

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the December 17, 2002/Agrahayana 26, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

Tiruchirapalli as an international airport

2669. SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having any proposal to fulfil the repeated assurance of making Tiruchirapalli an international airport;

(b) if so, the details of action taken to meet its infrastructural requirements; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Direct flights between Hyderabad and London

2670. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Airways is contemplating to operate direct flights from Hyderabad to London in near future; and

(b) the number of flights British Airways is operating from India at present with places from where they originate together with the details thereof?

Appointment of Traffic Assistants in IA

2671. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of persons appointed as Traffic Assistants in Indian Airlines on the basis of recommendations from Ministers and high officials;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted against such matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof with its outcome; and

(d) if not, by when the inquiry report is likely to be presented?

Runway at Madurai Airport

2672. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:
SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-
SUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in extending and improving the runway at Madurai Airport; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of flights touching Madurai as it is the Southern most airport in India?

Scanning machines at airports

2673. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether high quality scanning of baggages at all the airports of the country has become imperative keeping in view security hazards;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether the machines provided at all airports are defective and remain out of order most of the time and are of a lower quality;

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

(e) whether the scanning machines provided at various airports meet the desired standards;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to rectify the deficiencies and improve the standards; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Closure of Jharsuguda airstrip

2674. SHRIMATI SUSHREE DEVI:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to close down the airstrip at Jharsuguda in Orissa; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether this will cause inconvenience to the passengers of Western Orissa, as this area has been surrounded with large private sector units; and

(c) whether it is feasible to renovate, upgrade or modernize the airstrip rather than

closing it; if so, the details thereof?

Violation of airlines rules

2675. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airlines bend rules to benefit Minister's wife as reported in the Indian Express dated the 15th August, 2002; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of the persons, who got benefited under the amended airlines rules during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the amended rules have insulted the senior Air Hostesses and caused unrest in the mind of seniors; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to set right the things?

Study on aircraft requirement

2676. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 400 aircrafts would be needed over the next twenty years;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made in this regard; and

(c) what will be the likely cost of the aircrafts and Government's share therein?

Competition of IA with private companies

2677. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is facing tough competition from private companies like Air Sahara;

(b) whether Government are aware that Air Sahara is likely to add 22 new aircrafts to its fleet;

(c) whether Government are aware that the private airlines are giving better services and comforts to their passengers; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to streamline the working of Indian Airlines to enable it perform at economically viable level while competing with private airlines?

International services from Madurai

2678. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make Madurai Airport as an International Airport as it is closer to many of the towns in Southern parts of Tamil Nadu than Tiruchirapalli; and

(b) whether any international airlines have opted to operate from Madurai?

Hand-trolleys at Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel Airport, Gujarat

†2679. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1339 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th July, 2002 and state the reasons for not changing so far the hand-trolleys at the Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel International Airport situated in Gujarat?

No Fly Zones

2680. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of 'No Fly Zones' in the country at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to declare some places as 'No Fly Zone' areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Operation of Haj flights

2681. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the date by when the flights for ferrying Haj pilgrims will be started this year;

(b) the number of Haj pilgrims expected to go on pilgrimage this year; and

(c) the details of places from where Haj flights will originate?

Privatization of airports

†2682. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatize other airports also after the privatization of the airports in four metro cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated income of Government by privatization of the each airport and details of the amount to be saved, year-wise?

Non-payment of pension to IA employees

2683. SHRI B. S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines Management had singed a Pension Scheme with LIC of India in 1996;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving pension to retired employees inspite of deducting sizeable amount from their salary for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Re-appointment of Probationary Air Hostesses as Traffic Assistant

2684. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of ex-Air Hostesses (probationary) re-appointed as Traffic Assistant in Indian Airlines, since 1999;

(b) the normal age of appointment for Traffic Assistant *vis-a-vis* the age of persons so appointed and the basis of relaxation given in age;

(c) whether complaint against such appointment in general or in particular has been received; and

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

International flights from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport

2685. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of international flights now being operated from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport;

(b) whether any additional international flights are being planned in near future from this airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Overstaffing in IA and AI

2686. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the cadre-wise overstaff position of Indian Airlines and Air India and the steps taken by the management to deal with the situation including that of voluntary/premature retirement;

(b) the number of employees who applied for voluntary/premature retirement during the last two years and till October, 2002 indicating the number of applications rejected with case-wise reasons for rejection; and

(c) the steps taken for preventing outflow of skilled manpower and recruiting young talent to improve the performance level?

Operation of international flights from Hyderabad

2687. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to operate one direct flight between Hyderabad and Dubai in view of heavy demand from Andhra Pradesh NRIs;

(b) if so, whether Government would agree to the request;

(c) by when such flights would operate; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Air services from Raipur

†2688. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to introduce air services to link Raipur with Hyderabad,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Goa, Bangalore and Kolkata or with other cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not introducing the same in view of utilisation of the desolate airports and passenger amenities?

Cancellation of licences of co-operative banks

2689. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has urged more powers to supersede boards of erring co-operative banks and also to cancel their licences;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government would ensure and implement strict norms for co-operative banks to check their fraudulent involvement/deals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Centre for Corporate Excellence in Karnataka

2690. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has approached Central Government for setting up a "Centre for Corporate Excellence" in Karnataka;

(b) if so, what is the present stage of consideration of this proposal; and

(c) by when a final decision is expected to be taken in this regard and communicated to the State Government?

