

RAJYA SABHA

List of Question for WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

Tuesday, the July 16th, 2002/Asadha 25, 1924 (Saka)

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

Total number of questions—48

Posting of CISF personnel at airports

52. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided
to entrust the security of all airports in the
country to the Central Industrial Security
Force;

(b) if so, the number of airports where
the CISF personnel have already been
posted; and

(c) by when all the airports will have
CISF personnel posted there?

Privatization of airports at metro cities

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

(a) whether Government have decided
to privatize airports at four metro cities of
the country;

(b) if so, the names of parties which
have shown interest to take over the
management of these airports; and

(c) what are the main conditions in this
regard?

Extra fair for overweight passengers

53. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKA-
RASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Air
Lines propose to implement policy of
charging extra fair to overweight passengers
like other foreign airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Facilities at Hyderabad airport

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

(a) what is the present status of major
passenger facilities upgradation works
started by Airports Authority of India at
Hyderabad airport recently; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon
and the details of facilities upgraded
so far?

Varying levies on liquor

56. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that in addition to excise duties the Indian Made Foreign Liquor is subjected to several widely varying levies, duties and packaging and labelling regulations imposed by the various State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Imported Foreign Liquor is also subjected to the same levies, duties and regulations as imposed on Indian Made Foreign Liquor;

(d) whether any instructions have been issued by Government to this effect and the details thereof; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure compliance with these instructions?

Negative growth in exports

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

(a) whether India's exports have slid back to the negative growth path after two years of positive growth;

(b) if so, whether they have failed to recover from the impact of the global economic slowdown and September 11 attack and India's exports failed to clock any growth during 2001-2002;

(c) if so, to what extent the exports growth slid down; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the export growth?

Placing of India on priority watchlist by USA

58. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the United States has once again placed India on the priority watchlist of its Special 301 provision to deal with intellectual property violations;

(b) if so, whether the failure to provide patent protection for pharmaceuticals and farm chemicals has been cited as the main cause for the action;

(c) whether after the annual review, the US Trade Representative has opted to put India, the 15-nation European Union and 12 other countries on the watch list for another year;

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

(e) the steps being taken in this regard?

Visit of Canadian Trade Team to India

59. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Canadian Trade Team had visited India very recently (April 2002);

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the Trade Team visit;

(c) the number of Agreements/MoUs/treaties etc. signed alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) in what manner Indian trades would get boost from these agreements?

Export of sandstone and granite

60. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries which import sandstone and granite from India;

(b) the value of exports made during the last two years; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to boost the exports of sandstone and granite?

Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka

61. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Sri Lanka have agreed to expand the Free Trade Agreement and propose to include the service sector too in it;

(b) whether it is also a fact that preliminary studies are underway to have a road bridge between the two countries; and

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

Import of leather item from India

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

(a) whether it is a fact that certain countries have decided not to import leather items from India on account of bad treatment given to such cattle while they are on transit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to improve the plight of animals while they are on transit?

Rise in duty draw back

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

(a) whether Government have recently revised the rates of duty drawback on several items;

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

(c) whether Government are aware that the cut in drawback rates for woven and knitted garments would have dampening effect on the export of these items which will receive a severe set back; and

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

Anti-dumping duty on PET products

64. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 12th June, 2002 captioned "US slaps anti-dumping duty on Indian PET products";

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that the proposed move does not hit the export business of the photo-film majors in the country?

Scrutiny of accounts of RRBs

65. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has decided to undertake a thorough scrutiny of the accounts of the regional rural banks;

(b) if so, whether it is to detect whether any of these RRBs had any link with the recent gilts scam spearheaded by Home Trade;

(c) whether SBI-sponsored RRBs in India stands at 30 and they have a total branch network of 2,349 which contributes 16 per cent of the nation-wide RRB branch network;

(d) if so, to what extent the inspection of accounts of RRBs have been checked by the SBI; and

(e) to what extent they have been found in order?

Debt burden of States

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

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

(a) whether the Centre-State fight is building up on rescheduling of State debts and lowering of interest rates;

(b) if so, whether several States are arguing for relief in view of overall softening of interest rates;

(c) whether the total debt burden of the States on the Centre as on March 31, 2002, is touching Rs. 2,47,030 crore;

(d) if so, whether a number of desperate States have already asked the Centre to provide relief on their Central debt liabilities;

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(f) the steps being taken in this regard?

Prime lending rates of banks

67. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) the details of Prime Lending Rates of interest fixed by Reserve Bank of India for Commercial and Cooperative Banks for farming sector;

(b) whether the actual rates charged have ever been verified; and

(c) whether it is a fact that much higher rates are practically charged, if so, what remedial steps have been taken?

