

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the December 16, 2003/Agrahayana 25, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 155

Hassle-free air travel

1388. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
take steps to ensure hassle-free and more
pleasant air travel;

(b) if so, the details of this customer-
friendly project; and

(c) the initiatives of the aviation
industry to control losses and regain its lost
prominence?

Facilities at Dabolim Airport

1389. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) what slots are currently available
for civilian flights landing and taking off
from Dabolim Airport and out of these,
which slots are available throughout the
week;

(b) the number of passengers landing
and taking off each year from Dabolim
during the last three years;

(c) whether the airport facilities at
Dabolim are considered adequate for
current and potential enhanced load of
passengers and cargo; and

(d) whether Government are
considering the possibility of permitting
international flights (other than charter
flights) to land at the Dabolim Airport?

**Designated air routes
for helicopters**

1390. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the
Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal
has been formulated to chart out
designated air routes for helicopters,
particularly during their take off and
landing, so as to eliminate their queue up
at airports and/or mid air hovering on the
taxiway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with its
present status?

Delay in privatisation of civil aviation sector

1391. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that process of privatisation in civil aviation sector has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the progress made in this regard;

(d) whether any specific time-frame has been fixed for the completion of process; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken in this regard?

Permission for foreign tourist charter flights

1392. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow foreign tourist charter flights on almost all the major airports;

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

(c) what other steps are in the pipeline to attract more foreign tourists?

Bangalore International Airport Project

1393. SHRI M.V. RAJA-
SEKHARAN:
SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the stage of progress on international airport at Devanahalli, Bangalore;

(b) by when the actual work of the airport will start;

(c) what is the original estimated cost of the airport project; and

(d) what is the present estimated cost of the project?

Purchase of smaller aircrafts by AI

1394. SHRI A. VIJAYA-RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India decided to buy smaller aircrafts, especially 146 seater, a class of aircraft in tune with Indian Airlines requirements;

(b) if so, the details including number and the total amount proposed to spent for the purchase;

(c) whether the decision to buy smaller aircrafts will result in the competition with Indian Airlines in the light of the "open sky policy"; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Development of Kolkata as a regional hub

1395. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government and its national carriers (Air India and Indian Airlines) are gearing up to take advantage of the opportunities emanating from open sky policy with countries of ASEAN;

(b) if so, whether Kolkata Airport is sought to be developed as a regional hub in this context;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Expansion of Indian Airlines Airport Services Ltd.

1396. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved fresh investment and expansion of Indian Airlines Airport Services Ltd., a subsidiary of Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the purpose for investment and whether the said business plan has been approved by the Board of Indian Airlines?

Management of airports

1397. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any modernization plans have been envisaged to make airports world class in view of the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the management of the airports in the country;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard so far;

(c) which airports are being taken up for modernization and whether Bangalore Airport is also one of them;

(d) how the proposed modernization is going to be financed;

(e) whether private sector is being invited to participate in the venture; and

(f) what is the estimated expenditure involved and how long it would take to complete the projects?

Display of advertisements on aircrafts

† 1398. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the special

permission for displaying the advertisements on the body of the plane has been given by his Ministry to Deccan Airlines;

(b) if so, on what conditions;

(c) whether his Ministry is going to give the permission of displaying advertisements to more private or public sectors airlines; and

(d) if so, the names of such companies?

Opening of military air base for civilian traffic

1399. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have planned to selectively open up air space reserved for IAF for use by civil flights;

(b) whether Government have taken into consideration all safety and security issues involved in this move before granting permission;

(c) whether Government have identified the air spaces which are being opened up for civil use; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Airports in Maharashtra

1400. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in Maharashtra and the number of those which are functional;

(b) the number and names of airports being upgraded to the international standard;

(c) the names of airports which are being modernised and privatised; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government have plans to introduce feeder air services connecting big cities of Maharashtra with air and if so, the details thereof?