Seizure of defaulters' assets

2691. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Supreme Court has given its verdict saying that the lenders can now seize the assets of the defaulters but cannot sell them;

(b) if so, whether it would affect the recovery of NPA;

(c) whether the verdict dilute the interim bargaining power of banks; and

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

Broker-Officer nexus

2692. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many brokers operating in Delhi that promise customers to get personal loans and have a nexus with officials directly involved with the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to punish the guilty who are cheating the innocent public by demanding broker fees in getting their cases processed?

Functioning of NBFCs

2693. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHARJEE:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government have put in place any regulatory framework to oversee the functioning of the Residuary Non-Banking Financial Companies having access to public deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether periodic inspections are conducted to scrutinise the working of these institutions; and

(d) if so, how frequently such inspections are conducted and when such inspections were last conducted regarding the affairs of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. togetherwith the results thereof?

Printing of currency notes

2694. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Norms for currency notes given go-by," appearing in 'Deccan Herald', dated 11th November, 2002;

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

(c) what is the quantum of currency notes that is proposed to be printed, the revenue implication in this transaction and the number of overseas companies evincing interest in this transaction; and

(d) what measures are proposed to be taken to bring about transparency in the

transaction and to make the currency notes contra-counterfeit?

Representation from zinc metal industries

2695. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from zinc metal producing industries;

(b) if so, what are their problems; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve their problems?

Restoration of Section 10(20A) of the I.T. Act

2696. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been submitted to Government for restoration of Section 10(20A) of the I.T. Act in view of the inevitable requirement for promoting investment in infrastructure by the Urban Development Authorities, Housing Boards etc. which has been withdrawn by Government;

(b) whether Government would reconsider the matter and restore the relevant Section in the I.T. Act; and

(c) if so, by when?

Notices issued to defaulters by banks

2697. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked banks to submit status reports on the notices

issued to defaulters in the case of non-performing assets; and

(b) what action is proposed to be taken by Government to recover the loans advanced during the last 10 years which have not been repaid?

Dividends of PSUs

2698. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have earned a dividend of over Rs. 18,800 crores from public sector undertakings this year;

(b) whether the dividends received are as expected or there has been some variations;

(c) in what manner this amount is proposed to be spent;

(d) whether any amount out of the dividends is earmarked for revival of sick public sector undertakings; and

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

Functioning of insurance schemes

2699. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Vahanon ke third party insurance ke liye tarka rahi hain beema companiya" appearing in the Navbharat Times, dated 4th October, 2002;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for refusal by the Insurance Companies for renewal of third party insurance; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

Second round of VRS in Banks

2700. SHRI P.K.MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Public Sector Banks for launching the second round of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in their respective banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of those banks where surplus staff still exists, category-wise; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter so far?

Uniform policy on revealing debts of customers

2701. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any rules in force to have a uniform policy for all nationalised banks on revealing of information pertaining to debts of customers;

(b) if so, the details of any uniform policy on how banks should conduct themselves in such matters, particularly revealing damaging information;

(c) whether Government would ensure that such rules are observed by all nationalised banks;

(d) whether Government are aware of any violations of such uniform rules by nationalised banks; and

(e) the details of the policy laid down by Government to ensure that nationalised banks have a uniform policy on revealing the debts and other financial data of borrowers?

Excise duty on textiles

2702. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the excise duty on Textiles was reduced from 16 per cent to 12 per cent in the last Budget;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the textile mills in North India have increased their Ex-mill price by 4 per cent thereby depriving the consumers of the concession given by Government; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken to see that the benefit of excise duty concession is passed on to the consumers?

Special credit scheme for women

2703. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Public Sector Banks have formulated Specific Schemes offering credit to women;

(b) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise with salient features of the scheme; and

(c) the credit provided by each bank under these schemes during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

Common currency for Asian countries

2704. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government would also make efforts to start one type of currency in Asian countries so as to facilitate creation of a common market of Asian countries also and to reduce their dependence on American and European economic powers keeping in view the fact that eighteen European

countries have joined hands and they have already adopted one currency 'Euro'?

Surplus funds of IRDA

2705. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made it mandatory for the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority to park its surplus funds with Government in the Public Accounts of India;

(b) whether these funds representing 0.1 per cent of the gross insurance premium totalling some Rs. 13 or 15 crores will in any way lower Government's deficit; and

(c) whether since IRDA's surplus fund is not going to make Government deficit appreciably and lower, what is the rationale in curtailing the financial independence of IRDA?

Sanctioning of loans to Bihar

†2706. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise targets fixed by Government in Bihar for inclusion of beneficiaries under PMRY during the last three years;

(b) the number of beneficiaries sanctioned loans by banks in each district during the aforesaid period as against the target; and

(c) whether banks are not cooperating in achieving the targets; if so, the reasons therefor and the solutions in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Corrupt practices of Vehicle insurance companies

†2707. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that inspecting officials or senior officials of the vehicle insurance companies in Delhi demand bribe from policy holders for payment of insurance amount for their vehicles damaged in road accidents;

(b) whether a similar case with regard to New India Assurance is pending with the company for the last two years; and

(c) whether Government would take proper action in this regard so that people do not have to face such difficulties in future?

Indirect tax collection

2708. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that indirect tax collection is not likely to meet the budget estimates during the current financial year;

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

(c) what steps have been taken to meet the budget estimates?

Bail out package for IFCI

2709. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the liabilities of IFCI stand to the tune of Rs.8,000 crore; and

(b) if so, whether Government have finalized a package to bail out the Institute?

