action taken, Ministry-wise?

**Backlog vacancies in Ministry of
Finance**

3259. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backlog vacancies as on 31st March 2004 in various Departments under his Ministry;

(b) whether, special drive was carried out to fill in the above backlog vacancies;

(c) if so, the number of vacancies filled in during the last two years, Department-wise; and

(d) what are the backlog vacancies as on 31st March 2006?

**Introduction of new scheme regarding
DEPB**

3260. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new scheme regarding Duty Entitlement Passbook as the present scheme has not found acceptability amongst large number of exporters;

(b) what are the new salient points of the proposed scheme and whether the views of professional bodies like FICCI, CII, Export Council of India, etc. have been taken into consideration; and

(c) what is the time-frame for introduction of the proposed scheme?

**Setting up of Gender Budget Units in
18 Ministries**

3261. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in his Budget speech last

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

year (2005-06) it had been mentioned about setting up Gender Budget Units in 18 Ministries as well as making benefit-incidence analysis to see if allocated money was being effectively spent or not; and

(b) what action was taken in the matter and with what results?

Outstanding loans lying with sick industries

†3262. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment with regard to the amount of loans provided by Nationalised Banks and other Government financial institution of the country which is stuck in sick industries;

(b) if so, the details of loan amount of banks and other financial institution stuck in these sick units during the last three years;

(c) whether above mentioned institution have recovered their loan amount after finalising pending cases in respect of these sick units during the above mentioned years; and

(d) if so, the amount of payment received during the above mentioned period, year-wise?

Loans of SSI sector

†3263. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released by Nationalised Banks for the purpose of cars and personal loans during the last five years, the expenditure made each year for its publicity and the amount of loan provided to small scale industries;

(b) the reasons for giving priority to loans of personal nature and ignoring small scale industries;

(c) whether RBI and Central Government have issued any guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Disassociation of State Bank of Indore

†3264. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the demand is going on to disassociate the State Bank of Indore from State Bank of India;

(b) whether it has also been demanded that State Bank of Indore should be given the status of an independent Bank of Public Sector;

(c) whether Government have received any demand letter in this regard;

(d) if so, whether Government are contemplating upon this demand; and

(e) the progress details of State of Bank of Indore in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh during the last five years in comparison to Public Sector Banks such as Punjab National Bank, Bank of India and Central Bank?

Restructuring of Hindustan Photofilms

3265. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restructure Hindustan Photofilms at Ootacamund in Tamil Nadu;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Public Sector Undertakings in Andhra Pradesh

3266. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Public Sector Undertakings in Andhra Pradesh closed down alongwith those whose case for their revival is lying pending with the BIFR;

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by Government for revival of sick/loss making CPSU's in Andhra Pradesh?

Revival of major Companies

3267. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

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

(a) what steps are being taken to revive major group conglomerate companies under his Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that previous studies had suggested consolidation of these group conglomerates particularly the Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd. (BYNL), if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has taken a view on the consolidation of such conglomerates if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are also considering consolidation and change in the holding patterns of these conglomerates based on these studies, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Revival of HEC

†3268. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee constituted under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary for the revival of Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) has held any meeting;

(b) if so, the opinion of the committee regarding present position of HEC; and

(c) the details of the steps proposed to be taken by Government in future?

BHEL's power plant in Sudan

3269. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

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

(a) whether BHEL propose to set up 500 MW power plant in Sudan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project would open up more opportunities for the Indian manufacturing sector to set up bases there to tap the African and Middle East Markets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Navratna status of public enterprises

3270. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

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

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to grant Navratna status to few more public enterprises;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, indicating the criteria adopted for the purpose; and

(c) by when, a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

Autonomy to BRPSE

3271. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

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

(a) whether Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) was supposed to be an autonomous organisation;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that no Budgetary allocations were provided for the BRPSE during last two financial years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to lack of sufficient Budgetary resources the autonomy is compromised, as the BRPSE does not have access to independent expert opinion and has to rely on the inputs furnished by respective administrative Ministries; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure functional autonomy of the BRPSE?

Funds for revival of sick PSUs

3272. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick PSUs under his Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have slashed the allocation of funds for revival of sick PSUs under his Ministry;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) what are the detailed alternative steps proposed for revival of such PSUs; and

(e) whether it is a fact that only those sick PSUs will be revived which meet the standards set down by the banks for normal business loan, if so, the details thereof?