New airport in Uttar Pradesh

†1401. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to construct any new airport in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Air traffic at Bangalore Airport

1402. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of international flights which have been arriving Bangalore International Airport everyday;
- (b) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to arrange the arrival timings in such a way as to provide better service to passengers and cut unnecessary delays; and
- (c) if so, the action, if any, taken in this regard?

Air services in Madhya Pradesh

1403. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that Madhya Pradesh is not properly linked by air services;
- (b) whether Government propose to start flights on a priority basis;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of Jabalpur Airport

1404. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the land was procured free of cost from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for development and expansion of the airport at Jabalpur;
- (b) if so, the details of development activities like terminal building, night landing facility, etc.; and
- (c) if not, by when the same would be completed?

Competition in air fares

1405. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Gulf Airlines and Emirates Airlines have joined hands to compete with the Indian Airlines in regard to air fares; and
- (b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps have been taken to protect the national carrier in the air fare game?

Fleet requirements of Air India

1406. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the additional fleet requirements of the Indian Airlines and Air India; and
- (b) by when the induction of additional fleet is likely to be completed and at what cost?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Purchase of aircrafts by AI

1407. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the much delayed aircraft acquisition plan of Air India to purchase 28 aircrafts of Boeing and Airbus at a cost of \$2.0 billion has now been cleared by the AI Board; and

(b) if so, how the airline plan to fund this acquisition and whether Government will stand guarantee for the loan seeing the financial position of AI?

Staff in Air India and Indian Airlines

1408. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of staff employed both in Air India and Indian Airlines and the categories which the staff is employed in;

(b) the yearly salary bill of both carriers during the last three years;

(c) whether Air India and Indian Airlines are currently overstaffed; if so, what steps are being taken over this issue; and

(d) the profits or losses made by Air India and Indian Airlines during the last three years?

Maintenance of airports

1409. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the cost incurred on maintenance and upgradation of airports together with the details thereof;

(b) the revenue earned from each airport; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to upgrade more airports into international

airports and if so, which airports are to be upgraded?

Upgradation of ILS at Delhi Airport

1410. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the state of the art category III landing system installed at the Delhi Airport for two years now, flights are not permitted to take off or land in foggy/poor visibility conditions, causing long delays to passengers;

(b) if so, the details of fresh steps being taken to further upgrade the high tech equipment and/or provide suitable training to the pilots; and

(c) the details of contingency plans drawn up, if any, to reduce delays occurring due to expected foggy conditions during the ensuing winter season?

Passengers handled in airport

1411. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in the country;

(b) the average number of passengers, these airports handle annually Airport-wise; and

(c) the details of the revenue earned by each of the airports during the last three years, year-wise?

Modernisation of airports in Himachal Pradesh

1412. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under

Government's consideration to expand and modernize Shimla, Kullu and Kangra airports in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether facilities to facilitate the operation of daily flights from Delhi to the above stations and *vice-versa* are likely to be provided at these airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Recommendation of Aircraft Evaluation Committee

1413. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India Aircraft Evaluation Committee has recommended purchase of Boeing 737-800 aircrafts for Air India;

(b) if so, by when a final decision will be taken; and

(c) the number of aircrafts to be purchased?

Accidents involving private airlines

1414. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accidents involving aircrafts run by private operators; and

(b) the action taken against such operators for not taking safety measures?

Phasing out of aircrafts with AI

1415. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of aircrafts available with Air India;

(b) how many are proposed to be phased out and how many are likely to be acquired;

(c) what is the total cost involved in the phasing out and the acquisition; and

(d) by when the process is likely to be started and completed?

Performance of airports in Southern States

1416. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airports in Southern States of the country are running in losses;

(b) if so, airport-wise and accumulated losses of each of these airports as on date;

(c) what is the position of Port Blair Airport in this regard;

(d) what are reasons for such losses; and

(e) what efforts Government have made to increase the volume of air traffic at these airports and revive them within a time-frame?

