

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the August 16, 2005/Sravana 25, 1927 (Saka)*

**(Ministries : Civil Aviation; Company Affairs; Finance; Panchayati Raj;  
Petroleum and Natural Gas; Tourism; Water Resources)**

**Total number of questions —155**

#### **Use of secondary airfields**

2194. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh review has been made to assess the available infrastructure and capacity to accommodate all the aircrafts which the domestic airlines have recently ordered to augment their fleets; and

(b) if so, the results thereof, and the details of plans drawn up, if any, to meet the demands for accommodating additional aircrafts, including putting into regular operations some existing secondary airfields which are in disuse or are partially utilized?

#### **Modernisation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal, Mumbai**

2195. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for expansion and modernisation of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Air Terminal in Mumbai on BOT basis, was submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra in April 2004;

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

(c) the progress made so far and at what stage of consideration and approval the matter stands at present;

(d) the reasons for the delay and the cost escalation accrued to the project so far; and

(e) by when, the same is likely to be cleared?

#### **Cancellation of AI's flights**

†2196. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is facing heavy paucity of aircrafts and pilots and on account of this the flights have to be cancelled off and on;

(b) if so, the No. of flights which have been cancelled by the Air India during the last six months;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to get over the paucity of aircrafts and pilots; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Permission for air travel facility to patients**

2197. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some airlines including Indian Airlines do not encourage medical patients from flying in their planes;

(b) whether DGCA has no policy or plans to ensure that all airlines extend the maximum possible assistance to medical patients and old people;

(c) the details of private airlines which have shown a great amount of callousness and brutality in denying people a facility to travel when they are sick; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to inform, warn and caution all airlines that their should be no hurdles to sick or handicapped people from flying on any airlines they choose?

**Issues relating to restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports**

2198. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Law Ministry has been asked to scrutinise documents relating to financial transactions that are to be handed to eight parties shortlisted for restructuring of airports in Delhi and Mumbai ahead of crucial meeting of empowered Group of Ministers;

(b) whether the Ministry of Law has given its clearance;

(c) if so, the details of the same;

(d) whether Group of Ministers have considered these suggestions made by the Law Minister;

(e) if so, by when the final decision will be taken by Group of Ministers in this regard; and

(f) by when work on modernisation of airports will actually start?

**Facilities for domestic passengers at Ahmedabad airport**

†2199. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:  
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers travelled every month from Ahmedabad in Air India, Indian Airlines and private company flights during last five years; and

(b) the details of facilities which are provided by the Airports Authority of India on the airport for the domestic passengers?

**Bagdogra airport as an international airport**

2200. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand to turn Bagdogra airport into an international airport, considering its strategic location;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction on the proposal/demand; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what steps are being taken to develop the airport so that it can serve more people?

#### **Airservices from Raipur**

†2201. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) names of the metropolitan cities of the country for which facility of regular flight has been provided from the capital of Chhattisgarh, Raipur;

(b) the names of the cities for which regular flight has been provided during last three years;

(c) the names of the cities of the State other than the capital Raipur, which have been provided with airtel facilities; and

(d) the details of the request made by State Government and the action taken thereon in this regard?

#### **Enquiry report on Karipur airport incidents**

2202. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in receipt of any petition seeking inquiry in respect of the incident that took place at Karipur airport on the 1st November, 2004;

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon;

(c) whether Government have conducted an inquiry under "The Suppression of Unlawful Act against the Safety of Civil Aviation Act 1982" as demanded in the petition;

(d) if so, the details of the inquiry; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Alliance air service in Delhi-Raipur sector**

†2203. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of daily passengers using alliance air flights in Delhi-Raipur Sector during the last one year;

(b) whether there is any plan for flight extension in this sector keeping in view the increasing number of passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Extension of runway at Silchar airport**

2204. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Task Force constituted in 1998 recommended extension of runways at Silchar, Lilabari and Dibrugarh airport on priority by AAI to a minimum of 7500 feet to enable safe operation of A-320 type aircraft;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Silchar Airport runway has not yet been extended besides others;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when, the extension work is expected to be completed?

#### **Increase in air passenger**

2205. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of private airlines

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

have been permitted to operate within and outside the country;

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

(c) whether as a result, air passengers have increased manifold;

(d) if so, the details in this regard for last three years;

(e) whether the existing infrastructure and facilities at the airports are inadequate to handle the increased air passengers traffic and on account of which the operators as well as the passengers face a lot of hardship; and

(f) if so, how the congestion is proposed to be reduced and passenger convenience enhanced at the airports?

#### **Upgradation of airports in Karnataka**

2206. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sent proposals for establishment of new airports or for upgradation of the existing airports at Mysore, Gulbarga, Hassan, Hampi, Belgaum, etc., in view of the increasing demand for air connectivity to these locations;

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

(c) the current status of the proposals and the likely date by which these proposals would be approved?

#### **Upgradation of Srinagar airport as an international airport**

2207. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to revamp the airports in the country; and

(b) whether the airport at Srinagar would also be brought under the programme making it fit to be declared as an international airport?

#### **Advisors for public offerings of AI and IA**

2208. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed Advisors for the proposed Initial Public Offerings of IA and AI;

(b) the terms of reference given to the advisors;

(c) whether Government are planning to go ahead in one of the routes like Employees stock option plan for divesting the stake;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have any plan to follow any other route other than (c) above; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

#### **New Navigation system**

2209. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are developing a satellite-based navigation system which will help to enhance air safety while allowing more aircrafts to operate in the Indian skies simultaneously;

(b) whether any cooperation is sought from ISRO in preparing the navigation system;

(c) by when, Government are expecting prototype in this system for its demonstration; and

(d) to what extent this would help the flight safely and enhance navigation capability in the Indian airspace?