Criterion for PSUs to achieve status of Mini-ratna

3273. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) criterion for PSUs to achieve status of Mini-ratna; and

(b) criterion to achieve the status of Navratna in terms of turnover, profitability, capacity utilization, nature of products etc.?

Production of ethanol

†3274. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of ethanol in the country is less than the demand;

(b) if so, the estimate of the production of ethanol in 2005-06;

(c) whether there is any plan to increase the production of ethanol as per demand in the country; and

(d) if so, by when the production is likely to be more in comparison to demand in the near future?

Acquisition of oil assets

3275. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is looking to acquire oil assets in Central Asia, Africa, Venezuela and Brazil to meet its growing energy needs and is also open to idea of gas pipelines from Iran, Turkmenistan and Myanmar;

(b) if so, whether India is also looking for assets in the Central Asia region and North Eastern Africa and is open to pipelines from our eastern and western frontiers;

(c) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(d) if so, the details of the same and by when these projects are likely to be started?

IOC's LNG terminal at Andhra Pradesh

3276. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to instruct Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to establish the LNG

Terminal at Krishnapatanam port at the earliest in the interest of State and 1400 MW Power Project at Bidadi of Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. in view of the fact that Krishnapatanam Port is expected to be operational within a short period;

(b) if so, whether Government would assure of taking an early favourable decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

LPG agencies in district headquarters

†3277. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not even a single distribution agency for arranging distribution of LPG in some district Headquarters in the country was allotted as on 31st March, 2005;

(b) if so, the names of districts allotted with distribution agencies during the year 2005-06 out of the said districts;

(c) whether any action has been taken for allotting distribution agency in the remaining districts; and

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

Allotment of Kerosene to Uttar Pradesh

3278. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the actual allotment of Kerosene for Uttar Pradesh during the last three years ending 31st December, 2005 with the criterion therefor;

(b) whether the State has requested the Centre to increase the quantity of Kerosene

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for the State and the reasons given for the same; and

(c) the action taken by the Centre thereon?

Sale of IOC and ONGC holding in GAIL

3279. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC and ONGC have planned to block sale of GAIL holding;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the Nation by such a move?

Mixing of Naptha in Petrol

†3280. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Naptha is mixed in petrol;

(b) whether it is a fact that Naptha mixed petrol fumes are harmful from environmental and health point of view; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent such adulteration?

Criteria for new blocks for exploration

3281. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of blocks to be offered for exploration under NELP-VI;

(b) the technical and evaluation criteria decided by Government for NELP-VI;

(c) whether allegation have been levelled in sending officers abroad for studying various aspects of NELP;

(d) if so, the officers who were sent to foreign countries;

(e) whether these officers possess the desire qualification, experience and expertise in this field; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Supply of Gas to Dhoalpur Combined Cycle Project

†3282. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the gas would be provided for Dhoalpur Combined Cycle Project;

(b) the quantity of the gas to be provided and from where the same would be provided;

(c) the price of the gas; and

(d) the scheme to ensure the availability of Gas?

Price of kerosene oil

3283. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of kerosene oil has increased too much in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are looking for some substitute in place of kerosene oil?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Commercial production of oil in
Barmer Basin**

3284. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government recently gave its go-ahead to Cairn for executing its Field Development Plan (FDP) in the highly prospective Rajasthan basin (block RJ-ON-91/1) so as to enable the company to initiate work on Rs. 3,800 crore plan for Mangala, Asiswariya, Saraswati and Raageshwari fields in the Barmer district;

(b) what is the likely Production of Oil Per Day (POPD) and in million metric standards cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of natural gas indicating how this natural gas will be used; and

(c) by when, Cairn energy, will start commercial production of oil in Barmer Basin?

GAIL's MoU with Chinese firms

3285. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL has signed MoUs with three Chinese firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far will this cooperation help to bridge the gap in oil gas sector in India?

Subsidy on LPG cylinder

3286. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic LPG cylinders have been subsidised;

(b) if so, the details of subsidies and the rationale behind this;

(c) whether the number of LPG connections has been increased over the years;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, rural and urban area-wise;

(e) whether increase of LPG users means higher subsidies; and

(f) if so, the alternatives to deal with the situation?