Task Force on international taxation

1417. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force, set up by Government on matters relating to the latest developments in international taxation has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations made by the Committee on IT imports; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government on the recommendations made by the Committee?

New norms for money transfer

1418. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that RBI has issued new norms for money transfer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any consultations have been held with the travel agents, non-banking financial institutions, approved money changers, etc.; and
- (d) if so, the outcome of the consultations?

NABARD without MD

1419. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has been without Managing Director for over a year;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that important decisions relating to crucial sector are inordinately delayed due to this; and
- (c) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

Winding up of offices of GIC

1420. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether GIC has wound up its Asset Management Company's Offices in Delhi and a few other cities; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons therefor?

Priority sector lending

1421. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 296 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th March, 2003 and state:

- (a) what has been the achievement of each Public Sector Bank in respect of sub-target of 10 per cent lending to weaker sections of the Society during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and
- (b) what remedial measures Government have taken against the defaulting Banks?

Credit policy for Urban Cooperative Banks

1422. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Reserve Bank of India has announced new credit policy for Urban Cooperative Banks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Federations of the Urban Cooperative Banks have represented against the policy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and further reaction of Government thereto?

Loan to students for higher education

† 1423. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that private and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

public sector banks are giving loan to the students for higher education;

(b) if so, the amount of loans given to students for higher education during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and

(c) the number of students provided with such loans, State-wise?

Assistance of Central transfer of Plan resources to States

1424. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector banks have sought assignment of Central transfer of Plan resources to States as pre-condition for extending debt support to utilities and other state owned public sector enterprises;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the proposal made by public sector banks;

(c) whether in order to impart more objectivity in identifying cases of willful default, in future, responsibilities may be entrusted to a committee of higher functionaries;

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

(e) to what extent Government would be in a position to check debt service payment defaults?

Revival of capital market

1425. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently

Prime Minister has desired to revive the capital market and wanted the people to invest in stock market rather than depositing in Banks;

(b) if so, whether NSDL and SEBI are following this policy for expanding the activities in stock market by reducing the unwarranted and unnecessary expenses of the investor for holding of their portfolios; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Forecast by International Monetary Fund

1426. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Monetary Fund has forecast that India's economy will grow by 5.5 per cent in 2003-04 but found that the country's fiscal deficit and public debt were an economic burden;

(b) if so, to what extent Government have agreed to the IMF report on economic growth;

(c) whether Indian economy is expected to notch up a growth rate of over 6 per cent and may even touch 8 per cent in 2003-04; and

(d) if so, whether after good monsoon, the kharif and rabi crop are also expected to do well and Government are fully confident of achieving the target?

Assistance for computerisation of treasuries in Karnataka

1427. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka has requested for financial assistance for computerisation and inter-linking of all the treasuries at the district and block levels in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely date by which the grant would be released?

Merger of DA in basic pay of employees

1428. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI ANIL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fifth Pay Commission had recommended for merging the Dearness Allowance in the pay when it exceeds 50 per cent limit;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the limit of 50 per cent D.A. has already been crossed; and

(c) if so, by when the orders to this effect are likely to be issued?

Surge of coins

1429. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been a wide gap between the supply and demand of coins which had compelled Government to import coins;

(b) if so, what are the details of demand and production of coins during the last

three years alongwith the details of import made during that period; and

(c) what steps have been taken to meet the demand through domestic production?

Insurance schemes for rural poor

1430. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new housing loan and insurance schemes for rural poor;

(b) if so, by when this scheme is likely to be introduced; and

(c) the details thereof?

Payment of dividend by Public Sector Banks

1431. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Banks have been asked to pay interim dividend to Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

New schemes of BI

1432. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Bank of India has decided to launch two new schemes viz. Pravashi Vaibhav and Pravashi Samridhi to corner the

redemption proceeds of Resurgent India Bonds which matured on 1st October, 2003; and

(b) if so, the reasons for hanging on to the deposits, no longer required for profitable deployment in existing environment?