New scheme for borrowing from NRIs

68. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are exploring the possibility of tapping the non-resident Indian (NRI) community once again to raise \$5-6 bn through a borrowing on the lines of the Indian Millennium Deposit Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the State Bank of India which arranged the two previous borrowings—The Resurgent India Bonds and the IMDS—has been given the mandate for the fresh borrowing as well;

(c) if so, to what extent this decision has helped Government; and

(d) to what extent it has raised the borrowings from the NRIs?

Scams in Kerala banks

69. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a number of bank frauds and scams in cooperative banks in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of cooperative banks where these scams have been found;

(c) whether RBI unearthed Rs. 20 crores scam in Kerala banks as reported in Economic Times of 28th May, 2002; and

(d) if so, the total amount involved in the scam and what steps are being taken to check the scams and frauds in both nationalised and private banks in the country?

Adequate returns from MIP schemes of U.T.I.

70. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that small investors and pensioners who have invested their money in various Monthly Income Plan (MIP) schemes are not getting adequate returns from the UTI;

(b) whether UTI have declared return of just 5 per cent on MIP (First) and MIP (Second) of the year 2000;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether this return is below the interest of Saving Fund Account and the RBI Bonds; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that adequate return is given to small investors and pensioners by the UTI in future?

Use of International Credit Cards

71. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued guidelines whereby the International Credit Cards can be used for any purpose including the import of items permissible under Exim Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the guidelines issued by the RBI;

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian travellers can use International Credit Cards

and then regularize their spending in foreign exchange abroad on arrival in India; and

(d) if so, the details of the rules and guidelines issued by the RBI in this regard?

Evasion of customs duty by MNCs

72. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some multinational companies producing IMFL have been indulging in under-invoicing and misdeclaration of goods and evaded crores of rupees in customs duty;

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

(c) the action taken against these companies in regard to recovery of customs duty; and

(d) the action taken against the companies and its officials in the matter?

Campaign against tax defaulters

73. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a call has been given to go after tax evaders;

(b) whether the campaign has been planned, if so, the results of the efforts put in during the last three months;

(c) whether it is a fact that all the three revenue departments *i.e.* income tax, excise and custom got intelligence reports regarding assets (cash + in kind) of the senior/middle rung officials, if so, what is the general impression gathered; and

(d) if not, whether Government would ask for such reports; if so, the details thereof?

Financing of Film Industry

74. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 51 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) whether any limit of the loan, period of repayment and securities etc., have been prescribed for financing the films;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of film projects financed by each bank so far in the country?

Reduction in interest rate on institutional credit

75. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an all round trend of reduction in the interest rate on institutional credit;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the details of such trend in the case of credit and loans received by State Government from Central Government and other central agencies under different schemes during the same period?

Electronic clearance system for Income Tax

76. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of interest outflow on account of delayed refund claims in the Income Tax Department in the last three years;

(b) whether clearance through Electronic Clearing System has been implemented in all Commissionerates; and

(c) if not, the progress made in this regard so far?

Maintenance of separate data for loans to women

77. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI had in the recent past advised the Public Sector Banks to maintain a separate data on loans advanced to women;

(b) whether all the Banks have complied with the advice, if not, the details of the defaulting Banks;

(c) the details of loans advanced to women by Banks under Government sponsored schemes after the Reserve Bank of India advice, Bank-wise and Scheme-wise; and

(d) what action is being contemplated against the defaulting Banks?

UTI schemes under tax net

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

(a) whether it is a fact that dividend announced by the Unit Trust of India on its various schemes which were exempted from tax so far would now be subjected to tax;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to withdraw this provision in the interest of small investors with limited income; and

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

NPAs of Gurgaon Gramin Bank

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

(a) whether Gurgaon Gramin Bank has the lowest Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) nationwide and has brought it down to 1.99 per cent in comparison to 8.4 per cent during the last three years;

(b) whether the NPAs of Gramin Banks are even lower than that of State Bank of India;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a variance; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make the other banks to follow the methodology used by Gramin Bank to liquidate their NPAs?

Chairman of Charminar Cooperative Bank

80. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government for removal of Chairman of scam hit Charminar Cooperative Bank and subsequently merging it with some other bank; and

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

Hawala transactions in Mumbai based banks

81. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate has detected that huge hawala sum of

Rs. 336 crores was deposited in four Mumbai-based banks and was transferred within 60 days to accounts for South India-based banks;

(b) if so, whether this was done with the connivance of bank employees;

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

(d) what are the details in this regard?

Devaluation of rupee

82. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of rupee against the US dollar had fallen to all time low in May, 2002;

(b) if so, what was the lowest value of rupee in that month;

(c) what was the value of rupee in May, 2001; and

(d) what action Government have taken to stabilise the value of rupee *vis-a-vis* US dollar?