Supply of Gas to power units

3287. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to charge present supply of 0.57 MMSCMD Gas from Ravva Satellite Fields to power utilities in Andhra Pradesh at APM price of Rs. 3,200/MCM only and not at the rate of free market price of Rs. 5,840/MCM, as this supply falls within the maximum entitlement of APM Gas;

(b) whether Government would assure of taking an expeditious favourable decision in this regard to save power projects from recurring loss of Rs. 48.3 crores per annum, causing burden to the consumers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Losses due to fire

3288. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire incidents took place in ONGC project in Bombay High in

the last three years and the approximate amount of loss due to such fire accidents;

(b) what precautionary measures are taken by ONGC for preventing such fire accidents in the future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

LPG pilferage

3289. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that subsidy on 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinders is mostly unreachable to the domestic customers due to severe pilferage of gas before delivery by distribution agencies and their workers in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the concrete steps proposed to be taken including introduction of tamper-proof seal instead of present aluminium/plastic seals which are easily tampered by distribution workers;

(c) whether oil companies turn a blind eye to this menace and also whether there are connivance of employees of oil companies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action contemplated in this regard?

Hydrocarbon Vision-2025

3290. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any attempt to implement the transitional gas pipeline projects in the context of the Hydrocarbon Vision 2025 to safeguard the energy security;

(b) if so, the details of such project in anvil and proposed as on today; and

(c) the details of steps taken to implement the Iran, Pakistan and India (IPI) pipeline project as on today?

Lack of facilities at retail outlets

†3291. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of entrepreneurs belonging to SC/ST who have been given permission to start petrol/diesel retail outlets in Gujarat during 2004-05 and 2005-06 alongwith the locations thereof;

(b) the number of functional outlets out of them; and

(c) the number of outlets lacking in basic facilities as on 15th April, 2006?

Special drive for vacancies

3292. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backlog vacancies as on 31st March, 2004 in various Departments under the Ministry;

(b) whether, special drive was carried out to fill in the above backlog vacancies;

(c) if so, the number of vacancies filled in during the last two years, Department-wise; and

(d) what are the backlog vacancies as on 31st March, 2006?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rural tourism projects

3293. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Barapali with 400 years of history and heritage in Orissa has good potential for rural tourism;

(b) whether realising its potential the State Government has recommended to the Centre to include Barapali under its special rural tourism project; and

(c) if so, the status of the proposal indicating the time-frame within which the proposal would be considered and whether the State has been advised of the position?

Removal of encroachment from monuments

3294. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of historical monuments are on the verge of extinction in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many historical monuments have been encroached upon by the unscrupulous people; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction?

Upgradation of historical places

†3295. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to make the historical places of National heritage of international level;

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

(c) the amount of funds proposed to be allocated for each heritage sites for this purpose; and

(d) by when this plan is likely to be implemented?

Preservation of historical monuments in Delhi

3296. SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) the amount spent on preservation of historical monuments in the National Capital Territory of Delhi during the last three years; and

(b) what are the various modes of utilization of these funds to ensure the safety of these monuments?

Development of Linganamakki Dam in Shimoga District, Karnataka

3297. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central grant is extended to for development of Rural Tourism Destinations in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with assistance released during the last three years under the scheme, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sought assistance under the scheme for development of Linganamakki Dam in Shimoga District, Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Promotion of tourism in South

3298. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a recent meeting of Tourism Ministers of Southern States it was decided to undertake Joint Promotion of tourism in the South;

(b) whether suggestions have been made to Government to run a heritage train for South and to allow more foreign air lines to land in Southern States;

(c) if so, whether the major neglected areas are the heritage and thematic museums;

(d) whether the tourism industry in the States is suffering mainly for want of adequate funds from Government; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to extend the help required by the State Government's in providing better facilities for tourists and for upkeep of heritage sites?

Foreign tourists visited historical monuments

3299. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that historical monuments in the country are drawing large number of foreign tourists and earning revenue;

(b) if so, what are those monuments which draw maximum tourists, State-wise;

(c) whether Government are also taking necessary steps to beautify the left over monuments;

(d) if so, what are those monuments, State-wise; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

Declaration of Majuli Island in Assam as World Heritage Site

3300. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have written a letter to UNESCO for declaring Majuli Island in Assam as the World Heritage Site; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and UNESCO's response thereon?