#### **Shortage of pilots**

2210. SHRIMATISYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines and Air India pilots are quitting for lucrative offers from burgeoning private airline industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Government pilots joined with private airlines till June, 2005; and

(d) whether the civil aviation sector is suffering from acute shortage of pilots, if so, the details thereof?

#### **Revenue from ground handling services**

2211. SHRIMATISYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the details of income month-wise the Indian Airlines is getting after offering its ground handling services to international carriers and domestic private airlines such as Air Deccan, Kingfisher, Spicejet etc.?

#### **Conversion of aircrafts as cargo carriers**

†2212. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines propose to use some of its aircrafts as cargo carriers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for converting these aircrafts as cargo carriers?

#### **Intranet facility at airports**

2213. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of airports in the country which will be provided with Intranet facility;

(b) by when it will be introduced and what would be its advantages; and

(c) the details of airports in Karnataka which will get this facility?

#### **Encroachments around Mumbai airport**

2214. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai airport is surrounded by various types of encroachments; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **NOC applied by IA pilots**

2215. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is currently facing a threat of poaching of its pilots by private carriers with the lure of a bigger pay packet;

(b) whether IA pilots are resorting to pressure tactics by seeking 'No Objection Certificate' from IA management to join a better and rewarding airline and if so, whether sixty-two pilots have sought the NOC so far; and

(c) whether IA is already paying pilots salaries ranging from Rs. 35.00 lakhs to Rs. 70.00 lakhs per annum and if so, whether IA is in a position to match the salary range of the private sector?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Losses to IA on discounted fares**

†2216. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be  
pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines will have to suffer economic loss as a result of making air travel cheaper;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the scheme for compensating the said loss?

**Aircraft-employee ratio**

2217. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be  
pleased to state:

- (a) the Aircraft-employee ratio of Indian Airlines and Air India separately;
- (b) the seat-employee ratio of Indian Airlines and Air India separately;
- (c) the international standards in both the cases; and
- (d) what steps Government are taking to reach to international standards?

**Procedure for CPL**

2218. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be  
pleased to state:

- (a) the number of flying hours a pilot has to complete before getting a Commercial Pilot License (CPL);
- (b) what is the international standard; and
- (c) how it will tackle problem of shortage of pilots?

**Installation of ILS at Lengpuri Airport (Mizoram)**

2219. SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal to install Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Lengpuri Airport, Mizoram so as to minimize frequent cancellation and regular delays of Kolkata-Aizawl-Kolkata flights; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**Expert Committee on regulation of nidhi companies**

2220. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal to set up an expert committee to look into how nidhi companies can be better regulated to ensure protection to depositors;
- (b) if so, the details of such committee;
- (c) whether Government have received any interim report or full report from the Committee;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by Government on the Committee report so far?

**Collection of share money by companies**

†2221. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and names of the

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

companies which have collected the share money of one crore or more from the public by issuing prospectus after taking permission of Government or SEBI;

(b) the names of the companies which have not yet started production work despite having collected the share money; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against them?

**Electronic sale of business information**

2222. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a major ruling, the Authority for Advance Ruling has held that electronic sale of business information by a foreign company to an Indian company is not taxable in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that payment of royalty is taxable under the Income Tax Laws of the country; and

(c) if so, whether the sale of business information constitutes royalty?

**Service tax on retired persons employed by private companies**

2223. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retired Government servants engaged by private companies as consultants are required to pay service tax at the rate of 10 per cent plus education cess of 2 per cent;

(b) if so, the details and reasons of levying service tax on retired Government servants; and

(c) whether Government would consider abolishing service tax on consultation fee earned by retired Government officers and if not, the reasons therefor?

**FDI inflow**

2224. DR. K. MALAISAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figure of FDI flow in the regimes of the previous *vis-a-vis* the present Government, year-wise;

(b) what is the quantum of funds percolated to each State during these two regimes, year-wise;

(c) what is the handicap experienced by India in attracting huge FDI like China; and

(d) what measures can be taken to keep our Corporate Tax Index equivalent to Hong Kong and Singapore?

**Conversion of Punjab State Co-operative Agricultural Development Bank into full fledged Bank**

2225. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab State Co-operative Agricultural Development Bank has made a request to RBI, for allowing its conversion into a full fledged Bank;

(b) if so, the precise request made and the ground adduced in support of their demand;

(c) whether the National Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks' Federation has also demanded that Agriculture Development Banks(ADB) be

converted into full fledged Banks, if so, on what grounds; and

(d) the decision taken in the matter?

#### **Reduction in prices due to VAT**

2226. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State Governments that are keeping away from VAT regime;

(b) whether the VAT system resulted in price reduction and whether it is a fact that interest of consumers are not being protected and prices have not been brought down for most of the commodities, especially drugs;

(c) whether any State Government has urged for a Central legislation under which the States could take action against those who reap unfair profit; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce such legislation, if any?

#### **VRS in Public Sector Banks**

2227. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Public Sector Banks in the country which propose to implement Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for their employees during 2005-06; and

(b) the percentage of the staff that would be offered VRS and the details of other conditions that would be attached thereto by each Public Sector Bank?

#### **Grants to States as aid for natural disasters**

2228. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States are having debt of thousands of crores as on today;

(b) if so, the details of debts for the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the amount of grant provided to States as aid for rehabilitation of victims of natural calamities, flood, drought and tsunami for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise;

(d) the details of fund, if any, provided for rehabilitation of victims of natural calamity but diverted for other purposes, for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and calamity-wise; and

(e) the action taken, if any, to rectify the above?

#### **Lowering of borrowings**

2229. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to keep Government borrowings lower than the budgeted Rs. 1,00,836 crore during 2005-06; and

(b) if so, the progress achieved in this regard so far?

#### **Introduction of new era coin**

2230. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that New Era coins including a Rs. 10 coin, designed by the National Institute of Design (NID) are set to enter the market soon; and

(b) if so, the date of their introduction and other details in this regard?



