

## 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 17, 2004/Sravana 26, 1926 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions — 155**

#### **Additional flights by IA and AI**

1314. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and Air India propose to introduce additional flights on the existing routes; and

(b) if so, the details of proposal mooted in that regard for 2004-05, particularly direct flights from Delhi to all State Capitals of the North-Eastern States?

#### **Purchase of carpets by AI**

1315. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has suffered a loss of more than Rs. 2 crore on purchase of non-existent carpets from a US company sometime back;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CVC has indicted the present Commercial Director and others involved in the purchase of carpets for causing loss of revenue to Air India; and

(c) if so, what are the details of CVC report and the action taken by Government against guilty officers?

#### **GoM on restructuring of airports**

1316. SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS  
BAL APTE:  
SHRI EKANATH K.  
THAKUR:  
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:  
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN  
PANY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Group of Ministers was constituted for restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai Airports;

(b) whether the Group has since finalised the details of restructuring and modernisation of these airports as per international standards;

(c) if so, the details of the plan; and

(d) whether FDI upto 49 per cent only is to be invited for modernisation and restructuring as per the Government's decision?

**Touts at airports**

1317. PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:  
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:  
SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that touts and criminals, in the garb of taxi drivers, are operating with impunity at the International Airports in the country, particularly in the national capital with the connivance of police and airport staff; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to rid the airports of the touts and other anti-social elements operating at the airports, airport-wise?

**Air service from Lohgoan Airport**

†1318. SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS  
BAL APTE:  
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN  
PANY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the civil flight from Pune based Lohgoan Airport is proposed to be discontinued;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) whether there is any plan to develop new aerodrome near Chakan (at the Khed Tehsil) Distt. Pune;

(d) if so, whether Government have fixed any time-bound programme and earmarked funds therefor; and

(e) whether it would be an international airport?

**Air services from Madhya Pradesh**

†1319. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Central Government to provide air service from Madhya Pradesh to South India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present arrangement for air services to link Madhya Pradesh with South India?

**Missing of Passengers' luggage at Palam Airport**

†1320. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of theft of luggage of passengers is continuously taking place despite the changes made in the security staff at the Palam Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of theft incidents that took place during the last two years and till date together with the details of loss to each passenger, month-wise;

(d) the compensation provided by Government to each of the affected passengers; and

(e) the details of the steps being taken by Government to curb incidents of theft?

**Financial advisor for airport modernisation**

1321. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ABN-AMRO Bank was appointed as financial advisor

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for the modernisation project of Delhi and Mumbai Airports;

(b) whether Government have sought clarification from the Global advisor on the issue of hike of equity stake of the participating Indian based airlines from 5 to 10 per cent;

(c) if so, what is the advice given by the financial advisor; and

(d) whether Government have taken any notice on the advice of ABN-AMRO and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Regular air service**

†1322. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States in the country which do not have regular service of civil flights;

(b) whether there is any proposal to make airlines profitable by providing additional facilities to the private airlines for linking such States through regular flights;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what steps are being taken to cover such States including Uttaranchal under the regular flight service?

#### **Deficiency in service of IA and AI**

1323. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of service and performance of Indian Airlines/Air India are on the decline as compared to those of private airways;

(b) if so, whether it is due to human failure or system failure;

(c) whether Government have taken cognizance of the deficiency/inadequacy; and

(d) if so, what corrective measures have been taken to match the performance with private airlines?

#### **Development of airports in Madhya Pradesh**

†1324. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports for which land has been provided by Madhya Pradesh Government to Airports Authority of India;

(b) whether the development works have been completed there; and

(c) if not, the present status of the development work?

#### **White paper on open air policy**

1325. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating "Open Air Policy" in the globalisation scenario;

(b) if so, whether any white paper is proposed to be issued in this regard;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Bids for modernisation of airports**

1326. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 211 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether top companies have made bids for restructuring/modernization

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

programme for Mumbai and Delhi Airports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Expansion of IA's routes**

1327. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to allow Indian Airlines to operate on more International routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of routes which have been permitted by Government?

#### **Occupancy rate of national carriers**

1328. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sectors on which national carriers do not have adequate occupancy rate;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to attract passengers on the lines of private airliners?

#### **Revision in fee structure**

1329. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to make a hefty increase in the fee for granting air worthiness certificates, renewing pilot and airport licences, flying tests and other services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the above charges had remained static for the past two decades and in some cases the fee structure was very low?