Heritage Sites in Delhi

†3301. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) the number of heritage sites in Delhi at present which are important from historical point of view;

(b) whether Government are aware that a number of important historical sites have been extincted in Delhi and have been encroached by land mafias and ancient idols therein have been sold abroad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government to take back the lands of heritages from land mafias with a view to revive them?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Financial and technical assistance to conserve war monuments in Punjab

3302. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of senior officials from her Ministry recently visited border towns of Punjab to make a study about the kind of financial and technical assistance required to conserve war monuments there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Protection of monuments in Goa

3303. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of monuments, structure, temples, mosques and churches declared as protected monuments by Government in the State of Goa;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government for the protection of each of the monuments; and

(c) the financial assistance given to each of the monuments, so far?

Special package for development of tourism

†3304. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any special package to promote tourism in economically backward States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will formulate any special package for integrated

development of tourism in the States which are economically backward but having rich culture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Maintenance of inscriptions at Vikramkhola and Alabgarh in Orissa

†3305. SHRI SURENDRA LATHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 5000 years old inscriptions at Vikramkhola and Alabgarh in Jharsuguda district in Orissa have been destroyed upto 90 per cent due to lack of proper maintenance;

(b) if so, whether Archaeological Survey of India is taking any steps to save them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

World Heritage Site status to buildings of Maandua by UNESCO

†3306. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India has entered into any correspondence with UNESCO for giving World Heritage Site status to buildings of Maandua; and

(b) if so, the reaction of UNESCO in this regard?

Campaign to promote medical tourism

3307. DR. VIJAY MALLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the Centre to launch an overseas campaign to project India as an attractive tourism destination;

(b) what is the approximate number of medical tourists expected to visit India by 2010, and what are the projected earnings; and

(c) whether Government have relaxed the norms to issue visas to medical tourists and from how many countries the medical tourists are coming to India?

Formulation of Heritage Act

3308. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experts from Britain, France and other countries are showing interest in documenting the heritage sites in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government have any plans to bring a legislation for the protection and conservation of heritage buildings and sites;

(c) whether powers are proposed to be delegated to the State Governments to decide on the renovation and protection of heritage structures; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to bring Bidar, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Kittur, Mysore, Srirangapatna, Kudalasangama, Kaginele and other areas under the heritage areas?

Financial assistance to cultural heritage projects

3309. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any special projects to preserve cultural heritage in the country;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal from various State Governments for preservation of cultural heritage;

(c) whether Government are giving financial assistance to State Government's cultural heritage project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of Hiuen Tsang Memorial at Nalanda in Bihar

3310. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Hiuen Tsang Memorial at Nalanda in Bihar during 2006, which is China-India Friendship year; and

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto and the extent to which expenditure on the project would be shared by the Central and the State Governments?

Atithi Devo Bhavah awareness campaign

3311. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atithi Devo Bhavah awareness campaign has been started only in seven States, if so, the details including criteria of their selection;

(b) whether Andhra Pradesh, having one of highest tourist destinations of the country has not been selected for this campaign, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether second phase of this campaign has started at the fag end of last year;

(d) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh has been included in this phase and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what is the *inter-se* priority on the basis of which Government have selected the States to carry out the above campaign?

Tourism potential in Kerala

3312. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any Kerala specific plan to increase tourism in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of plans to market the tourism potential of Kerala Internationally;

(c) what facilities will be extended by Government to enhance tourism in Kerala; and

(d) what are the details of such plans?

Protection of monuments by ASI in Delhi

3313. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are cases of encroachment in the monument protected by ASI in various parts of the country, particularly in the capital; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken by Government to remove these encroachments?

Proposal received from State Government of Karnataka

3314. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has received any proposals from the State Government of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the cost of the project; and

(c) the status of the said project?

Development of tourist centres in Tamil Nadu

3315. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of places that have been developed/funded for development as tourist centres in Tamil Nadu by Central Government;

(b) the steps taken by Central Government to boost tourism in the State; and

(c) the projects, proposed to be implemented during the Tenth Plan period in Tamil Nadu?