**Transfer of BALCO shares by  
Sterlite industries**

†2231. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during BALCO disinvestment agreement a condition was laid that the shares can neither be transferred nor converted directly or indirectly for the next three years; and

(b) if so, the detailed grounds on which Sterlite industry has transferred 51 per cent of its share to its private industry named Sterlite Copper Industries;

**FDI in retail sector**

2232. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ICRER and Department of Consumer Affairs recommended for allowing 49 per cent FDI in retail sector;

(b) whether they also suggested for gradual opening up of retail sector so as to enable domestic industry to adjust itself;

(c) whether Government are considering to repeal Essential Commodities Act, since it becomes redundant once the sector is opened for private participation;

(d) whether any study has been conducted as done in China, Brazil and Thailand where retail sector has been opened; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Duty on polyester and acrylic fibres**

2233. SHRI R. K. ANAND : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that man made fibres had to pay no custom duty while polyester and acrylic fibres had to pay 10 per cent duty;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country's present textile and garment export are cotton dominated although there was a higher global demand for polyester products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Loans to small and marginal  
industries**

2234. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for allocation of loans to small and marginal industries during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the amount of loan disbursed during the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the targets fixed for disbursement of loans were not achieved; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Products under uniform tax regime**

†2235. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that VAT Panel is considering to separate diesel and several other products from the uniform tax regime;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the names of products on which VAT is not proposed to be levied on;

(c) whether there is also a proposal for bringing certain products under VAT system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Prepayment scheme for States**

2236. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:  
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any prepayment scheme has been introduced by Governemnt in 2003-04;

(b) if so, what are the aims and objectives of the scheme; and

(c) the details of States that have come forward to avail the facility in the last two years?

#### **Income tax raids on Engineering/ Medical Colleges in Maharashtra**

2237. SHRI AMAR SINGH:  
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income-Tax officials have recently raided some of the Engineering and Medical Colleges in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what are the details of assets or incriminating documents seized in the raids of each college/hospital; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken against the management of concerned colleges?

#### **DTAAs for gaining income overseas**

2238. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:  
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to work out Double Tax Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) with different countries in a move that would reduce the tax burden on Indians gaining income overseas through professional services and investments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of existing DTAAs that we have with different countries and the details of those which are most beneficial to Indians?

#### **World Bank loan for earthquake rehabilitation work**

2239. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat have made repeated requests for favourable terms for the loans received from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for earthquake rehabilitation work;

(b) if so, what is the decision of Government on reducing the interest burden of the earthquake loan which was a calamity of grave magnitude;

(c) whether the overall policy framework for loans extended for reconstruction work after major disaster is proposed to be re-examined; and

(d) if so, whether that benefit would be extended to Gujarat earthquake affected areas?

**Settlement of loans by State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur**

†2240. PROF. R. B. S. VARMA:  
DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH  
LODHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of write-off cases disposed of by the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur is not settling the loans of small scale entrepreneurs;

(c) whether the branches of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur situated in district Alwar in Rajasthan are resorting to forceful settlement of the loans of the small scale entrepreneurs who are not in a position to repay the debts; and

(d) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

**Non-existence of private insurance of livestock**

†2241. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:  
DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH  
LODHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not having private insurance of livestock in the country;

(b) the number of cases of death and theft of livestock under consideration of Insurance companies;

(c) whether it is a fact that the sum

insured against theft of livestock is not being paid by Insurance companies in district Bulandshahar of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the number of cases pending with Insurance companies in district Bulandshahar, UP and by when the payment thereof is likely to be made?

**NPA of corporate houses**

2242. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:  
SHRI R. K. ANAND:  
SHRI PRASANTA  
CHATTERJEE:  
SHRI JANESHWAR  
MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the corporate houses from whom NPA worth about Rs. 96,000 crores are due as disclosed by All India Bank Employees Associations (AIBEA);

(b) the reasons for not recovering money from these corporate houses and measures adopted for speedy recovery of money from them;

(c) the details of the defaulter companies who were again sanctioned loan;

(d) whether it is a fact that All India Bank Employees Federation has demanded enactment of a stringent law to recover outstanding loans of Nationalised Banks by big business houses and other big borrowers; and

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

**Bhartiya Swarn Bank**

†2243. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to launch Bhartiya Swarn Bank;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Tax exemptions to institutions engaged in research**

2244. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) In what manner research activities are supported by granting tax exemption to institutions/bodies engaged in research under clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of Section 35 of the Income Tax Act 1961, read with Rule 6 of the Income Tax rules, 1962;

(b) if so, the names of the institutions which have been granted this exemption;

(c) the names of the institutions whose cases are pending with the CBDT; and

(d) by when notifications for the pending cases are likely to be issued so that research activity receives encouragement?

**Restructuring of loans to farmers**

2245. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to restructure/waive-off agricultural loan provided to farmers and to reduce the interest rate of agricultural loans to farmers in the wake of flood/drought conditions prevailing in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to implement the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Taxation of LIC maturity**

†2246. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to impose tax on PPF, L.I.C. on their maturity after reconsidering the existing provision of giving relaxation in income tax to the taxpayers on these policies;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that investment is likely to be adversely affected as the tax payers would not make investment due to the changes in tax system; and

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

**Interest rate of PPF deposits**

2247. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that interest rate on PPF deposits for the year 2002-03 onwards has been decided;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not deciding the date before the commencement of the relevant financial year?

**Revamping of stamp paper procurement system**

2248. DR. KARAN SINGH:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have comprehensively revamped stamp paper

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

procurement system by institutionalizing a number of security features;

(b) if so, whether the Centre has done away with the practice of taking orders on a quarterly basis;

(c) whether Government have now decided and has asked States to place orders for three years with security prices;

(d) if so, what are other steps taken to revamp issuing norms for stamp paper; and

(e) to what extent this will check Telgi scam on stamp paper in future?