#### **Equity support for IA and AI**

1330. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to provide higher equity support for the two public sector airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the equity base of the two airlines is too low given their ambitions and the competition in the sector; and

(d) if so, whether these airlines plan to enhance their equity base?

#### **Services at Delhi and Mumbai Airports**

1331. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the customer satisfaction level at Delhi and Mumbai Airports is much below the international standards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps Government propose to take or have taken so far to further improve the services at these airports so as to bring them at par with international standards;

(d) whether some other airports like Amritsar would also be developed similarly; and

(e) if so, by when?

**Night-landing facility at Hubli Airport**

1332. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval for establishing night-landing facilities at Hubli Airport; and

(b) if not, by when it will be provided?

**Regulation of professional bodies**

1333. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce amendments to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949; Company Secretaries Act, 1980 and Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959, to regulate the professional bodies;

(b) whether Government have received complaints against the professional bodies during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the action taken on the complaints so received?

**Examination of Companies Act, 1956**

1334. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries are reforming the company law in the economic context particularly to promote entrepreneurship, ensure better corporate competitiveness and more productive resource allocation;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to re-examine our own Companies Act to address the economic issues; and

(c) if so, the details of action being initiated in this regard?

**Recognition of trusts as legal entities**

1335. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to recognise registered trusts as separate legal entities which are eligible to hold shares in their own names; and

(b) whether such an amendment is necessary to permit at least passive acquisition of shares, as under a will, if not active investment from trust's own funds?

**Guidelines for educational loans**

1336. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:  
SHRI JANARDHANA  
POOJARY:  
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for educational loans;

(b) if so, the details of educational loan applications received and loans sanctioned, State-wise, category-wise, year-wise for the last three years;

(c) the details of educational loans denied, State-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that many Public Sector Banks have denied educational loans to students recently which lead to suicide by many students across the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

### **Financial aid to Maharashtra**

1337. SHRI SANJAY RAJARAM RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial aid provided by NABARD to Maharashtra during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the areas where investment has been made and the extent thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra is seeking any financial aid for the implementation of various schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

### **Committee for looking into irregularities in sale of PSUs**

1338. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a Committee to ascertain the allegedly large scale irregularities in the sale/disinvestment of many public sector enterprises during the last four or five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its terms of reference;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether new guidelines with regard to sale/disinvestments of PSEs have been finalised and if so, the details thereof?

### **Foreign exchange reserve**

†1339. SHRI UDAYPRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign exchange reserve of the country;

(b) whether Government propose to fix maximum limit of foreign exchange reserve; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

### **Cost audit on chocolates and milk products**

1340. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of goods covered under cost audit and under what provisions;

(b) whether it is a fact that chocolates and processed milk products are under cost audit;

(c) if so, what are the names of the companies engaged in their manufacture;

(d) whether it is also a fact that almost all the companies are multinationals;

(e) if so, what are the considerations which led to exclude them from cost audit; and

(f) what steps are being taken to strengthen cost audit on chocolates and milk products?

### **Ban on attracting multilateral funding**

1341. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed any ban on Kerala for attracting multilateral funding;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to restructure the Central assistance in the form of grants to the State plan of Kerala enabling to implement from the current year and write off the dues to the Central Government arising out of repayment of Central assistance received in the past; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

#### **Deloitte report on LIC restructuring**

1342. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Deloitte Committee in its report on LIC restructuring has suggested regular provision for additional capital on solvency margin account because of LIC not having the required 15 per cent of solvency margin;

(b) whether LIC does not have the concept of providing additional capital for solvency support;

(c) whether LIC has sought a bail out of Rs. 3000 crores as solvency support from Government; and

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

#### **Fake currency rackets**

1343. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of fake currency rackets have been unearthed during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of fake currency notes confiscated and destroyed during the last one year; and

(d) the steps being taken to stop circulation of fake currency notes?

#### **Impact of drought on economy**

†1344. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present drought will have an adverse impact on the economy of the country;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment with regard to its likely impact on the GDP, inflation and price-rise; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Swapping of loans by banks**

1345. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some banks are swapping their sticky loans to avoid showing them as NPAs;

(b) if so, the details of banks which are involved in such deals;

(c) whether the market intelligence cell of RBI has got any idea of such deals; and

(d) if so, what action RBI has taken against such banks?

#### **Kelkar Committee report**

1346. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee on Tax Reforms has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**LIC's share in ICICI bank**

1347. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that LIC has raised its stake in ICICI bank;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the number and extent of LIC's stake in other banks and companies and its return therefrom?