Instalment of dearness allowance

2710. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that instalment of dearness allowance to Central Government employees and pensioners have been released with effect from July 1st, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in announcing the DA; and

(c) whether Government are considering merging the DA/relief of Central Government employees/pensioners in their salaries/pension and if so, what are the details thereof?

OTS scheme for marginal farmers

2711. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has issued a circular to all public sector banks regarding initiation of special one-time settlement scheme for small and marginal farmers in order to meet the commitment made in the Finance Minister's Budget Speech;

(b) if so, to what extent this scheme will deal with indebtedness to farmers;

(c) to what extent these guidelines have been implemented; and

(d) to what extent interest on loans to farmers have been waived off so far?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Irregularities in grant of loans by
Directors of IFCI**

†2712. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA
PANDEY:

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

(a) whether Government have received
any report from All India Industrial Finance
Corporation staff union wherein they have
demanded for appropriate action against
senior officials/Directors of IFCI for
irregularities in granting loans to the
companies and violating the guidelines of
Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken against the
officials/Directors who are found to be
involved in irregularities and bungling?

Merger of IFCI with SBI

†2713. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA
PANDEY:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

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

(a) whether Government propose to
merge Industrial Finance Corporation of
India Ltd. (IFCI) with State Bank of India
and Life Insurance Corporation of India
keeping in view the financial crisis in IFCI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by
Government to ensure job-security of the
staff of IFCI?

Collection of tax on services

2714. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether States will not get the power
for collecting tax on services with
introduction of VAT on April 1, 2003;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for
the same;

(c) whether States have objected to this
issue; and

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

Insurance obligation in rural sector

2715. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND
COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory
and Development Authority has announced
the removal of stringent rural sector
definition that has been acting as an
impediment for the new-age insurance
companies to meet their compulsory rural
sector obligations;

(b) if so, whether the constructive nature
of rural and social sector regulations had
acted against the development of the rural
and social sector insurance; and

(c) if so, to what extent this removal of
stringent rural sector definition has helped
the rural sector?

Import duty on crude oil

†2716. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the target of
collection of import duty on crude oil is
expected to exceed in comparison to Budget
Estimates due to import of crude oil in the
country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the estimated amount likely to be collected; and
- (d) the extent to which this amount will be more than that of the last year?

Amnesty scheme of SEBI

2717. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

- (a) what is the amnesty scheme of SEBI;
- (b) the details of proposed incentives for disclosures; and
- (c) the measures proposed to be taken against companies which fail to avail of this scheme?

Special category status to Bihar

†2718. SHRI LALU PRASAD:
PROF. RAM DEO
BHANDARY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that some States have been placed in special category for financial assistance;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Bihar has to face many kinds of specific problems like lower rate of social and economic development as compared to other States; and
- (c) if so, whether Government propose to place Bihar in special category for financial assistance?

Performance of LIC

2719. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Life Insurance Corporation has lost its ground to private insurance companies after their entry about one and half years ago; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

IMF report on fiscal deficit

2720. PROF. M. SANKARA-
LINGAM:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

- (a) whether IMF is concerned about country's fiscal deficit, and debt position as reported in the Indian Express dated the 30th August, 2002; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;
- (b) what are the details of the report of IMF;
- (c) whether it is a fact that as reported India is unlikely to meet GDP growth target;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government propose to take any measures to step up growth rate and ensure quicker improvement in economic scenario?

Measures for enhancing tax collection

2721. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:

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

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

"More tax surveys, scrutiny likely as collection dip" appearing in the 'Economic Times', New Delhi dated the 24th September, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the income tax department has been asked by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to increase the income tax surveys after unimpressive figures of tax collection for the period ending September, 2002; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for this step that will amount to harassment to the genuine tax payers in the country?

Lower cash deposit ratio of Bihar

†2722. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:
SHRI LALU PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Financial Institutions like Banks and Life Insurance Corporation have not ensured that the investment in the State should be as per its deposit money;

(b) whether it is also a fact that credit deposit ratio of all Banks in Bihar have come down to the lowest level of 21 per cent;

(c) whether it is also a fact that funds of Bihar are being invested out of the State; and

(d) if so, whether Government will try to bring balance in credit deposit ratio in backward States like Bihar?

Panel for wooing foreign investors

2723. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance and

Company Affairs has set up new panel to woo foreign investors;

(b) if so, what are the main objects of this new panel;

(c) whether the main complaint from the foreign investors is the delay in finalization at the bureaucratic level; and

(d) if so, to what extent this new panel will help the foreign investors to invest more in India without any obstacles?

Vacant posts in Customs Department

2724. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Key Customs Department Posts Vacant' which appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 26th September, 2002;

(b) what is the factual position in this regard;

(c) the details of Director and above level officers who are continuously away on deputation for over 5, 7 and 9 years respectively, at present;

(d) the justification and level of approval in each case of deputation presently continuing beyond nine years; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken to recall such officers?

Promotion in State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur

2725. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4308 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th May, 2002 and state:

(a) the date-wise, name-wise, post-wise details of 47 applications received on medical

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

ground by State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur;

(b) the names/designation and the basis on which 8 transfer applications were rejected;

(c) whether 12 cases considered on compassionate/medical ground were for self or dependent; and

(d) how many were SC/ST in parts (a, b and c) above?

Harassment to pensioners by SBI branch, Katghar, U.P.