**Visit of Intelligence Officials to US to combat smuggling of counterfeit currency**

2249. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of Indian Intelligence Officials visited the US for talks on combating counterfeit currency smuggled into and in circulation in the country;

(b) whether any agreement was reached as a result thereof for adoption of ways and means to prevent the smuggling and circulation of counterfeit currency and for joint efforts and co-operation to fight out the menace; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken and being taken in the light thereof?

**Price of mineral water**

†2250. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether water is costlier than milk in the name of mineral water, due to which common man cannot buy mineral water;

(b) whether Government agree that getting clean drinking water is the fundamental right of each and every citizen of the country and to make it available;

(c) whether mineral water available in bottles or containers in the market is free from all types of pollution and completely safe for the health;

(d) whether Government feel that after exempting the mineral water from all the duties, its price should be fixed in such a way that every common man can use it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Caution against volatility of Share Market**

2251. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI C. RAMA-  
CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent public interview he is said to have cautioned people about the volatility of the Share Market;

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

(c) whether he is reported to have also observed that he would be concerned if sensex crossed the 8000 point limit and if so, the implication thereof?

**Assistance booth for tax payers**

†2252. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to setup an assistance booth for providing all

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the facilities at a single window to major tax payers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

**Expansion of Rural Industries Programme by SIDBI**

2253. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India propose to expand the Rural Industries Programme (RIP) to all the districts of the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the agency through which this programme will be implemented; and

(d) the total financial assistance/loans provided by SIDBI to Kerala during the last three years?

**Import of medical equipment**

2254. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 5047 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th May, 2005 and State:

(a) whether the condition that refurbished medical equipment imported into the country should not be more than ten years old has been waived;

(b) if so, whether the time frame has been removed and any second hand medical equipment can be freely imported;

(c) if not, the time-frame indicated in the rules;

(d) whether this has been replaced by a condition that the residual functional life

of the equipment should be at least ten years; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure/cross check that the residual life is correctly shown by the chartered engineers so that India does not become a dumping ground of obsolete medical equipments?

**Shortfall in collection of corporate and Income Tax**

2255. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortfall of about 40 per cent in the collection of corporate and personal Income Tax during the year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure to achieve targets fixed; and

(c) the steps taken to recover tax dues from corporate houses?

**AMFI Mutual Fund Distributors test**

2256. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been made mandatory for agents to pass AMFI Mutual Fund Distributors test conducted by NSE otherwise their agency will be terminated;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the trial commission of agents have been stopped by Unit Trust of India for those who could not pass the prescribed test, if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to instruct the UTI to release the commission immediately?

**Closing of banks in rural areas**

2257. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the introduction of reforms process, Public Sector Banks have reduced their branches in rural areas, on the ground that such branches had accumulated non-performing assets due to their inability to recover loans;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for non-recovery of NPAs and why the rural clients should suffer for lack of efforts on the part of banks for non-recovery of NPAs;

(c) whether the banks so closed will be reopened; and

(d) if not, how Government propose to provide banking facilities in such areas?

**Lowering of revenue deficit**

2258. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revenue deficit has been brought down by 19 per cent or about Rs. 18,500 crore to Rs. 79,558 crore if so, how Government propose to wipe out its revenue deficit by 2008-09 as is its avowed aim;

(b) whether the Kelkar Task Force's blue-print for improving direct tax collection and reducing leakages, calling for simpler procedures and fewer exemptions will be implemented; and

(c) whether Government propose to correct imbalance on expenditure side as done on exemption side by scrapping Section 80 and 80L of Income Tax Act?

**Collection of revenue**

†2259. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the changes noticed in collection of revenue during first three months after the implementation of VAT;

(b) whether figures in this regard have been submitted by the States where VAT is in force;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any discussion has been held with the States which have not implemented VAT; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Island special allowance**

2260. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Island special allowance is given to the Central Government employees in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a percentage of basic pay without any maximum limit;

(b) whether the officers/employees of Nationalized Banks are getting the Island special allowance with the maximum limit of Rs. 1500/- per month; and

(c) what are the reasons for this limit in case of banks and by when Government propose to remove it?

**List of major bank defaulters**

2261. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released a list of the Capital's major bank loan defaulters recently;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of such defaulters along with the amount involved, Bank-wise;

(c) whether Government have received any request from the Delhi State Bank Employees' Federation recently to make willful default a criminal offence and confiscate the personal assets of defaulters;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to collect the amount from defaulters?

#### **False billing of credit card holders in Karnataka**

2262. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there have been a large number of complaints by the credit card holders of Karnataka regarding excess of false billing etc.; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to entrust Banking Ombudsman to address such complaints?

#### **Cases pending with DRT**

2263. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were 33,622 cases pending with DRT involving Rs. 1,05,517 crores as on 31st December, 2002, due to some loop-holes in DRT Act and in the functioning of DRT;

(b) if not, the actual number of cases pending with DRT and the total amount involved in all those cases and the reasons for accumulation of arrears without being recovered;

(c) the measures and action taken by

Government to plug loop-holes in the DRT Act and to improve functioning of DRT; and

(d) the details of arrears of debts as on 31st December, 2002 recovered through DRT till date?

#### **Review of disinvestment of companies**

2264. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to review the disinvestment of a number of companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number thereof; and

(c) the number of loss making companies closed during the last one year?

#### **Ratings for SSI units**

2265. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India had urged the banks to honour the ratings being assigned to Small Scale Industrial Units while disbursing credit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ratings will infuse a sense of financial and operational discipline in the SSIs?