(b) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has also conveyed that severe drought and a spate of suicides by farmers have been reported from several districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether a number of memoranda were submitted to the Prime Minister during his visit in the month of July; and

(d) if so, what is the total package the Central Government have agreed and by when this is being released?

**Market Stabilisation Fund**

1348. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:  
SHRI DHARAM PAL  
SABHARWAL:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether leading sharebrokers have suggested to Government to set up a Market Stabilisation Fund (MSF) as a mechanism to avoid recurrence of sudden crashes that shook the stock market, such as the one on 17th May, 2004; and

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

**Utilisation of fund by States**

1350. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI  
BARUPAL:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sanctioning Committee of the recently set up Agriculture Credit Fund has sanctioned Rs. 176 crores to various States for projects relating to minor irrigation, soil and water conservation, flood protection and agro-forestry;

(b) if so, the amount provided to each State under this scheme; and

(c) to what extent these funds have been utilized uptill now?

**Relief to Andhra farmers**

1349. SHRI MOOLCHAND  
MEENA:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has sought a financial assistance of Rs.660 crores and a package of measures to provide relief to the distressed farmers;

**Interest on external debt**

†1351. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are paying a major part of their revenue as interest every year due to increasing burden of debt;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(b) if so, the annual amount paid as interest during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the percentage of this amount, out of the total annual amount collected as tax by Government?

**Investment in Madhavpura  
Co-operative Bank**

†1352. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 165 banks had invested about Rs.800 crore in Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank in order to get higher interest;

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

(c) whether Government have obtained information regarding above banks which invested the said amount; and

(d) if so, the names thereof?

**Monitoring of Private Banks**

1353. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:  
SHRIMATI MOHSINA  
KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any mechanism to strictly monitor the functioning of private banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for the merger of Global Trust Bank with Oriental Bank of Commerce;

(d) whether Government have taken any

steps to ensure that other private banks maintain their financial position; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**National Tax Tribunal**

1354. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to constitute a National Tax Tribunal to resolve the disputes within six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many petitions have been filed against this move in various High Courts; and

(d) if so, in what manner Government propose to cross this hurdle and set up National Tax Tribunal at an early date?

**Financial aid to Gujarat**

1355. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:  
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA  
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:  
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has demanded financial aid for the natural calamities including devastating earthquake of 2002, to the tune of Rs.12848.16 crores from 1998 to 2003;

(b) if so, what was the demand and the amount sanctioned and disbursed from 1998-99 to 2002-03;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Central Government levied a 2 per cent surcharge

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

on Income Tax for two years to help earthquake affected Gujarat; and

(d) if so, how much was the collection by the Central Government and disbursement to Gujarat?

#### **Corpus for physically challenged**

1356. SHRI MOOLCHAND

MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has ordered the creation of Rs. 723 crore corpus fund for the welfare of 100 million physically challenged persons in the country from the excess realised by Government by way of rounding off tax and interest by big banks and other financial institutions;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered this order of Supreme Court;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard; and

(d) by when this amount will be utilized for the benefit of disabled people in the country?

#### **Millionaires in the country**

†1357. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are millionaires in the country or the persons whose business is running in millions of rupees;

(b) the State-wise details of these persons; and

(c) the number of persons out of them engaged in business and the details of business in which they are engaged?

#### **Writing off loans to Kerala**

1358. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala to write off the loans to the tune of 50 per cent from National Savings Scheme;

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

(c) whether Government would consider to sanction half as grant and half as loan from the net collection of National Savings amount to Kerala in the coming years; and

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

#### **Permission for investment in Global Trust Bank GTBs issue**

1359. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Securities and Exchange Board (SEBI) has barred the main promoters and their associates from subscribing to the proposed rights issue of Global Trust Bank which needs immediate fund infusion;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that some international investors are eager to invest their funds in the Bank which had shown remarkable improvement in its functioning and if so, what are the reasons for not permitting them to invest?

#### **Evasion of service tax**

1360. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

there is huge revenue leakage on account of evasion of service-tax by several professionals and traders;

(b) if so, what is the estimated revenue loss to the exchequer;

(c) whether CBEC has conducted any survey to assess the revenue loss in this regard; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to plug the loopholes and augment tax revenues?

#### **Financial assistance to States**

1361. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the share of Central taxes given to States and Union Territories during the last three years from 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance given to states due to natural calamities during the same period; state-wise; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Gujarat, though contributes a lion's share in central taxes, is not given its due share of Central Financial assistance under various heads?