**Withdrawal of Companies Act
(Amendment) Bill, 2003**

1433. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:
SHRI PREM CHAND
GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Companies Act (Amendment) Bill, 2003 introduced in Parliament sometime back has since been withdrawn;

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

(c) whether the Bill will again be introduced with modifications and amendments and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the provisions of the amended Bill will take adequate care of the need to prevent corporate scams and to ensure transparency and accountability of the functioning of the companies to the shareholders and if so, the details thereof?

**Ban on NRI investments in NS and
PPF**

† 1434. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have banned the investment by NRIs in National Saving Certificates (NSC) and the Public

Provident Fund (PPF) under Small Savings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider this decision;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Realisation of bank loan

† 1435. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of realization of loans provided by banks and financial institutions which are blocked;

(b) whether the State Bank of India have issued notices for the realization of loan amounts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount of loan likely to be realized as a result of the issuance of such notices?

Loss of capital gains tax

1436. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount Government have lost by way of capital gains tax in the last decade due to Indo-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Convention;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to avoid a loss of revenue to the exchequer; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court of India in a judgement did not

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

appreciate the way Indo-Mauritius Treaty has been abused?

Pension burden of States

1437. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have brought a new pension scheme;

(b) whether Central Government's proposal on pension reforms has been welcomed by State Governments;

(c) whether only four States are at present willing to join new pension scheme once it is operationalised;

(d) if so, whether in a bid to diffuse pension time-bomb of State Governments, Reserve Bank of India has set up a high-level committee to review growing financial burden on various States on account of pension funding;

(e) whether they have completed the review of pension burden of States; and

(f) if so, the alternative suggestions made in this regard?

Write-offs of principal loans

1438. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of various write-offs of principal loans made by Public Sector Banks operating in the United Kingdom;

(b) if so, the details of such write-offs of principal amounts made during the last three years; and

(c) the total loss suffered by Public Sector Indian Banks operating world-wide (outside India) through the write-offs of principal amounts in the last three years in view of part (a) and (b)?

Involvement of external agencies in working of IT department

† 1439. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards work being done by the outsiders in Income Tax Department whose appointments have been made without departmental orders; and

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

Vanishing companies

1440. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court had ordered the Security and Exchange Board of India to submit details of vanishing companies;

(b) whether the information has since been submitted; and

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

Structural adjustment loans for Orissa

1441. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank propose to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

advance structural adjustment loans for four States, including Orissa; and

(b) what is the range of loan to Orissa and kinds of reforms that would be carried out with the loan?

Affiliation of ICWA to international accounting bodies

1442. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants is affiliated to several international accounting bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether representatives of the ICWA are required to secure prior approval from Government for attending events, meetings organized by these international bodies as opposed to these requirements not being there for the Chartered Accountants institutes; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Vigilance enquiries in investment in Shonkh Technologies Ltd.

1443. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the basis of JPC report, UTI has conducted vigilance enquiries in case of investment in Shonkh Technologies Ltd. for overruling the ERC recommendations;

(b) if so, the result thereof;

(c) the follow up action taken by Government against the officials involved;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the officer involved in Shonkh Technologies case has been appointed to the top position in UTI Securities Exchange Ltd.;

(e) whether it is permissible for officers named in vigilance enquiries to be appointed on sensitive positions; and

(f) if so, under what rule?

Agencies investigating fraud committed by MD, TFL

1444. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various investigating agencies are probing the financial irregularities/fraud committed by former Managing Director of Tata Finance Limited (TFL);

(b) if so, what are the names of the agencies investigating the financial irregularities/fraud; and

(c) what is the present status of the cases and under which sections of IPCs they are being prosecuted?

Kisan Credit Cards

1445. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Kisan Credit Cards issued to the farmers in Assam till June, 2003;

(b) the district-wise details of Kisan Credit Cards to be issued to the farmers during 2003-04; and

(c) the details of target set by Government in this respect and what steps are being taken by Government in this respect?