#### **Excise duty on candle manufacturing units**

2266. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are levying 16 per cent excise duty on candle manufacturing units ignoring the welfare of hundreds of poor engaged in this industry and the fact that candles are consumed



mostly by slum dwellers and for religious activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to exempt candles from excise duty, at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Merger of DA with basic pay**

2267. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had merged the 50 per cent DA with basic pay *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed move would also be implemented in Public Sector Undertakings, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **World Bank loans to Gujarat**

2268. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of World Bank and Asian Development Bank assistance received by Gujarat Government during recent flood time;

(b) whether the funds released by the World Bank and ADB have been utilised for rehabilitation of flood affected areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Losses incurred by District Co-operative banks in Gujarat**

2269. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of district Co-operative banks in Gujarat;

(b) the detailed amount of loss/profit incurred by the banks during the last two years, bank-wise;

(c) whether Government are aware of the irregularities in functioning of these banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon, bank-wise?

#### **Collection of fringe benefit tax**

2270. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount realised in respect of fringe benefit tax and cash transaction tax respectively during the first quarter of the current financial year;

(b) whether the collections of cash transaction tax during the above period is negligible whereas it involves enormous work which does not commensurate with the labour and manpower employed in collection etc.; and

(c) whether Government propose to do away or review with this tax and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Committee for development of Corporate bond market**

2271. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Committee under Shri R.H. Patil, to draw up a policy to develop the Corporate bond market;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee; and

(c) whether Government propose to amend the definition of securities under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 to provide a legal framework for trading of

Securitized debt including mortgage backed debt?

**Assistance to poor people in rural areas by NABARD**

2272. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the programmes and schemes operated by NABARD for providing assistance to the poor people in the rural areas;

(b) the number of people benefited by NABARD's programmes in Maharashtra during the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for providing more assistance to the rural people particularly in Maharashtra?

**Subsidy on items**

2273. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of items in which Government have allowed subsidy during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the details of subsidy amount given, item-wise during the last three years, year-wise?

**Levy of cess on domestic tourists**

2274. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to levy cess on domestic tourists visiting foreign countries; and

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

**Insurance cover to vehicles plying to J&K**

2275. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Insurance companies, particularly the four General Insurance Companies under Government ownership, are refusing to continue insurance cover for vehicles, both carrying passengers and cargo, when plying to Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have approved the pleas, if any, of these Insurance companies; if so, the rationale therefor; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to enforce continuation of insurance cover by all Insurance companies operating in the country for vehicles all over India uniformly?

**Increase on pension liabilities**

2276. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent survey done on Indian retirement earnings and savings by the Centre for monitoring Indian economy estimates Government's current-pension liabilities at a whopping Rs. 1.7 trillion;

(b) if so, to what percentage of GDP this liability has now jumped up to; and

(c) whether it is a fact that if Government relents on its New Pension System which does not add up to pension liabilities further, the debt GDP ratio could become unmanageable?

#### **Tax exemption to rental income**

2277. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to exempt rental income for the purpose of Income Tax in order to boost housing activity in the country;

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

(c) by when it is likely to materialise?

#### **Decline in growth rate of agriculture**

2278. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate in agriculture sector during the past five years (2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05);

(b) how does above growth rate compare with other sectors, during that period, sector-wise;

(c) what are the reasons for sharp decline in growth rate in agriculture sector, during 2004-05; and

(d) what steps Government intends to take, to improve the situation?

#### **Under invoicing by drug companies**

2279. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending with Government against drug companies for over/under-invoicing;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of such companies and the amount of duties and loss of Foreign Exchange due to over/under-invoicing for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, case-wise;

(c) the amount realised due to regularisation of such financial irregularities for 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, company-wise;

(d) the reasons for delay if any, in deciding these cases;

(e) the remedial measures taken by Government for timely settlement of such cases; and

(f) the results obtained thereon?

#### **Review of functioning of Panchayati Raj institutions**

2280. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review of the functioning of the Panchayati Raj institutions, with particular reference to utilisation of authorities devolved to the respective tiers of the institution, *vis-a-vis* those envisaged in the Law, across the country;

(b) if so, the salient findings thereof especially highlighting the weak-spots and loopholes, if any, which might have been found to be hindering better realisation of the objectives of the institutions, State-wise; and

(c) the measures initiated, if any, to facilitate improvement of the prevailing situations?

#### **Devolution of powers to Panchayat**

2281. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether devolution of powers to the panchayat bodies under 73rd amendment to the Constitution of India is being monitored by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of the powers devolved upon various panchayat bodies by the State Governments as per the list of items mentioned in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution;

(c) whether Government propose to make devolution fully or partly mandatory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Implementation of constitutional provisions by Panchayats**

2282. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States have implemented the provisions of the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution of India regarding devolution of power to the Panchayats under the three tier development administration system;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the same; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to see that all the States implement the provisions?

#### **Financial and administrative powers for Panchayati Raj institutions**

†2283. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures being taken to equip the Panchayati Raj institutions in the country with financial and administrative powers;

(b) whether measures taken in the past have yielded positive results, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he has recently made visits to review the working of different institutions of the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to solve the problems informed by the representatives of these institutions?

#### **Violation of democracy in Panchayats**

2284. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a national public hearing exposes the blatant violation of democracy in the panchayats in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere; and

(b) what measures Government propose to take to streamline the functioning keeping in view the urgency in the matter?

#### **Working of Panchayati Raj Institutions**

†2285. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to make the Panchayati Raj institutions more effective, a conference of their representatives was held recently;

(b) if so, the major demands and suggestions put forth by the representatives during the discussion held therein;

(c) the reaction of Government to those demands and suggestions; and

(d) the financial and administrative rights which are proposed to be offered to streamline these institutions?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**CNG link across the country**

†2286. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in the country provided with the facility of CNG link and supply and since when the same has been provided;

(b) the locations in the said States where this facility has been provided, the number and nature of the industries located there; and

(c) by when the facility of CNG link will be provided to Bhiwari Industrial Area in Rajasthan?