†2726. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report regarding investigation of the complaints of harassment of pensioners, initiated in August, 2001 in the State Bank of India, branch Katghar in district Moradabad;

(b) if so, the details of the report and the action taken against the concerned officers;

(c) whether it is a fact that the bank administration is trying to hush up the matter by not pursuing it seriously; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Bail out package for UTI, IFCI and IDBI

2727. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to spend Rs. 35,561 crore to rescue three institutions *i.e.* UTI, IFCI and IDBI during the current year;

(b) whether it is more than what Government spends each year on poverty alleviation programmes; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views on this and the action taken to prevent public money from being squandered on sick and mismanaged units?

Promotion policy of RBI

2728. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the promotee officers in Grade A in RBI who attained 48 years of age as on February 1996 are treated as nontransferable and those promoted subsequently are subjected to inter-office transfer; and

(b) if so, whether RBI proposes to stop this discrimination and make its promotion policy just, fair and uniform for all such officers?

Choice of hospitals for Mediclaim policy holders

2729. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mediclaim policy holders are not given any choice in the selection of nursing homes/hospitals where they can undergo treatment in the event of their hospitalisation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the beneficiary has to undergo treatment invariably in some less reputed hospitals or nursing homes selected by the Third Party Administration which do not, at times, offer quality treatment to the patients; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken with regard to this provision in the Mediclaim system?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Prosecution under FERA violation

2730. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revised guidelines for filing prosecution under Section 56 of the FERA, 1973 allows prosecution of people involved in buying and selling of foreign exchange where amount involved in contravention is less than Rs.50 lakhs or where value of foreign exchange seized is less than Rs.20 lakhs; and

(b) if not, the reasons for people being prosecuted who fall in the above category?

Property returns of Executives of banks

2731. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether annual property returns by Chairmen and Executive Directors of Nationalized Banks, SBI and its associates are being received by Government and/or the concerned banks and the RBI;

(b) if not, how the financial status of the concerned executive is evaluated by Government to ensure that they do not indulge in financial irregularities and corruptions; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the names of defaulters who have not regularly filed their annual returns during the last three and the action taken against them?

Investment ceiling on divested PSUs

2732. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to put an investment ceiling on divested public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the ceiling will be on a uniform basis or it will be decided on the merit of each case?

Scheme for duty free imports

2733. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have notified a scheme for duty-free imports of inputs and material by the developers of the special economic zones;

(b) whether any committee has been constituted to approve of the merits;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any guidelines have been formulated for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Norms for lending to agriculture

2734. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has relaxed the norms for priority sector lending to agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether lending to agriclinics and agribusiness centres would under the revised guidelines qualify as direct loans to the agricultural sector; and

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

Task force on withdrawal of concessions

2735. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an eleven members task force has recently been set up to consider proposals for withdrawal of various concessions and exemptions from the next year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the task force is likely to submit its report and by when the withdrawal is likely to be implemented?

Notice to loan defaulters

2736. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of Hyderabad has issued notices to loan defaulters to recover loans during the last three months;

(b) if so, the number of notices issued during this period; and

(c) the total amount of loans to be recovered?

Misuse of export promotion schemes of companies

2737. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies in Delhi who cheated Government during the last two years by misusing export promotion schemes such as duty drawback, duty free replenishment certificate scheme and duty exemption pass book scheme;

(b) the total amount involved in these cheating cases; and

(c) the number of persons arrested and the number of cases registered against them and the number of convictions made in these cases?

Notice to M/s Seagram Ltd.

2738. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued notices to M/s Seagram for wrong declaration of quantity, value and classification of imports amounting to duty violation of more than Rs.40 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would take stern action against the promoters and the company and recover the duty and if not, the reasons therefor?

Defaulters of IFCI

2739. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought an explanation from the IFCI regarding various projects funded by it where the promoters are defaulting;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response given by the IFCI and the steps taken to tighten its grip over the defaulters?

Customs duty on edible oils

2740. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether customs duty on edible oils was increased two years back to give a fair play to indigenous growers; and

(b) if so, whether indigenous edible oil prices has since risen very high, if so, whether additional customs duty is proposed to be withdrawn to make it available to consumer on competitive prices and the decision taken in the matter?

Smuggling of narcotics

2741. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of hashish (Narcotic) from Nepal to India has increased enormously during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether Government have investigated the reasons behind this; and

(c) if so, the conclusions of the investigation and the steps taken to check smuggling and apprehend the culprits?

Non-functional ATM in PHA

2742. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Bank of India ATM installed in the Parliament House Annexe is non-functional often due to which Members of Parliament and other account holders are facing hardships;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ATM is outdated due to which problem occurs very frequently; and

(d) if so, by when the machine will be rectified for normal operation or new machine will be installed?

Board of Directors of Banks

2743. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are still following a policy of appointing people to the Board of Directors of Banks;

(b) what is the purpose of this policy;

(c) whether it is a fact that such directors are not contributing anything by way of better responsibility in Bank Management; and

(d) the steps proposed to review the need to appoint unqualified and unsuitable people to the Boards of Directors of nationalised banks?

Appointment of Safai Karamcharis in banks

2744. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nationalized banks are making fresh appointments of full time sweepers, instead of promoting their part-time sweepers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; the number of part-time sweepers and the reasons for not promoting part-time sweepers; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to regularize part-time sweepers as full-time permanent employees in nationalized banks?

Pension fund from Disinvestment proceeds

2745. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has mooted the creation of a permanent fund for pension from part of the disinvestment proceeds; and

(b) what other steps are proposed in the matter of pension?