Cut in repo rate by RBI

1446. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India

had cut the repo rate by 50 basis points to 4.5 per cent with effect from August 25, 2003 following decline in inflation, good monsoon and increase in forex reserves to a record \$ 85.415 billion; and

(b) if so, how the inflation rate has since moved and how the repo rate has been adjusted?

Ban on investment by Overseas Commercial Banks

1447. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has lately imposed a ban on investments by Overseas Commercial Banks (OCBs) in the equity markets, FDI, mutual fund schemes, units of UTI, real-estate company, fixed deposits and debentures; and

(b) if so, the main objectives for imposing such a ban, and how far it is purported to prevent or restrict NRI investments and mobilization of NRI funds?

New methods of measuring market risks

1448. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government/Reserve Bank of India has introduced new methods of measuring market risks such as value at risk and pre-commitment approaches to provide standardized and tighter framework for the Banking Sector;

(b) if so, in what manner, such measures would significantly enhance risk sensitivity in developing economies;

(c) whether the banking sector in the country has the necessary wherewithal's

and sophisticated management information system to adopt the approach in the contemplated time frame; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Understatement of NPAs by banks

1449. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most banks both nationalized as well as private understate their Non Performing Assets;

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

(c) what steps Government would take to curb such practices by the banks?

Grant of soft loans to Rajasthan

1450. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from Government of Rajasthan for grant of soft loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the steps taken by Government to help improve the economy of Rajasthan?

FDI confidence Index 2003

1451. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the AT kearney, FDI confidence index 2003, India has moved to 6th most attractive FDI destinations of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would translate this to get more FDI flow into the country?

Writing off of loans by banks

1452. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of banks which have written off bank loans during the last three years together with the total amount involved and the names of 10 major banks which have written off the loans; and

(b) the names of major borrowers whose loans have been written off, as above?

Liquidity crisis in Urban Cooperative Banks in Andhra Pradesh

1453. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Urban Cooperative Banks in Andhra Pradesh have recently gone into liquidity due to mismanagement and siphoning of money by top management; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government to set things right, to recover huge loans taken by top management fraudulently and restore the hard earned money of poor small investors?

Debt swap scheme

1454. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount received by Government from States under the debt swap scheme so far and the manner in which this proceeds is likely to be utilised;

(b) whether Government have decided to use this amount to settle its own debt to National Small Saving Fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the debt which Government owes to NSSF;

(d) whether fiscal deficit would be widened as a result thereof; and

(e) if so, the proper measure taken in this direction?

Collection of taxes by private banks

1455. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India has allowed private sector banks to handle Government concerns ranging from collection of direct and indirect taxes of the Centre as well as pension payments and other expenditure of Ministries and Departments of Central Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Ban on External Commercial Borrowing

1456. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed a complete ban on External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) by Indian companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Finance Ministry have undertaken a review on the issue of ECB and if so, whether Government propose to lift the ban on ECB to help corporate sector in getting cheap funds from abroad?

Term loan granted by various Public Sector Banks

1457. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of term loan granted by various public sector banks individually during the current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that getting loans from the banks are very difficult even though there is regular announcements that the process is simplified; and

(c) what steps are being taken to streamline the system so that the common man gets the best services from the banks?

Income tax payers and PAN allotments

1458. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of persons assessed to Income Tax as of the last financial year all over the country;

(b) what is the increase in percentage during the current year;

(c) how many PAN cards have been issued so far in the country;

(d) what is the total number of pending applications for PAN all over the country; and

(e) what steps are being taken to speed up the process?

Policy changes in joint venture deals

1459. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

are seriously considering to change the policy governing the exit of a foreign company from a joint venture with its Indian partner and setting up of a new venture by the overseas partner;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed changes; and

(c) the reasons for bringing such changes?

