

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the February 18, 2003/Magha 29, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—101

#### Non-privatisation of airports

1. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government  
have decided against privatisation of four  
metro airports; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### Air service between Delhi and Mangalore

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to  
introduce either a direct or a hopping  
flight on Delhi-Mangalore or Delhi-  
Mumbai-Mangalore sector;

(b) if so, the present status of the  
proposal; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in  
the negative, the reasons therefor?

#### FDI in aviation sector

3. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED  
KHAN (DURRU):  
DR. AKHILESH DAS:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL  
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided  
in August, 2002 to open the aviation  
infrastructure to foreign direct investment;

(b) if so, the specific proposals cleared  
in this regard;

(c) whether there was a proposal to  
hand over the four metro airports to  
lessors; and

(d) if so, the progress made in this  
regard?

#### Expenditure on airport security

4. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL  
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that expenditure  
on airports' security in the country has  
gone up by more than 25 per cent in the  
past one year;

(b) if so, what are the details of the  
amount spent on airports' security by  
various agencies namely Airports  
Authority of India, and Central Industrial  
Security Force, airport-wise; and

(c) what steps Government propose  
to take to minimise the expenditure  
on airports' security in the years to  
come?

**Withdrawal of unviable services by  
Indian Airlines**

5. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines has sought permission from Government to withdraw Services from 50 commercially unviable sectors;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that if the proposal is implemented, the Indian Airlines is likely to earn more profits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Joint venture on metro airports**

6. SHRI GAYA SINGH:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to float a joint venture of Airports Authority of India (AAI) with private corporates for all the metro airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details and present status of the proposal?

**Upgradation of Delhi and Mumbai  
airports**

7. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set aside its proposal to privatise Mumbai and Delhi airports and to have direct investment for upgradation of these airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have created two separate groups/companies to oversee the functioning of these airports; and

(d) if so, by when the groups are likely to submit their reports and what are the plans of Government for the upgradation of these airports?

**Aircrafts with Indian Airlines**

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

(a) the total number of aircrafts in the fleet of Indian Airlines alongwith the number of aircrafts wholly owned by Indian Airlines and those which have been hired;

(b) the age of the aircrafts wholly owned by Indian Airlines and whether they fulfil all international technical parameters; and

(c) what was the age of the aircrafts which had met with accidents during the last one decade?

**New airport at Shamshabad,  
Hyderabad**

9. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have agreed to the proposal of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for location of new airport at Shamshabad; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if not, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

**Direct air service between Kolkata and Moscow**

10. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to start a direct flight from Kolkata to Moscow keeping in view the traditional bonds of friendship between India and Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Air India is being directed to assess the viability of the flights; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Rajkot-Delhi flight**

11. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to start Rajkot-Delhi flight *via* Surat, Jaipur has been examined by Government;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to start; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Cargo handled by airports**

12. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the international and domestic cargo handled by airports in the country has increased during April-October, 2002, as compared to April-October, 2001;

(b) if so, the quantum of this increase;

(c) whether new airports have done better as compared to old airports; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve infrastructural facilities in old airports?

**Concessional air tickets by Directors of IA**

13. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directors of Indian Airlines are causing heavy losses to the Airlines by providing free/concessional air tickets for national/international places to their friends/nearer and dearer in the name of public relations;

(b) whether Indian Airlines is providing free air tickets to those people/families whose properties are being used by Indian Airlines as offices/holiday homes and godowns for which they are being paid rent;

(c) if so, the names of Directors who provided free tickets alongwith the number of tickets issued during the last three years, month-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to put check on it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Purchase of new helicopters**

† 14. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas including North Eastern Region of the country being provided with the helicopter services;

(b) whether it is a fact that the helicopters being used for ferrying passengers in Lakshadweep from Cochin to Agati, Agati to Bangaram and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bangaram to Kavaratti happens to be more than 15 years old;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to replace the old helicopters and procure the new ones?