**New oil pricing policy**

2287. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

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

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

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

(d) whether Government propose to formulate any new oil pricing to safeguard interest of consumers in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Response to fifth round of NELP**

2288. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the fifth round of the New Exploration Licensing Programme (NELP) had an unprecedented response;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as many as 48 foreign and Indian companies had made bid for 20 oil and gas blocks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**New oil reserve in Rajasthan**

†2289. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a new reserve of 2.5 billion barrels of oil has recently been found in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total reserve of oil so far found in the country including the said reserve;

(d) what has been the average production of domestic oil in the country during last three years; and

(e) the reasons for increasing dependance to import oil to meet our requirement despite availability of indigenous oil reserves?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Profit earned by oil research companies**

†2290. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that companies engaged in research, production and processing field in the oil sector are earning profits while the companies selling finished products to the retailers are incurring losses;

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

(c) the profits earned in the first quarter of the financial year, 2005-06 by the public companies engaged in research, production and processing works and the losses incurred in the above-said period by the companies selling products in retail market?

**Availability of ethanol**

†2291. DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether ethanol is available for mixing in petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the annual quantity of availability of this substance on an average in the country;

(c) whether it can be utilized by mixing in petrol and diesel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the ethanol mixed petrol is considered to be made available to the consumers in the country?

**Profit earned by crude oil processing industries**

†2292. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the profit earned by crude oil processing industries of public as well as private sector is increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the profit earned on oil refinement by these companies during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 separately; and

(c) the quantity of oil refined by these companies during the said period?

**Profit earned by ONGC**

†2293. DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:  
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC, a public sector company has earned a profit of Rs. 3318 crores during the first quarter from April to June of the year, 2005-06, which is more than Rs. 2308.20 crores as compared to the corresponding period of previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the company has earned this profit without enhancing their production of crude oil and gas; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Sharing burden of under recoveries  
by oil PSUs**

2294. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR  
SANGHI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 915 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd August, 2005 and state:

(a) whether his Ministry is in consultation with ONG Corporation, Oil India Ltd., Gas Authority of India Ltd. and other private companies over sharing the burden of under-recoveries; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the discussions held and to what extent they have agreed?

**Purchase of crude from Israel**

2295. DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:  
SHRI MOOLCHAND  
MEENA:

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

(a) whether India propose to diversify its sources of crude supplies by using an Israeli pipeline to access crude oil from the Central Asia and Caspian Sea region to feed its fuel needs;

(b) if so, whether any agreement between India and Israel has been reached;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Russia had also proposed to use the Israeli pipeline for export of oil to Asia?

**New policy on allotment of retail  
outlets**

2296. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS  
BAL APTE:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) the total number of diesel/petrol retail outlets allotted in the country during 2004 and 2005, State/Union Territory-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to formulate a new policy for allotment of petrol retail outlets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Benami allotments in reserved  
categories**

2297. SHRIMATI KAMLA  
MANHAR:  
SHRI DHARAM PAL  
SABHARWAL:

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

(a) whether Government have received any complaints against some rich and influential persons of general category for having got benami allotment of petrol pumps and LPG agencies actually earmarked for SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the details of such complaints, State-wise, particularly from Punjab;

(c) the action taken against the persons who got such benami allotments in their names and the Oil Marketing Companies which made these benami allotments, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken to stop such benami allotments of petrol pumps/LPG agencies initially allotted to SCs/STs?

**IOC's interest in overseas oil refineries**

2298. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) proposes to buy a Turkish refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether IOC has also submitted an expression of interest in other State-owned refineries abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**National Mission on Bio-diesel**

2299. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rising oil prices and uncertainties caused by geo-political instability are the threats to import dependant countries like India with the possibilities of economic collapse;

(b) while welcoming the move of Government to go for National Mission on Bio-diesel, what are the other efforts taken to encourage the States to go for cultivation of Jatropha curcas, as the issue of energy security had to be given top priority; and

(c) the States which are pretty serious of this process and what are the varied measures and assistance given to such States?

**Demand for petrol and diesel in Kerala**

2300. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public

Sector Oil Companies allotted a large number of petrol outlets in Kerala during the last three years;

(b) whether these oil companies made any study of the total demand of petrol and diesel in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what was the annual increase in sales of petrol and diesel by these oil companies in Kerala during the last three years?

**LPG filling stations in Bangalore**

2301. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG filling stations in Bangalore City;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government had planned to set up 34 LPG filling stations;

(c) what is the actual requirement of LPG filling stations required considering the number of vehicles in Bangalore; and

(d) what is the role of various oil companies in this regard?

**Supply of naptha to power stations**

2302. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of naptha supplied for power generation will be considerably high from July, 2005 onwards;

(b) if so, the details including total quantity of naptha and the cost of fuel supplied to five stations of Kerala located at Brahmapuram, Kozhikode, Kayamkulam, Kasarkode and Kochi for power generation during 2004-05 and the cost of naptha in the month of July, 2005 onwards, category-wise;



(c) whether steps will be taken to provide Naptha at an affordable administered rate till LNG is made available for power generation to these stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Promotion of PNG**

2303. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that eco-friendly Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is cheaper than LPG cylinder;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to make it available for house-hold; and

(c) what steps are being taken to make PNG available to other States where it is not available?

#### **Promotion of battery driven bus**

†2304. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item where it has been stated that IIT Delhi has invented a battery driven bus;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to permit the commercial use of this bus; and

(c) what is the view of the Ministry regarding this bus?

#### **Review of blocks under NELP-V**

2305. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be

pleased to state:

(a) whether a review has been sought on entire evaluation process of two blocks *i.e.* Block-D-3 and Block-6 in KG under NELP-V;

(b) if so, whether a review is being done; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Expenditure on advertisements**

2306. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by the public sector oil companies on advertisements of their products during the last three years?

#### **Accident at exploration sites of ONGC**

2307. SHRI T.T.V.DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fire accidents at oil exploration sites of ONGC, both off shore and on shore, during the last three years with the reasons for each;

(b) the details of loss of human lives and property in each of these incidents; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid such fire accidents in the future?