#### **Easy loans to rural borrowers**

1362. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has given instructions to the bankers to provide easy loans to borrowers engaged in rural economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Committee has been constituted to oversee the functioning of the system to ensure its transparency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Duty Concession on life saving drugs**

†1363. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any concession in customs and excise duty on life saving drugs; and

(b) if so, the names of these drugs and what procedure has been followed for the same?

#### **Loan advancement in the North-East**

1364. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan advanced by the Public Sector Banks in the country in 2002-2003 (State-wise);

(b) the share of the eight North East States out of the advanced loan amount; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to better the position of the North East States?

#### **Rate of interest on savings**

1365. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prevailing rate of interest on savings bank account is less than the rate of inflation;

(b) if so, what will be its impact on small savings if such a situation continues;

(c) whether Government are considering higher rate of interest to encourage savings for future security;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Kisan Credit Cards**

1366. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target fixed for issue of Kisan Credit Cards to the farmers and how many cards have actually been issued during the last three years, till date;

(b) what is the target for the Commercial Banks and Co-operative Banks; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the percentage of achieving the target is much higher in case of Co-operative Banks than that of Commercial Banks?

**Service tax on existing LIC policies**

1367. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Service Tax will be payable even on future premium instalments of existing Life Insurance Policies; and

(b) if so, how the old contracts of policy holders could be violated and whether they would be given the option not to persist with old contracts?

**Policy on operation of private banks**

1368. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the Reserve Bank of India to review the policy permitting private commercial banks to operate in view of the failure of the Global Trust Bank due to mismanagement and other reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Direct tax arrears**

1369. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the direct tax arrears have mounted to an all-time high at more than Rs. 85,000 crore;

(b) whether most of the tax demands are locked up in litigation; and

(c) whether Government are likely to approach courts for speedy disposal of tax cases and if so, whether this will entail setting up of fast-track courts specially for tax cases?

**Eligibility for fresh loan**

1370. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the existing rules farmers with outstanding loans are not eligible for fresh loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds available with banks remain unutilized because of outstanding loans against farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Transaction cost of banks**

†1371. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to reduce the cost of transaction by the rural and urban banks to ensure loan at lower rates to the rural and agricultural customers;

(b) whether there is a need to make improvement in the loan system by the public sector banks to provide easy loan to the customers;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the steps these banks are taking to achieve the above objectives; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Ownership of private banks**

1372. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has framed new guidelines regarding ownership and control of private banks;

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

(c) the number and details of private banks in the country having FDI from foreign banks?

#### **Management of Global Trust Bank**

1373. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ordered the management of Oriental Bank of Commerce to take over the management, liabilities and assets of Global Trust Bank for proper functioning; and

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

#### **Recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee**

1374. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision on the recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee on Small Savings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Pending foreign exchange violation cases**

1375. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases for recovery of penalty from foreign exchange violators under the erstwhile FERA are pending;

(b) how much is the total money due; and

(c) what steps are being taken or contemplated to be taken in this regard and by when?

#### **Loans by National Housing Banks**

†1376. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loans provided to different States and organizations by National Housing Banks during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any specific measures are proposed to be taken to encourage housing activities in the States from where very small number of loan proposals have been received in comparison to other States; and

(c) if not, the details of alternative measures proposed to be taken to give encouragement to housing activities in economically backward and remote States?

#### **Task force for foreign telecasting companies**

1377. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up a task force to look into the foreign telecasting companies in connection with their non-resident taxation;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (c) the details of companies which have refused to pay citing reasons that they do not have any permanent establishment in India?

#### **Promotion of silk industry in Karnataka**

1378. SHRIMATIPREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role being played by five Karnataka-based Public Sector Banks to promote the silk and silk industry in the State, bank-wise;

(b) whether each bank has special plans in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise?

#### **Aid to farmers by banks in Karnataka**

1379. SHRIMATIPREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what role the five Public Sector Banks based in Karnataka have played during the last three years to mitigate the hardships of farmers and village artisans who have consistently been affected by worst drought conditions in the State, year-wise and bank-wise; and

(b) the number of persons benefited, district-wise?

#### **Import of obsolete medical equipments**

1380. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of misuse of the ten year limit rule by

importers of refurbished medical equipment wherein outdated equipment is being imported and released regularly from cargo terminal at Delhi, IGI Airport by the customs;

(b) whether there has been a upsurge in imports in cargo at IGI Airport of obsolete gastroscopes, colonoscopes and duodenoscopes through under invoicing and submission of fake chartered engineers certificates from the original shipper itself; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to verify the actual value and date of manufacture by cross checking with the authorized dealers of such companies for future imports?