#### **Upgradation of ILS at IGIA**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Instrument Landing System (ILS) Cat-III(A) installed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport is not capable of blind landings and a large number of flights had to be delayed for long daily in the recent foggy conditions;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the available ILS facility is not being used to its optimum level due to lack of adequate training to pilots and the recurring communication snags between the control tower and the outer marker; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to upgrade the Landing System and also for better training of pilots for landings even in poor visibility?

#### **Closure of overseas Indian Airlines offices**

16. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of offices of Indian Airlines in different parts of the world, country-wise and city-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is seriously thinking of closing

down its offices in Europe;

(c) if so, the details of the offices proposed to be closed down; and

(d) what are the reasons therefor?

#### **Upgradation of Nagpur Airport**

17. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal to the Central Government for upgradation of Nagpur Airport; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and by when the proposal would be cleared especially when there is no financial liability of Government in this regard?

#### **Norms for Central assistance to State Governments**

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

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

(a) whether any final decision has been taken by the Central Government to review the norms regarding Central assistance to State Governments;

(b) if so, whether any concrete policy in relation to loan and grant components, interest rates and the pattern of assistance under externally-aided schemes has been prepared;

(c) to what extent these norms have been reviewed;

(d) to what extent it will be helpful to the States; and

(e) whether some of the Chief Ministers have asked the Central Government not to reward non-performing States with higher financial assistance and to limit incentives and reward to the performing ones?

#### **Effect of Iraqi war on economy**

19. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the likely effects of a possible war in Iraq on the Indian economy; and

(b) if so, what are the main findings thereof?

#### **Increase in revenue collection**

†20. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's revenue through direct and indirect taxes during April to December in the current financial year has increased in comparison to the same period during last year;

(b) if so, the amount collected as additional revenue; and

(c) the names of the items through which this additional amount has been generated alongwith the details of said amount separately?

#### **Price index of industrial labours**

†21. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a big gap between wholesale price index and price index of industrial labours during the first nine months of financial year 2002-2003;

(b) if so, what has been the minimum and maximum rate of wholesale price index and price index of industrial labours during the above said period;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of primary commodities like kerosene, flour and vegetables have increased more than the price index of industrial labours; and

(d) if so, what has been the rate of increase in prices of these commodities from March to December, 2002?

#### **Differential rates of interest**

22. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:  
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED  
KHAN (DURRU):  
DR. AKHILESH DAS:  
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) whether Government have identified three segments for the differential rates of interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to ensure that falling interest rate is not going to hit pensioners and senior citizens; and

(d) if so, the broad features thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Inflow of foreign investment**

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

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

(a) whether according to the US Treasury Secretary, India was lagging behind China in foreign direct investment inflows due to poor governance and lack of economic freedom;

(b) if so, whether India's strong English language skills and democratic system of Government should make it preferable to US investors over a country lacking both; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to see that economy of the country is further improved to foreign investment inflow from US and other countries is increased to give a push to our economy?

### **Appointment of 6th Pay Commission**

24. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:  
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

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

(a) whether as per the recommendation of the 5th Pay Commission which was accepted by Government, the next Pay Commission was required to be put in place in 2003 and its benefits made available to the employees by 2006;

(b) if so, whether action has been initiated to appoint the 6th Pay Commission; and

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

### **Cyber crime in bank**

†25. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:  
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared under the caption, "Password Ki Chori Kar Bank Ko 65 Lakh Ka Choonna" in Navbharat Times dated the 5th January, 2003;

(b) if so, the number of persons apprehended in this case alongwith the number of bank employees out of them;

(c) what steps Government have taken to stop the recurrence of such incidents in future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Sale of gold to increase foreign exchange reserves**

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

(a) whether Government propose to increase its foreign exchange reserves by selling off some gold from its gold reserves in view of steep rise in gold prices; and

(b) if so, the quantity of gold to be sold and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Assistance for Singhashta Kumbha at Ujjain**

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

(a) the funds and other facilities demanded by Government of Madhya Pradesh from the central Government for

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

forthcoming Singhashta Kumbha at Ujjain;

(b) the assistance already provided by the Central Government to Madhya Pradesh so far alongwith the assistance assured to be provided; and

(c) the amount of fund provided by the Central Government during the last Singhashta?