#### **Hike in price of gas**

2308. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers in respect of gas price hike has submitted its recommendations; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) by when the Central Government will decide on this matter?

#### **Recognition of workers' union**

2309. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the workers and employees working in Indian Oil Corporation (Assam Oil Division) have demanded recognition of union through secret ballot;

(b) whether his Ministry has received individually signed mass petitions from workers in this respect; and

(c) if so, the response of Government thereto?

#### **Allocation of Kerosene to Chhattisgarh**

†2310. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which allotment of Kerosene oil of Public Distribution System is made to States;

(b) whether Kerosene oil is being allotted to the States on prescribed norms if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that less Kerosene oil is being allotted to Chhattisgarh as compared to other States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) when the State of Chhattisgarh had demanded to increase the Kerosene allotment and the action taken by Government in this regard so far?

#### **Government's control over allotment of dealership**

†2311. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil marketing companies select dealers and distributorship under their guidance;

(b) the mode of Government control over them; and

(c) the details of the system evolved by Government so that in the absence of control, corruption and any thing against public interest should not take place?

#### **Subsidy on domestic LPG**

2312. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to do away with the subsidy on domestic LPG in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will consider continuing the subsidy on domestic LPG in view of the consumers who also comprise of middle class and lower middle class people?

#### **Complaints on allotment of petrol pumps**

†2313. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petroleum companies against whom complaints of irregularity in allotment of petrol pumps were received by Government during last three years, State-wise;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the action taken by Government on the complaints received and the number of officers found guilty therein;

(c) the policy regarding the allotment of petrol pump by the companies;

(d) whether in view of the complaints received, Government are contemplating to make the petrol pump allotment policy more transparent; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Risk involved in Indo-Iran Pipeline Project**

2314. SHRI MANOJ  
BHATTACHARYA:  
DR. ALLADI P.  
RAJKUMAR:  
SHRI C. RAMA-  
CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed his apprehension about the risk in the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipe line; and

(b) if so, what are those risk involved and how the Government proposes to overcome them?

**Development of tourism in Rajasthan**

2315. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists both domestic and foreign tourists who visited Rajasthan, during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(b) the status of Rajasthan in the country from tourism point of view;

(c) the steps being taken by the Central

Government in view of its tourism potential;

(d) the amount provided to the State Government for tourism sector during the last three years;

(e) whether any proposal of State Government to boost its tourist inflow is pending consideration with Central Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether Government have formulated any scheme and programme to develop tourism in the State of Rajasthan?

**Developments of tourist spots in Chikmanglur district**

2316. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the important places identified by the Tourism Department in Chikmanglur district in Karnataka for tourism development;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up a ropeway at Kemangundi Hills; and

(c) whether there has been comprehensive package by the Central Government for development of tourist spots in Chikmanglur district?

**Inclusion of Chitrakoot in international tourism map**

2317. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced to include Chitrakoot, which had been a Karambhoomi of God Ram in olden days, in India's International Tourist Map;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard and by when it is likely to be practically implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Private and public investments in tourism sector**

†2318. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a new scheme for increasing private and public investments in tourism sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target has been fixed by Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**New National Tourism Policy**

†2319. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism is an important source of revenue generation and Government have announced a new National Tourism Policy for this purpose; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the action taken by Government in this regard?

**Development of tourism in Lucknow**

†2320. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for development of tourism in Lucknow;

(b) whether the State Government have forwarded any proposals/estimates in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action taken by Government on the said plans/works of the State Government?

**Development of Buddhist circuit in Orissa**

2321. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa has drawn up an ambitious project to develop the Buddhist circuit in the State to attract tourists;

(b) whether the State Government has asked for some help from the Centre to achieve the objective; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with an action plan of the Centre to help the State to exploit the potential in tourism industry?

**Development of Yatradham Somnath**

†2322. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:  
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the development of Yatradham Somnath; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Cultural and religious fairs in Uttaranchal**

†2323. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Uttaranchal conducts a number of

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

conventional fairs of cultural-religious significance every year which have a vast potential of attracting domestic and foreign tourists;

(b) if so, whether economic assistance is being extended to State Government for conservations of these fairs and to provide more facilities therefor; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Pending proposals from Madhya Pradesh**

†2324. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals forwarded by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have been pending with the Central Government for clearance since long;

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

(c) by when these proposals would be cleared by Government?

#### **Target for foreign tourists**

2325. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been upward growth in the tourist arrivals during the last three years;

(b) the comparative figures for these and the amount of foreign exchange earned by the tourism industry during each of the last three financial years, year-wise;

(c) what is the target fixed for the current financial year; and

(d) what has been the achievement made so far?

#### **Development of Mysore**

2326. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared a Rs. 5 crore proposal to develop Mysore, if so, by when the amount is likely to be released;

(b) whether there is any proposal to bring Mysore, Coorg, Chamarajnagar and Mandya under one Tourism circuit; and

(c) if so, by when this is likely to take effect?

#### **Development of places of tourist interest in Maharashtra and Punjab**

2327. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments of Maharashtra and Punjab have requested the Centre to clear/sanction certain proposals pertaining to places of tourist interest which are pending for the last three years;

(b) what was the number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited Maharashtra and Punjab during 2003-04 in comparison to 2004-05, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) by when, Central Government are likely to sanction the above proposals so as to enable State Governments of Maharashtra and Punjab to take up works early next year?

#### **Impact of dual citizenship law on tourism**

2328. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of foreign tourists to India after enactment of the Dual Citizenship Law in 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to attract foreign citizens of Indian Origin to visit India?

**Impact of Incredible India Campaign on tourist inflow**

2329. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the Incredible India Programme has resulted in higher number of tourist inflows since the time the campaign was launched;

(b) whether Government have done any disaggregated analysis on the feed back received from tourists who have visited India after the campaign was launched;

(c) the areas where tourist inflow has increased essentially because of the "Incredible India" campaign; and

(d) the quantum of money which has been spent on the campaign so far?