Repeal of obsolete law by SEBI

1460. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SEBI is thinking of repealing all obsolete laws to ensure that regulations are responsive to the changes in the market; and

(b) if so, the details of the laws that are being proposed to be repealed?

GDP growth rate

1461. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that UNCTAD has projected a 5.4 per cent GDP growth for India in 2003, while Asian Development Bank had estimated it to be 6 per cent and International Monetary Fund's projection was 5.1 per cent; and

(b) in view of this conflicting figures given by three International Bodies, what is the estimated GDP growth projected by Government and what has been the actual growth rate during 1st April and 30th September, 2003?

Bestowment of full fledged status on Chairman of Revenue Boards

1462. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken on the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission regarding bestowing full-fledged status of Secretary to Government on the Chairman of the two Revenue Boards; and

(b) what are the reasons for non-implementation of these recommendations and by when they are likely to be implemented?

Transfer policy of Revenue Officials

1463. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring about a uniform and stable policy for transfer of various Revenue Officials across the Country;

(b) if so, the highlights of this new policy; and

(c) by when it is likely to be announced and implemented?

Pendency of Income Tax exemption cases

1464. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income Tax Department takes more than a year or two for approval of Income Tax exemption case;

(b) how many cases are pending for more than a year, State-wise;

(c) what are the reasons for this pendency; and

(d) what steps are being taken for approving cases in stipulated time-frames?

FDI in India as compared to China

1465. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China attracts seven times more of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), according to World Investment Report, 2003;

(b) if so, how the FDI in India is compared to that of China during 2001 and 2002;

(c) whether Government have studied the reasons for such a low level of FDIs in India, as compared to China; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to improve FDI inflow?

Merger of IDBI

1466. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IDBI has got a proposal of merger with any banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the merger is likely to take off; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the bank is likely to become one of the biggest banks in the country?

Varishta Bima Yojana

1467. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently launched Varishta Bima Yojana has elicited good response and if so, to what extent in terms of funds gathered;

(b) whether Varishta Bima Yojana like other insurance-related products

of LIC is covered by a sovereign guarantee;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the tenure of the scheme from the originally announced 15 years to 10 years; and

(d) whether the funds of Varishta Bima Yojana will be administered independently of the insurance premium pool and if so, major features of its deployment by LIC?

RRBs in Orissa

1468. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name and the number of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in Orissa and their sponsored Banks;

(b) the performance of these RRBs during the last three years in priority sector lending separately; and

(c) the steps taken to make these Regional Rural Banks economically viable to make the economy of the rural people stable?

National Rural Bank of India

1469. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1250 answered in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from workers Union of RRBs with regard to setting up of National Rural Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Electronic net to catch tax evaders

1470. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to put in place an electronic net to catch tax evaders;

(b) if so, the facts and details of the proposed scheme;

(c) whether the existing system of Government to check tax evaders is totally ineffective and generating black money; and

(d) if so, to what extent the new system would check the tax evaders in the country?

Interim dividend from cash rich oil firms

1471. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has sought interim dividend from cash rich State run oil firms;

(b) if so, to what extent it has been agreed to; and

(c) how much dividend was collected during the fiscal year ending 31st March, 2003?

Public issues of banks

1472. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the public sector banks which have gone for public issues of their shares during the last three years;

(b) whether all these issues have been over subscribed; and

(c) which other banks propose to go to share market with public issue in near future?

Committee on working of Punjab and Sind Bank

1473. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Committee to go into the working of Punjab and Sind Bank; and

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee, its composition and time allowed to it for the submission of report?

Committee for investment promotion

1474. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Committee for investment promotion and coordinate strategy to achieve eight per cent GDP growth target;

(b) if so, by when, it is likely to submit its report;

(c) whether it is a fact that the GDP growth has not created much jobs in the economy as a whole; and

(d) if so, whether the Committee would also look into this aspect too?