Sick co-operative banks in Andhra Pradesh

2746. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert group constituted to enquire into the working of co-operative banks in Andhra Pradesh has identified 41 banks as loss making; and

(b) if so, whether Reserve Bank of India has taken steps to safeguard the interests of depositors of these banks?

Frauds in retail brokerage unit by Citi Bank

2747. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SEC has detected major frauds by Citi Bank in the activities of its retail brokerage unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken by SEC to initiate penalties and punitive action for such violations; and

(d) if not, in what manner Government propose to protect small investors in the stock market?

Concessional loan scheme for States

†2748. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Central Government to provide loans to States under the concessional loan scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of States proposed to be brought under the said scheme?

Financial crisis in Maharashtra

2749. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Crisis downgrades Maharashtra to default category" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 17th October, 2002;

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

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to address the various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the news article to rectify the financial crisis in Maharashtra?

Proposal of CII on VAT

2750. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from CII on the 'Implementation of VAT in India';

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's response thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the implementation of VAT in the country for boosting Indian Industry and trade?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Share holding of UTI

2751. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the UTI's share holding upto 5 per cent in large private sector companies; and

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

Higher interest rates of Banks

2752. SHRI B. S GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the nationalised banks are charging higher interest rates, thereby going contrary to the RBI guidelines;

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

(c) what action Government will take to rectify it?

Pending Accidental claim bills

2753. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of accidental claim bills pending with the New India Assurance Company Ltd, 57, Punchkuian Road, New Delhi for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the policy holder of the vehicle owners have fulfilled all the requirements/documents but the said company is not finalising the bills;

(c) whether it is also a fact that vehicle owners have to run from pillar to post for getting their claims from the Insurance Company; and

(d) the action being taken/proposed to be taken by Government and when the

owner would get claims and if not, the reasons therefor?

AMFI mutual fund distributors test

2754. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been made mandatory to pass AMFI Mutual Fund Distributors test being conducted by NSE or otherwise their agency will be terminated;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, and the reasons for which the trial commission of agents have been stopped for those who could not pass the prescribed test; and

(c) whether Government propose to do away with this clause and release commission of all the agents whose agency has been terminated?

Applications pending for fixation of brand rates

2755. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge backlog of applications pending in the Department for fixation of brand rates for duty draw back;

(b) if so, how many such applications are pending for more than 6/12 months and more then a year respectively;

(c) what is the reason for this delay;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the officials concerned are not clearing the case expeditiously; and

(e) if so, the remedial action taken by the Department?

**Appointment of dependants of
customs employees**

2756. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of wards of deceased employees of the Department of Customs of Rajkot Region, (including Kandla) whose appointments on compassionate grounds are pending;

(b) by when these wards are likely to be given employment; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite their appointments in view of their pathetic conditions?

Imprisonment for defaulter auditors

2757. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs is considering enactment of a statute providing for 10 years imprisonment for auditors indulging in professional misconduct;

(b) whether Government would also make it mandatory for auditors to report fund misuse/falsification of ledgers etc., by corporates; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Forged stamp papers

2758. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that they are losing revenue worth thousands of

crores of rupees annually because of wide circulation of forged judicial and non-judicial stamp papers;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to strengthen security features on stamp papers as in the case of currency notes; and

(c) the steps taken to strengthen the mechanism of monitoring the process of the printing and distribution of stamp papers?

Risk-based supervision for banks

2759. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve bank of India propose to introduce Risk Based Supervision (RBS) for banks and to put in place a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) mechanism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken for development of a risk profile and designing a customary supervisory action plan for each bank?

**Cashless hospitalisation of mediclaim
policy holders**

2760. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State-owned insurance companies plan cashless hospitalisation to the holders of mediclaim policies;

(b) if so, whether this facility will be applicable to all the mediclaim policy holders or only some selected new categories will get this benefit; and

(c) whether the insurance companies will evolve modalities to give this benefit to all policy holders; if so, what is the time-frame?

Destruction of official documents in Rajgarh-Sehore Regional Rural Bank

2761. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that official documents were destroyed intentionally in the Ghogat Pur branch of Rajgarh-Sehore Regional Grameen Bank by some employees of the Bank to cover up an embezzlement/misappropriation of funds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Reduction in customs duty on tyres

†2762. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industries has requested Government to include tyres in the list of 'Essential Commodities' taking it out of 'Luxury list' and to give relaxation in customs duty on tyres;

(b) whether the said Chamber has also requested Government to reduce existing customs duty on tyre, tube and flex from 32 per cent to 16 per cent; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction on the said requests of the Chamber?

Defaulter plantation companies in M.P.

2763. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the plantation companies that have collected funds from the public in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether Reserve Bank of India has directed these plantation companies to refund

money to the investors;

(c) how many companies have refunded the money to the investors and how many have not refunded the money, company-wise and the amount due to them as on date; and

(d) whether SEBI has any mechanism to force the companies to refund the money to the investors alongwith the capital and interest?

Sale of confiscated weapons

†2764. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the persons to whom weapons have been sold from the stock of confiscated goods of Customs Department;

(b) the details of prices and types thereof; and

(c) the number of persons whose applications in this regard are pending and the details of the stock alongwith the criterion fixed for the allotment/sale?

Financing of sick SSI units by banks

2765. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of sick SSI units financed by the scheduled commercial banks at the end of March, 2002 and what is the outstanding amount against these units;

(b) how many of them are potentially viable units and how many of them are put under nursing programme alongwith the outstanding amount against these units;

(c) whether it is a fact that the guidelines for giving relief/concession to the revival of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

such sick units have been revised by RBI w.e.f. January, 2002; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Rehabilitation packages for sick units

2766. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of rehabilitation packages approved so far for the potentially viable SSI units as on 31st March, 2001; and

(b) what is the number of units out of the 753 units which are put under nursing programme, which have shown improvement?