**Loans for tourism infrastructure**

2330. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank/Asian Development Bank (ADB) provides loans or financial grants for tourism development in India;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes availed by India during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have any plan to seek financial assistance from international financial bodies for creation of world-class tourism infrastructure in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Improvement of tourist facilities at Hemkunt Sahib**

2331. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plans to improve facilities at the most popular tourist destination Hemkunt Sahib in Uttaranchal and what is the budget allocated for this destination and also the other actions taken to develop and promote this place; and

(b) the number of persons visiting this place and how many of them are from abroad?

**Promotion of tourism in Punjab**

2332. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what new initiatives and marketing strategies have been formulated by Government for promotion of tourism during 2005-06 in Punjab;

(b) the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the number of tourists expected in Punjab during the said period?

**Allocation of funds for tourism in Tamil Nadu**

2333. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds allocated for the development of tourism in the country for the Tenth Plan period;

(b) the amount actually allocated in the Tenth Plan so far, State-wise; and

(c) whether the allocation for developing tourism in Tamil Nadu will be increased in view of the tourism potential in the State?

**Assistance to J and K State for promotion of tourism**

2334. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kashmir is witnessing an unprecedented inflow of domestic and foreign tourists this year;

(b) the number of tourists expected to visit Kashmir this year;

(c) the nature of assistance provided to Jammu and Kashmir State to improve the tourism; and

(d) the foreign exchange likely to be earned as a result thereof?

**Setting up of medical centres to attract foreign tourists**

2335. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of popularity of Indian medical system resorts and treatment centres among foreign tourists;

(b) whether her Ministry has taken or propose to take up with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to set up more treatment centres in various parts of the country to boost tourism;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Grant to States for water-shed programmes**

2336. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view of the worsening water crisis, the Centre has decided to focus on availability, sustainability and quality of drinking water;

(b) whether worried over depleting ground water level the Government has also decided to take up water-shed programmes;

(c) if so, what are details of programmes that are being undertaken and whether Centre would double grant to Rs. 208 crores this year to various States for augmenting drinking water supply;

(d) what is total amount earmarked for Andhra Pradesh and others; and

(e) by when this scheme is likely to be fully implemented?

**Completion of river linking projects in Tamil Nadu**

2337. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made with regard to rivers linking project, till date in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the amount spent on the project till date; and

(c) by when, the entire work to linking of rivers is likely to be completed?

**National fund for rain water harvesting**

†2338. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any Master Plan with 24,500 crore rupees for rain harvesting and refilling the ground water artificially thereby throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government so far in this regard;

(d) whether Government are considering to set up a National fund for implementation of this ambitious project, in cooperation with private sector/NRIs/Industrial Groups;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, whether Government would prepare a time-bound plan for execution of this ambitious plan?

**Completion of irrigation projects**

2339. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of spending huge public money, a large number of irrigation projects are still incomplete;

(b) if so, the details of such irrigation projects, State-wise;

(c) the year in which these projects were started;

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

(e) the steps taken by Government to complete these projects?

**New irrigation projects**

2340. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start any new irrigation projects to provide irrigation facilities to farmers;

(b) if so, the extent to which the problem of farmers is likely to be mitigated as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have announced any package for farmers of Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Study on underground water resources**

2341. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has found a vast subterranean water body of ground water in the belt around the upper Ganga canal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any feasibility study has been conducted to check the quantity and quality of this vast underground water resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the work in this direction is likely to be started?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



### **Expert Report on Baglihar**

2342. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the neutral expert, Prof. Raymond Lafitte appointed to give opinion on Baglihar has submitted his report;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan's request to stop work on the project by India has been rejected;

(c) what are the real technical problems that are the bone of contention between India and Pakistan on Baglihar; and

(d) the details of provisions that Pakistan claim are, being violated by India?

### **Use of flood water for drinking or irrigation purpose**

†2343. SHRI DHARAM PAL  
SABHARWAL:  
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several States face either flood or flood like situation every year while several other States face drought or dearth of water;

(b) if so, whether Government would make a policy to meet the shortage of water in drought hit States by bringing water from the States facing flood like situation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering seriously to make proper use of the flood water for drinking or irrigation purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Assessment of ground water resources**

2344. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN:  
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per the National Water Resources Policy 2002, the ground water resources of the entire country has been assessed;

(b) if so, the result thereof;

(c) whether Government plan to use the updated information for ensuring conservation and sustainability in the use of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Loan from Japan for irrigation**

2345. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Japan has provided loan assistance to various States/UTs for improving the present irrigation system of farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of disbursement of loan assistance provided to States so far alongwith the names of schemes?

### **Completion of incomplete dams**

2346. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps so far taken by Government for early completion of incomplete dams; and

(b) the time schedule fixed to complete these dams in the country?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Financial assistance for irrigation projects in Uttar Pradesh**

‡2347. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irrigation works are pending incomplete in a large number in Uttar Pradesh due to non-receipt of necessary financial aid;

(b) if so, the details of such pending irrigation projects and escalation in their cost;

(c) whether any special financial assistance is being provided to complete these projects on priority basis;

(d) the details of the additional irrigational facilities created therefrom;

(e) if so, the amount of assistance utilized by the State Government during the year 1996-97; and

(f) the details of the Central assistance to be provided to the State to complete these irrigational projects during the current year?

**Revival of bawris and other waterways**

2348. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of traditional water bawris becoming dry and whether his Ministry has done any study of these bawris;

(b) what steps have been taken to revive these lakes, taals, bawris and waterways; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remove encroachments from these bawris and lakes?

NEW DELHI;  
The 10th August, 2005  
Sravana 19, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
Secretary-General.

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‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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