Loans to farm sector

1475. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on issue of extending loans to farm sector for buying tractors, power

tillers and other farm implements on same terms and conditions for motor vehicles in urban areas;

(b) if so, whether Government are also considering to reduce rate of interest of loans for this purpose;

(c) whether the Ministry has decided to launch farmers income insurance policy which would benefit farmers who are compelled to sell their produce in distress;

(d) the States in which this scheme will be in operation; and

(e) if so, to what extent this insurance scheme of farmers have been welcomed by all?

New CNG Pumps

1476. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to reduce the CNG price in future;

(b) the details of new CNG Pumps proposed to be set up in the country during the next year, State-wise?

Ethanol blending in Uttar Pradesh

1477. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh, which is a sugarcane producing State, having large number of sugar mills, has been given license for ethanol blending; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and by when, it is likely to be given?

Mechanism to check quality of fuel

1478. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand from the Federation of All India Petroleum Traders to ask the oil companies to demonstrate the quality of fuel supplied to petrol bunk owners who are generally held responsible for supplying adulterated petrol and diesel to the customers;

(b) whether Government have introduced any mechanism to check the quality of fuel supplied by the oil companies; and

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

Growth in petroleum refinery products

1479. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petroleum refinery products registered a higher growth of 6.1 per cent during the first six months of the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, what are the estimates made for the fiscal year; and

(c) what are the expected achievements to be made by the year end?

Ban on private kerosene import

1480. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private kerosene importers are diverting their supplies in bulk for adulteration with diesel;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision to ban private import of kerosene; and

(c) whether the private importers of kerosene were bound to provide supplies for Public Distribution System and if so, upto what percentage of their import entitlement?

ONGC's overseas operation

1481. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is operating in other countries also;

(b) if so, the name of the countries in which ONGC has started overseas operation; and

(c) the nature of projects started by ONGC in these countries and the amount of investment involved in these projects with the separate break up thereof?

Production of crude oil

1482. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of crude in the country till 30th November, 2003 during the financial year 2003-04, both in the public and private sector, separately;

(b) how far the production is according to stipulation made for the purpose for the year; and

(c) the quantity of crude so far imported during the year and the foreign exchange utilized for the purpose?

**Committee for mid and south tapti
production**

1483. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

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

(a) whether a Committee has been
formed for Mid and South Tapti production
sharing of natural gas;

(b) whether the Committee has been
given any time-frame to submit its report;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat
has requested to allot additional natural
gas to Gujarat for power projects of
Gujarat; and

(d) by when, the additional gas is to be
allotted to Gujarat State for its power
projects?

Oil import bill

† 1484. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will
the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount being spent by
Government on account of oil import and
the extent of increase in the oil import bill
during the each of the last three years;

(b) the impact of heavy expenditure
being incurred on oil import on the
economy of the country; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to
check oil import expenditure?

**Surge of petrol and diesel in
Uttaranchal**

† 1485. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will
the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was
shortage of petrol and diesel due to

transporters strike in Uttaranchal and
whether movement of more than 700
tankers supplying petroleum products has
been stopped;

(b) if so, whether Government propose
to make any alternative arrangements to
prevent adverse effect on availability of
petrol and diesel in the State; and

(c) if so, the scheme adopted to ask the
transporters to call off strike with the details
thereof?

**Allotment of LPG dealership to Kargil
martyrs in U.P.**

† 1486. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LPG dealership has been
allotted to the families of Kargil martyrs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of families which have
been allotted LPG dealership in Uttar
Pradesh, so far?

**Impact of global oil prices on
kerosene and LPG prices**

1487. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced
the prices of petrol and diesel taking
advantage of fall in global oil prices while
increasing the excise duties on these items
to about three times of the original;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact of fall in global oil prices
on the prices of kerosene and LPG?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Dividend paid by Oil Companies

1488. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the dividend paid by Public Sector Oil Companies to Government during the last three years, company-wise;

(b) the details of Central Taxes, duties etc. paid by the above companies during the same period;

(c) the amount collected through cess on oil produced by ONGC and OIL during the same period; and

(d) whether similar cess is paid by private oil producers, if not, the reason therefor?