Japanese assistance to Indian projects

2767. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the States where projects have been launched with Japanese assistance;

(b) whether any such project has been started in Orissa;

(c) if so, the amount of Japanese aid and assistance obtained for implementing those projects so far;

(d) the progress of each of those projects; and

(e) how much amount has been utilised in those projects out of the Japanese aid and assistance?

Illegal grant of advance by CMD of Punjab and Sind Bank

2768. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that present CMD of Punjab and Sind Bank is responsible for granting advances to the extent of Rs. 800 crores while holding the position of Executive Director of Corporation Bank and General Manager in-charge of advances in Punjab and Sind Bank which became bad for which various reports were made available to Government and CVC by the officers of Corporation Bank and the union of Punjab and Sind Bank;

(b) if so, whether Income Tax Department has made any enquiry into assets of present CMD; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Complaints against executives of banks

2769. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints during the last three years against the present CMD and Executive Director of nationalized banks for amassing assets, disproportionate to their known sources of income;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of officials and the banks concerned; and

(c) the action taken by Government in each case?

Market share of LIC

2770. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new private players in insurance sector are poaching LIC's market share;

(b) if so, what is the comparative data in respect of LIC and private players for the last two years in various insurance products, both rural and urban markets;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the drift of customers from LIC is on account of their diminishing confidence level in the LIC after the UTI fiasco, a Government owned entity like the LIC; and

(d) if so, what measures are contemplated to redeem the confidence of the public in LIC?

Violation of lending norms by Essar Group

2771. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Essar Group has not only defaulted on repayment of loan but also violated lending norms by transferring the oil terminal project of its flagship company Essar Shipping to its subsidiary Vadinar Oil Terminal Ltd. and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the approval of ICICI which is the lending institution, was not obtained as required under the norms and if so, the reasons therefor and the action Government have taken against the company in this regard?

Price parity among auto-fuels

2772. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to match the prices of all the automobile fuels namely, petrol, CNG and diesel, at equal rates; and

(b) how long it will take to achieve to equal the prices of all the automobile fuels?

Price of ethanol

2773. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 720 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th November, 2002 and state:

(a) whether ethanol blended petrol will be priced lower from the petrol being sold at present; and

(b) whether ethanol blended petrol will contravene the effluent norms being followed at present in New Delhi?

Supply of CNG to industries

†2774. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1467 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 2002 and state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to protect these industries from closure so far; and

(b) by when full supply of natural gas is expected for these industries which are operated on natural gas?

Implementation of agreement with petrol dealers

†2775. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed any agreement with All India Petrol Dealers Federation on August 17, 2001 through all the four Directors of oil companies in order to call-off strike;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to implement the said agreement so far?

Supply of CNG for ceramic and glass industries in Rajasthan

2776. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) whether Government have received any proposals by the Planning Department in Rajasthan for the supply of CNG for ceramic and glass industries;

(b) if so, whether Government are looking forward to provide CNG for the same in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Closure of petrol pumps on account of irregularities

2777. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 6 petrol pumps in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have recently been closed for 30 days on account of irregularities;

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

(c) whether the closure of a petrol pump for 30 days is an insufficient punishment for the various irregularities committed by petrol pump owners and it should be enhanced; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken in this direction?

Review of gas purchase from Iran

2778. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1458 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether India has dropped the plan of bringing natural gas from Iran through Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons for dropping the plan; and

(c) the names of the countries with whom India has been contacting to import gas and oil?

Royalty on crude oil

2779. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3007 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th December, 2001 and state:

(a) what is the rate of royalty on crude oil and gas in the NELP policy;

(b) whether these rates are less than the prevailing royalty rates;

(c) if so, whether there is any move by the Central Government to compensate; and

(d) what is the lower royalty rates payable to the State Government?

Dividend from overseas investments

†2780. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the public

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

sector oil companies have invested capital in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of companies and the amount invested by each of them so far;

(c) the amount of investment likely to be made; and

(d) the estimate of dividend likely to accrue as a result of said investment?

Safety of pipelines from Iran

2781. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:

SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

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

(a) whether the proposed Indo-Iran Gas pipeline project has been held up due to the tension on the Line of Control; and

(b) if so, the action taken to safeguard the energy transit and regional pipelines in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean to ensure the security of energy pipelines?

Waiver of excise duty on LNG

2782. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhure Lal Committee has recommended for waiving of excise duty on LNG and lowering tax on diesel;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) what action Government have taken or proposed to take on the recommendations?

Safety to oil tankers in Persian Gulf

2783. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran has sought India's help to safeguard transiting oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Import of petroleum products

2784. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of companies from where LGP/diesel/petrol/crude oil etc. are being imported to meet the existing demands of the country; and

(b) the details of foreign exchanges incurred thereon during the Ninth Five Year Plan and foreign exchange likely to be incurred during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Closure of LPG agency at Ramtek (Nagpur)

2785. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether HPCL has received any demand from Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat, Nagpur to start the home delivery of the cooking gas cylinders by re-starting the gas agency in Ramtek;

(b) if so, the response thereto; and

(c) what is the reason for shutting down the only gas agency of the Ramtek Tehsil of District Nagpur?