#### **Loans by financial institutions**

28. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Sector Financial Institutions are avoiding extending loans to large/medium industries for fear of accountability in the event of loan becoming Non-Performing Asset (NPA);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the above said tendency of financial institutions is either driving genuine-borrowers towards comparatively costly alternatives or compelling them to shelve their projects; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to check this negative trend and ensure requisite flow of credit to entrepreneurs?

#### **Notices to defaulters by SBI**

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

(a) the number of notices served by the State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda to defaulters;

(b) the amount involved in cases of defaulters to whom notices have been served; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken against the defaulters?

#### **Defaulters of IFCI**

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

(a) the number of notices served by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India to the defaulters;

(b) the amount involved in cases of defaulters to whom notices have been served; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken by the IFCI against the defaulters who do not repay the amount after expiry of date of notice?

#### **Cashless service to mediclaim policy holders**

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

(a) whether the Nationalised Insurance Companies have introduced the IRDA (Third Party-Administration-Health Services) Regulation 2001 to provide cashless service to mediclaim policy holders;

(b) if so, the highlights of the regulations;

(c) whether it is a fact that the idea behind introduction of the Regulation has not been fulfilled in actual service; and

(d) if so, whether the Regulations are proposed to be suitably amended for the beneficiaries?

### **Janashree Bima Yojana**

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

- (a) whether the 'Janashree Bima Yojana' announced by Government has come into effect;
- (b) if so, the amount earmarked for the scheme;
- (c) the number of policy holders who have subscribed to the scheme till date; and
- (d) the State-wise details of policy holders under the scheme?

### **Advance payment of taxes by Corporate Houses**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that big Corporate Houses have been paying huge amounts as advance income-tax in excess of their tax liability and causing loss to Government's exchequer on account of interest on these amounts deposited;
- (b) if so, the details of Corporate Houses/Industries who have resorted to such practice;
- (c) what is the total loss to exchequer on account of this;
- (d) whether the officials involved in these racket have been held responsible; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

### **Interest rate on PPF**

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

- (a) the total fund available with Government on account of PPF, GPF and Group Insurance as on 31st December, 2002;
- (b) the total outgo on account of interest and other advances to the contributors during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government have revised downward the rate of interest on PPF and other funds recently; and
- (d) if so, the situation warranting such a revision?

### **Revival of IFCI**

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

- (a) the details of the activities financed by IFCI togetherwith the total advances made during the last three years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that IFCI is in the red on account of its asset liability mismatch;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard;
- (d) whether it is a fact that IFCI pays over 13 per cent interest to its lenders over its outstanding liability of Rs. 21,000 crores as against the market rate of 6 per cent; and
- (e) what are the packages being considered by Government to revive this institution?



**Ensuring loan to educated Youths in Kashmir**

36. PROF. SAIFUD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Nationalised Banking Sector in Kashmir does not contribute to self-employment schemes by provision of credit; and

(b) if so, whether Government would like to intervene in the matter and ensure loans to educated unemployed youths?

**Fraud office for defaulters**

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a "Fraud Office" in the Ministry of Finance to deal with offenders like fly by night operators resorting to diversion of funds, siphoning off funds, manipulating the capital market, indulging in fraudulent activities, seriously impacting the interest of stake holders, etc. as presently such offenders hardly get convicted under present laws;

(b) if so, what would be the parameters of its functioning; and

(c) whether existing laws would be suitably amended or new laws enacted to make it an effective deterrent institution?

**Notices issued under securitisation law**

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

(a) the number of notices issued by the Nationalised Banks to defaulters under the Securitisation law to take over properties; and

(b) what has been the effect thereof?

**Overseas development assistance from Japan**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan is willing to enhance Overseas Development Assistance to India;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance given during the last three years by Japan;

(c) the assistance that Government are going to receive from Japan in 2003; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to utilize the assistance?

**Permission for investing in foreign stocks**

40. 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 allowed resident Indians', companies and mutual funds to invest in stocks abroad;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to allow NRIs to take upto US\$ 1 million from the sale of properties and other assets they may own in India; and

(c) if so, the details of the decisions taken by Government in this regard?