Setting up of Gas trading company by GAIL

1489. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd., proposes to set up a separate company to undertake gas trading work both in India and in overseas market;

(b) whether this proposed company will be a joint venture or in partnership with a private sector company; and

(c) by when, the new company is likely to be in position?

Natural Gas pipeline Grid by GAIL

1490. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL is planning to set up a National Gas pipeline Grid;

(b) if so, by when the project will be

completed and at what cost and in which area; and

(c) whether GAIL is adhering to the international practice of choosing gas pipeline for this kind of projects?

Lottery system for dealership selection

1491. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines prescribed by Government for selection of dealers/distributors for allotment of petrol pumps, gas agencies etc. by the public sector oil companies; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to direct the public sector undertakings to allot dealership to candidates fulfilling the criteria laid down by Government on the basis of lottery system and if not, the reasons therefor?

Dealership selection guidelines

1492. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to remove the informal ban and allow public sector oil marketing companies to sign on dealership for petrol and diesel; and

(b) if so, the details of dealer selection guidelines to be followed by the public sector oil marketing companies?

Policy on regulation of pipelines

1493. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up

a policy to regulate long distance pipelines, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this policy will cover the existing gas pipelines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Exclusion of private oil companies from oil subsidy

1494. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering exclusion of privately owned Oil Companies like Reliance Petroleum for subsidising supplies of LPG and Kerosene meant for weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would come forward to make it mandatory for the oil industry, including private sector, to share its burden of supporting the weaker sections?

Employees killed in ONGC helicopter crash

1495. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 18 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 2003 and state:

(a) whether an ONGC Helicopter crashed in the month of August this year into the Arabian Sea; and

(b) if so, the details of ONGC employees killed in the mishap and compensation paid to them?

Natural gas in Tripura

1496. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas in the gas reserves of the country as on 1st April, 2003;

(b) the quantity of natural gas in the gas reserves of the State of Tripura as on 1st April, 2003;

(c) the quantity of natural gas that may be released in Tripura every year and the quantity being actually released;

(d) the details of the project Government desire to set up in Tripura during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the projects basing natural gas to set up by the State of Tripura?

New discoveries by ONGC

1497. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has discovered new oil findings in upper Assam recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Production of CNG

1498. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vehicles running on CNG throughout the country;

(b) the details of production of CNG from Oil wells in the country;

(c) whether the amount of CNG generated would be enough to suffice the usage for the next 10 years keeping in view

the growth of number of CNG vehicles on Indian roads;

(d) whether Government feels fit to search and research for another alternate fuel now rather than wait till its too late; and

(e) if so, the details of any research being undertaken at this time?

Fire in ONGC pipeline

1499. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an undersea pipeline of ONGC carrying crude oil from Mumbai High North oil field to Uran (Mumbai) developed a leak in August, 2003 causing oil spill;

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

(c) by when the leak was detected and what is the estimated loss; and

(d) what impact it had on the environment?

Condition of Mandirs in Jaisinghpur of H.P.

1500. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the ancient Janakinath Mandir, Sitaram Mandir and other such Mandirs in Tehsil Jaisinghpur of Himachal Pradesh are in a very deplorable condition; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken/propose to take to save these very old Mandirs from further deterioration?

Development of Tourism in Uttar Pradesh

†1501. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan for promotion and development of tourism sector in various States of the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the targets fixed for development of tourism in the country?

Development of Pilgrim Tourism

1502. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether India is inching its way to being a preferred tourist destination for the sophisticated traveller;

(b) if so, whether this year, India ranked ninth in UK-based magazine survey;

(c) whether Government have given a major thrust to the development of pilgrim tourism in the country and the decision was taken at the Southern Tourism Minister's Conference held in Hyderabad in August-September, 2003; and

(d) what other projects are being considered to make tourists spots in the country fit for foreign tourists also?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.