#### **Rural credit package**

1381. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are looking forward to devise schemes to promote cultivation of cash crops with a rural credit package;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the scheme;

(c) if not, whether Government while designing the scheme, would create a built-in-mechanism to address the disasters like drought, flood, Earthquake, failure of crops due to pests and the inability of the farmers to repay the loans due to impaired earning;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Functioning of Governor of R.B.I.**

1382. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of qualifications sought by Government in appointing the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether Government have any means to remove a Governor for acts of omission and commission and sheer inefficiency; and

(c) to what extent Government watch the functioning of the Governor of the RBI?

### **Non-availability of notes of smaller denominations**

1383. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the non-availability of notes of smaller denominations in rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are deliberately withdrawing five Rupee notes from circulation;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to review this policy?

### **Regional rural banks**

1384. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of regional rural banks functioning at present in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the performance of these banks alongwith the facilities being given to farmers and other weaker sections of the society; and

(c) the number of farmers and other weaker sections who have been given loan by these banks in the country during the last three years, State-wise?

### **Loan to unemployed youths**

1385. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets fixed by Government with regard to granting loans to the unemployed youths under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana, Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana during the last three years in different parts of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Yojana-wise/ State-wise; and

(b) the State-wise details of unemployed youths benefited therefrom during the above period?

### **Investment by LIC**

1386. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether L.I.C. has invested a huge amount in stock market;

(b) if so, the details of investments made by LIC during last three years in equity market and debt market;

(c) whether the exposure of LIC in the share market is growing; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

### **Credit-Deposit ratio in States**

1387. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the Credit-Deposit ratio at the national level;
- (b) the Credit Deposit ratio at the State level, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Credit-Deposit ratio for the State of Tripura is far less than the national level; and
- (d) the target fixed for the State and the steps proposed by the Central Government in support of achieving the target?

### **Opium cultivation**

†1388. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a variety of poppy seed 'Sujata' does not contain opium substances;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that farmers would not be required to obtain permission of Government to cultivate 'Sujata' variety; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

### **Interest payment on loans**

1389. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in States while in 1980 interest payments were only 3 per cent of the revenue receipts which have increased now to 10 per cent of the revenue receipts;
- (b) what are the reasons for this abnormal increase in interest payments; and

(c) whether any study has been made in this regard and, if so, what are the findings thereof?

### **Identity to RRBs**

†1390. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise number of branches of regional rural banks in the country at present alongwith the names of their sponsoring banks;
- (b) whether Government have received any memorandum from All India Regional Rural Banks Employees Union regarding conferring distinct identity to regional rural banks, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accepted or are considering their demands, if so, by when, a decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission**

1391. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission relating to pensioners which have not so far been accepted by Government;
- (b) the recommendations of the said Commission relating to pensioners which have been accepted, partially or with modifications;
- (c) whether Government propose to reconsider the recommendations at (a) and (b) above; and
- (d) if so, by when?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



### **Infrastructure Bonds**

1392. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of financial institutions which have been allowed to float 'Infrastructure Bonds' which entitle the investors to claim tax rebate under Section 88 of the Income Tax Act, 1961;

(b) the money collected by these institutions during the last three years, institution-wise and year-wise;

(c) which agency monitors that the conditions under which these bonds are allowed to be floated are fulfilled;

(d) whether there have been cases of violation of the conditions; and

(e) if so, the names of concerned institutions and the action taken in each case?

### **Cost of currency printing**

1393. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Plastic Money Credit and Debit Cards in banking sector have reduced the cost on printing currency and coins;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would make a study in that aspect as a small step to reduce inflation?

### **SC/ST vacancies in SBI**

1394. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Departmental and Direct vacancies meant for SC/ST candidates in State Bank of India;

(b) whether Associate Banks of SBI are also following the promotion policy of State Bank of India;

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

(d) what is the percentage fixed in promotion from Assistant Manager (Computer) to Deputy Manager (Computer) in MM-II level in S.B.I. and its Associate Banks; and

(e) what percentage is fixed for direct vacancies in (d) above post?

### **Bank branches in rural areas**

1395. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the RBI has not been able to ensure the opening up of more branches of banks in rural areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that RBI has allowed a large number of branches of banks to close in rural areas during the last three years;

(c) whether RBI is encouraging the closure of branches of banks in rural areas;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to review this policy of RBI to discourage banking habits in rural areas?

### **Unclaimed bank deposits**

1396. SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large amount is being used by the nationalized banks at present which belonged to the unclaimed savings bank account holders;

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