Protection of historical monuments in Delhi

†3316. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps for protecting historical monuments, State-wise particularly in Delhi;

(b) the names of those old monuments

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

which are being provided grants, State-wise particularly in Delhi; and

(c) the details of amount spent on the maintenance of such monuments during the last three years till date, State-wise/project-wise particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

Completion of Baglihar Hydel Power Project

3317. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to faulty design of the Baglihar Hydel Power Project exposed by floods and landslides recently, the financial institutions have backed up from further funding of the project;

(b) whether only 70 meters of the dam has come up against a proposed 144 meters envisaged, with diversion tunnels and power house yet to be built; and

(c) whether the Centre will re-entrust the project to NHPC with guarantee of funds for early completion, since much efforts, mostly diplomatic had gone into resolving issues raised by Pakistan against the Baglihar project?

Pending irrigation projects

3318. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a list of all pending irrigation projects in the country where people of all communities have been displaced in the five years;

(b) the list of projects and approximate number of people displaced respectively in the last five years;

(c) the list of projects which are on-

going presently and the respective number of displaced people in the various States; and

(d) the details of such projects, State-wise and the people displaced and the people who are likely to be displaced in on-going river projects which have been given clearance?

Sutiyapat Reservoir Project

†3319. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 2965 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd August 2005 and state:

(a) the date of approval granted to Sutiyapat Reservoir Project and the date on which it was submitted to the State Finance Department for its latest costing;

(b) whether Government are making any special efforts to ensure that the project is not delayed further and commenced at the earliest;

(c) the special efforts made by Government to ensure quick approval to Kela Project and Rajiv Promotion Scheme Phase-II; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Setting up of irrigation projects in tribal areas

3320. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more irrigation projects in tribal areas;

(b) whether tribals are basically dependent on agricultural land and therefor whether Government are aware of the fact that Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Keroput and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sundargarh hilly tribal district have source of big irrigation project; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

Water Resource Project in Tamil Nadu

3321. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up Water Resource Project in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance proposed to be provided by the Central Government during the current year for completion of the project?

Completion of irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh

3322. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made on various fast track irrigation projects introduced in the year 2002 particularly in Andhra Pradesh for completing selected projects within one year;

(b) whether the work on these projects is conforming to the time-schedule;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; project-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in completion of these projects?

World Bank assistance for irrigation projects to Orissa

†3323. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major irrigation projects in the State of Orissa for which World Bank has provided assistance;

(b) the number of projects out of above which have been completed and also of those which are incomplete;

(c) the date on which the Subarnarekha Irrigation Project had commenced and by when it was to be completed;

(d) the reasons for delay in completion of irrigation projects; and

(e) by when Subarnarekha Irrigation Project and other irrigation projects will be completed?

Linking of rivers in Andhra Pradesh

3324. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the Centre to link rivers of Andhra Pradesh to help the farming community who are committing suicides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Non-supply of water to Bihar by Uttar Pradesh

†3325. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Uttar Pradesh has discontinued the supply of water to Bihar as a result of which an unprecedented crisis of water has arisen in the State;

(b) whether any explanation has been sought from State Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps to be taken by Government to sort out this problem?

**Construction of multipurpose
Polavaram Project on the
river of Godavari**

3326. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh is constructing Multipurpose Polavaram Project on the river Godavari which will submerge large part of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the CWC has approved the above project; and

(c) whether Central Government has taken the Government of Orissa in confidence for above project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Implementation of rain water
harvesting scheme**

3327. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to implement and making rain water harvesting scheme compulsory in farm sector for every land holding farmer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance would be provided by Government for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Implementation of irrigation projects
in Tamil Nadu**

3328. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Central Government for assistance for implementation of irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, the response of the Central Government thereto and the assistance likely to be released to the State Government for the purpose?

Management of water distribution

3329. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large scale corruption and irregularities in potable water distribution in most cities across the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that poor management of water distribution system is leading to a huge amount of wastage of water;

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

(d) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the water distribution across the country?

**Completion of irrigation project in
Punjab and Maharashtra**

3330. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of irrigation

projects are running behind their original schedule as on date in Punjab and Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government are considering to invite private participation to complete

such irrigation projects in the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 10th May, 2006
 Vaisakha 20, 1928 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
 Secretary-General.

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