Global Competitiveness Report

83. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2001-2002, India slips to 57th position in competitiveness ranking as reported in The Hindustan Times dated the 3rd June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the factors responsible for country's competitiveness ranking which slipped to an alarming stage have been assessed and identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

NPA of banks

84. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take for speedy recovery of debts by banks and financial institutions to deal with non-performing assets of over Rs. 1,00,000 crores;

(b) the value of NPA of banks on 31st March, 2000 and the same on 31st March, 2002; and

(c) the number of cases of recovery of debts by banks pending as on 31st March, 2002?

Imported goods under Vigilance Rules

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission has written to the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) to allow valuation of imported goods to be brought under vigilance Rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons adduced by the C.V.C. in support thereof;

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has also raised the matter in its latest report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Widening of Tax-net

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

(a) whether Government are going to introduce new rules to widen the tax-net and plug rampant tax evasion in the country as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 30th May, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the new rules are likely to be put in place?

Financial package for revamping co-operative credit structure

87. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only the States which modernise and align their State co-operatives legislation with the new Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act passed recently by the Parliament will be extended the financial package outlined by the Finance Ministry for revamping of the co-operative credit structure;

(b) if so, the number of States which have taken action on this Act;

(c) the number of States which have been provided financial assistance as required under this law; and

(d) by when all the State Governments are considering to adopt the legislation in this regard?

JPC Probe in Co-operative Banks scam

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

(a) whether the Finance Minister has

been urged to accept the demands for JPC probe in Co-operative Banks scam;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 500 crore scam in treasury operations in Government securities of Co-operative Banks has been referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee for further probe;

(c) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) what are the main reasons for delay in taking this decision?

Rise in production of LPG

89. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of LPG from refineries in the country has risen to the level which is higher than the estimated requirement;

(b) what is the number of household LPG connections together with the number of total families in the country;

(c) whether it is a fact that fairly a large number of families make use of more than only one LPG card, if so, the number of such cases; and

(d) by when, such number of LPG connections will be released to match the number of families in the country?

Bids under new exploration licensing policy

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

(a) whether Government have invited bids for exploration of oil and gas under the new exploration licensing policy;

(b) if so, the locations for which the bids have been invited, State-wise;

(c) the last date of receiving bids; and

(d) the details in this regard?

Increase in prices of petrol and diesel

91. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government announced a rise in the prices of petrol and diesel last month;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have permitted the oil companies to revise the prices of petrol and diesel every fortnight and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether relief is proposed to be given to common man adversely affected by this burden of price hike?

Maintenance of price of petro-products

92. DR. ALLADIP. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the steps taken to prevent hardship to the consumers of petro-products by maintaining price stability for the post administered pricing mechanism environment?

Setting up of auto LPG dispensing stations

93. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has decided to set up 42 auto

LPG dispensing stations in the country during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, whether out of this 16 would be set up in Delhi;

(c) the States where these auto LPG dispensing stations will be set up;

(d) whether any concrete programme of action is being proposed in setting up of these stations throughout the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Prices of petroleum products

94. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of petroleum products are stable even after dismantling of administered pricing mechanism on April 1, 2002; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government would maintain stability on the price front despite increase in world oil prices?

Promotion of Satriya dance

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

(a) the details of grants, ongoing training centres, documentation done, photographic profile prepared, award and scholarship extended to Bharatnatyam, Kathakali, Kuchipudi and Satriya dance during the last three years;

(b) the status of Satriya dance indicating the category in which this dance and art forms are placed for grants, scholarships, training programme and performance within India and abroad; and

(c) the details of various ongoing promotional activities and proposed plan for promotion and propagation of Satriya dance and art form in India and abroad including publication of illustrated photo profile through CCRT?

New tourism policy

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

(a) the main thrusts of the new National Tourism Policy announced in May, 2002;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to give effect to major goals of the tourism policy which would facilitate India to develop as a major tourist destination; and

(c) by when Government would initiate steps to include tourism in the Concurrent List as highlighted in the new policy?

Misuse of funds

97. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that a number of States have not utilised funds for tourism but have mostly misused these funds;

(b) if so, the States and UTs who have misused the Central funds for developing tourism;

(c) the total amount provided to each State;

(d) what action has been taken against them; and

(e) whether Government are considering to have a direct investment for developing tourist spots in these States and UTs in future?

Professional archaeologists in ASI

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had till nineties been headed by a professional archaeologist and with the change, its functioning has been adversely affected;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government now propose to revert to the old practice of the ASI being headed by a well-known archaeologist; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be reverted to the old system?

Project for bank erosion of River Ganga

99. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert committee set up by the Planning Commission has recommended Rs. 927 crore project to take the serious bank erosion problem of the River Ganga;

(b) if so, whether only Rs. 19.68 crore has been approved by the Ministry of Water Resources;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake at least the short-term projects estimated at Rs. 315 crore; and

(d) if so, the time-limit of the project?

NEW DELHI;

The 10th July, 2002

Asadha 19, 1924 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,

Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

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