LPG connections in NE Region

2786. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered for LPG connections for more than one year in the various districts of North Eastern Region;

(b) the details of reasons for not providing the LPG to the waitlisted persons in this region; and

(c) by when the waitlist is likely to be cleared?

LPG outlets and petrol pumps in NE

2787. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allot more LPG outlets and petrol pumps in the North Eastern Region;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Policy on Ethanol Mixture

2788. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the use of Sugarcane derived Ethanol mixed with petrol to be used as an automobile fuel, without engine modifications;

(b) whether a long term policy in terms of mix ratios, pricing, taxation and duty structure and conditions of sale has been announced; and

(c) whether Government have undertaken any research to carry-out engine modification to enable use of higher percentage of ethanol?

Modalities for commercial sale of gasohol

2789. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized about commercial sale of gasohol, which would be cheaper and also eco-friendly and whether sugar mills in States like Maharashtra, UP, etc. have been technically advised to prepare themselves for production of ethanol; and

(b) if so, what are the guidelines issued and whether the distribution network has been geared up for the same and what phased programme has been made in this regard for the coming five years both from production and distribution angles?

Agreement with Reliance Petroleum

2790. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 707 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th November, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the agreement with Reliance Petroleum to whom the block at KG basin has been leased out, provides for sharing of the find with Government nominees like GAIL/ONGC; and

(b) if so, the rate of royalty agreed upon between Government of India and the Reliance Petroleum?

Overseas projects of IOC

2791. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of oil projects for which the Indian Oil Corporation has bid in the West Asia and Bangladesh;

(b) whether Indian Oil Corporation also proposes to sell diesel, bitumen and LPG to Bangladesh; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of on-going overseas projects of Indian Oil Corporation?

Auto LPG dispensing stations in A.P.

2792. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector oil companies propose to set up auto LPG dispensing stations in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether the locations have been identified by all the oil companies for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof, company-wise; and

(e) what safety norms will be followed in setting up of such stations?

ONGC Videsh projects in Libya

2793. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh Limited has signed an agreement with Turkish Petroleum Overseas Co. to acquire 49 per cent stake in oil and gas exploration in Libya; if so, the details of this project;

(b) what is the location of these exploration blocks and by when the exploration would be resumed; and

(c) the names of the other areas in foreign lands where the company has such on going projects?

Excise duty relief to refineries in Assam

2794. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for withdrawal of 100 per cent excise duty relief to Numaligarh Refinery;

(b) whether Government are considering to give 100 per cent excise duty relief to all the four refineries located in Assam; and

(c) if so, what decision has been taken?

Merger of BRPL with IOC

2795. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has received a memorandum on merger of Bongaigaon Refinery with Indian Oil Corporation instead of present status of subsidiary to Indian Oil Corporation; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken?

Revision in prices of LPG and Kerosene

2796. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to enhance the prices of LPG and Kerosene to partially offset the subsidy on these products; and

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

Tourism hubs in the country

†2797. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to build a number of tourism hubs simultaneously in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to include other places of the country in these hubs that are important for tourism;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of cities as tourist centres in Tamil Nadu

2798. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the number and the details of cities Government are contemplating to develop from the tourist point of view in Tamil Nadu?

New heritage sites

2799. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are creating new circuits to attract tourists to heritage sites in order to provide fresh impetus to Indian tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the heritage sites have been selected in consultation with the various State Governments and if not, the reasons therefor?

Encroachment near Birla Mandir, New Delhi

†2800. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that due to illegal encroachments, open toilets etc. between the Birla Mandir, New Delhi and Udyan Marg the tourists have to face a lot of problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by his Ministry to tackle the said situation and to provide clean and good environment to the tourists?

Financial assistance to Assam for promotion and development of tourism

2801. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans submitted by the State Government of Assam to Government for its approval and assistance for development and promotion of tourism sector in Assam during the year 2002-2003; and

(b) if so, the present status of implementation of such proposals?

Private participation in tourism sector

2802. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether private sector has shown interest in development of tourism in some States or region;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to sensitize tourist centres to attract foreign travellers *i.e.* promote hygiene and security which is the prime concern of the foreign tourists?

Outcome of the meeting of Asian Network of Major cities

2803. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:

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

(a) whether a host of Asian countries which share common values and aesthetic perceptions met in New Delhi on 20 to 23 November, 2002 under the banner of Asian Network of Major Cities-21 in order to forge closer links between various countries to create a common cultural identity;

(b) if so, the number of countries which participated in the meeting; and

(c) what were the main subjects discussed and the decisions arrived at?

Malpractice in Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

2804. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instances of malpractice have come to light in the affairs of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti;

(b) whether a former employee of CAG appointed recently is handling financial and administrative matters, he was not engaged for;

(c) whether *ad hoc* appointments were made in violation of a Government ban;

(d) whether out of turn promotions were given to some select staff; and

(e) whether Rs. 25 lakh was spent on Gandhi Smriti for development of campus by diverting funds from other heads without approval from Governing Body headed by the Prime Minister?

Antiques recovered from the godown of INTACH in M.P.

2805. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of unaccounted antiques were recovered sometime back from the godown of the INTACH in a restoration project at the heritage site of Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any probe has been ordered into the affairs so as to find out the magnitude of such illegal transaction and the persons involved;

(d) if so, whether the results of the probe has been received; and

(e) the steps taken, both preventive and corrective, in this regard?

Encroachments near heritage sites

2806. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Garbage rules in this Monument", "Concrete doesn't see merit in heritage or court orders" and "Money can buy you heritage here" appearing in the Express Newslines, Indian Express, Delhi dated 22nd April, 2002, 8th May, 2002 and 11th August, 2002 respectively;

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

(c) the details of action taken to clear encroachments, prevent illegal sale and stop construction work in prohibited area around protected monuments and heritage sites; and

(d) the steps taken for conservation, upkeep and maintenance of these monuments and creating facilities for tourists?

Road shows in foreign countries

2807. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold road shows in the United Kingdom, South East Asia, Europe and America in order to attract tourists and assure foreign tourists that India is safe destination; and

(b) if so, when these shows are likely to be held?

Development of Jain pilgrimage

†2808. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make a circuit of main places of pilgrimage related to Jain religion in the country on the line of 'Buddha Circuit';

(b) the other scheme being formulated by Government for the development of Jain pilgrimages; and

(c) whether Government are going to connect the Jain pilgrimages in Madhya Pradesh with the other Jain pilgrimages keeping in view the importance of them?

Duping/harassment of tourists in Kerala

2809. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp increase in cases of teasing, duping and mugging of the tourists in Kerala which draws a lot of foreign tourists;

(b) whether it is also a fact that sex tourism in the guise of Ayurveda parlours is working in the State; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to check all such activities?

Funds for ancient monuments in Gujarat

2810. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps for protection of historical monuments located in Gujarat especially in Saurashtra-Kutch region;

(b) if so, the names of those ancient monuments located in Gujarat for which grant is being provided; and

(c) the project-wise details of the expenditure incurred on maintenance of these monuments during the last two years?

Confirmation of officials in Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi

2811. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names/designations of officials of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Teen Murti House, New Delhi as on 30th November, 2002, who were promoted as *ad-hoc* during 1988 and after that;

(b) whether their confirmations have not been made in the grade in which they were promoted on *ad-hoc* basis;

(c) whether representations have been received by the authorities from such affected officials; if so, the date of receipt of such representations and action taken by the authorities thereon; and

(d) whether some MPs have also written in this regard; if so, the action taken by the authorities on each of the letters from MPs?

Development of village tourism in Andhra Pradesh

2812. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have requested the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to submit a proposal for development of village tourism in the State during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what is the response of the State Government with regard thereto?

Funds allocated for tourism development in Arunachal Pradesh

2813. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount proposed to be spent by Government for the development and promotion of tourism sector in the State of Arunachal Pradesh during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the total number of projects proposed to be sanctioned for the same in the State?

Promotion of tourism

†2814. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to extend full protection to tourism whereas it is the biggest source to earn the foreign exchange;

(b) if so, whether any ambitious scheme has been formulated by Government to promote tourism;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to give the status of industry to the hotel trade; and

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

Tourism development plan for Hampi

2815. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have been requested by the Government of Karnataka to approve the short term tourism development plan for Hampi involving a Central share of Rs. 16.96 crores; and

(b) by when the proposal is likely to be approved?

Investment in water management by France

2816. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French Government has shown its keen interest to invest in water management;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached with the French Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what are the projects that will be undertaken with the help of France; and

(e) what is the total investment made by France in these projects?

Loss due to delay in completion of SSP

2817. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the delay in Sardar Sarovar Project has already cost the nation over Rs. 9,125 crore due to operational cost and associated expenses as reported in the 'Assam Tribune' dated the 16 September, 2002;

(b) whether the project was scheduled to be completed by January, 1998 and it is incurring an average loss of Rs. 5 crore a day since then; and

(c) the shares of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan in the benefits of the multipurpose project?

Contaminated ground water in Ghaziabad

2818. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Ground Water Authority has identified many areas of Ghaziabad District (U.P.) as critical in view of contamination in ground water due to industrial activities;

(b) if so, the names of such areas;

(c) whether the local authority and district administration have failed to provide water

to the residents; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to solve the problem of drinking water to the people residing in those areas?

Programmes for increasing water table in the country

2819. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various programmes for water shed development, rain water harvesting and soil/water conservation run by the State and Central Governments have borne any results in increasing water table; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Rain water harvesting in Tamil Nadu

2820. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of action initiated by the Ministry in regard to the rain water harvesting projects since January, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that only five rain water harvesting projects have been implemented in Delhi successfully as reported in the Press;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) in what manner Government propose to take up rain water harvesting projects in Tamil Nadu and other States; and

(e) what types of infrastructure is needed for rain water harvesting system?

Protection of Majuli Island

2821. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the decadal rate of shrinkage of world's largest river Island Majuli and the extent of annual erosion during the last three years;

(b) the list of schemes cleared for implementation towards protection of Majuli during the Ninth and Tenth Plan indicating total outlay, allocation, utilisation made and implementing agency thereof;

(c) the functional role of Brahmaputra Board in controlling Brahmaputra as well as future responsibility on Majuli;

(d) the reasons for delay in the clearance and target set for implementation of schemes related to short term flood and erosion control measures for Majuli; and

(e) the implementation status of already sanctioned projects?

Funds for irrigation projects in Gujarat

2822. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide adequate financial assistance to Gujarat Government for constructing medium irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Cost and time over run of irrigation projects

2823. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of increasing cost and time over runs of some irrigation projects in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such projects which have spilled over into the Ninth Plan, State-wise;

(c) the original estimated cost and the present cost after escalation; and

(d) the details of Central allocation/loans assistance and external assistance obtained for those each of the projects particularly for those incomplete projects in Orissa?

NEW DELHI;
The 11th December, 2002
Agrahayana 20, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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