**Vijay Mathur Committee on taxation of NRIs**

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

(a) whether Vijay Mathur Committee on taxation of NRI has submitted its Report;

(b) if so, the major recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Committee recommended to make it mandatory for NRI, who have business transactions within India to have a PAN number; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Nine-point reforms agenda for capital account convertibility**

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

(a) whether Government announced a nine-point reforms agenda to take the country towards full capital account convertibility;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction and response of the Indian and foreign trade and industry thereto?

**Restructuring of Department of Company Affairs**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Company Affairs (DCA) has inadequate infrastructure of inspection and investigation of corporate nexus in manipulating the capital market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating any restructuring of the regulatory functions of the DCA along-with investing a greater degree of independence to it because there may be conflict of interest between administrative and regulatory functions; and

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

**Double taxation avoidance treaty with Mauritius**

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

(a) the funds invested in Indian Capital Market by Companies based in Mauritius during the last three years, year-wise and Company-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that since Mauritius does not have a capital gains tax this route becomes a major inducement for denying legitimate revenue to India, given our Double Tax Avoidance Agreement with Mauritius;

(c) whether Government are contemplating re-negotiating the clauses and raising this in Joint-working group with Mauritius since this was made possible due to Mauritius Overseas Business Activity Act which was post-DTAA; and

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

**Misappropriation of funds for population control**

†45. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the financial assistance provided by Government to States for population control is being misappropriated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take any action against such States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Seizure of heroin in Madurai**

46. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether heroin weighing 7.5 kg worth Rs. 7.5 crores in international market was seized from a hotel in Madurai, on January 7, if so, the details of the persons apprehended in connection therewith;

(b) the number and details of seizures of heroin and other narcotics, made during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and the current year and the gangs, if any, found engaged in drug pedalling; and

(c) the effective steps taken to prevent drug pedalling and channelising drug-funds for terrorist and other criminal and illegal activities?

### **Reduction in interest rates on deposits**

47. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India and other nationalised banks have lately been considering further reduction in interest rates on deposits;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the decision, if any, taken in the matter?

### **Regulatory authority for Co-operative Banks**

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has suggested setting up of a separate

regulatory authority for the co-operative banks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken together with its present status; and

(c) the details of views expressed by various State Governments on the proposal?

### **Dearness Allowance of Central Government employees**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the total amount of Dearness Allowance of the Central Government Employees granted so far has exceeded 50 per cent of their basic pay;

(b) if so, whether the 50 per cent of the Dearness Allowance is to be merged with their basic pay as per the Fifth Pay Commission formula; and

(c) by when action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

### **Privatisation of UTI-II**

50. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bifurcated portion of the UTI, (UTI-II) will be entrusted to Asset Management Company (AMC) and it will be privatised;

(b) if so, the details of the sponsors of the AMC; and

(c) what are the benefits Government are expecting from the privatisation of UTI-II?

### **NPA's of public sector banks**

51. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of the public sector banks have increased alarmingly during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that main reasons for this increase is the practice of lending and investments in non-priority sector; and

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

### **Redemption of US-64 Scheme**

52. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that almost all the unit holders of US-64 scheme would redeem their respective share from the UTI-I after May 2003, and get out and explore other safer investment avenues;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto alongwith the estimated units slated for redemption; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to give promotional offers to investors to re-invest the redeemed money in the mutual fund schemes or other Monthly Income Plan?

### **Foreign exchange reserves**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that our foreign exchange reserve is close to \$ 70 billion mark;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered prepaying some high cost foreign currency loans from the comfortable forex reserves;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **SEBI's action against defaulter promoters**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that SEBI proposes to restrict the unscrupulous promoters from accessing capital market;

(b) if so, the criteria proposed to be adopted by SEBI for debarring bad promoters from the market; and

(c) the procedure that SEBI has for vetting prospects filed by the promoters for raising money from the capital market?

### **Irregularities in Bhubaneswar stock exchange**

55. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether certain irregularities have been detected in the Bhubaneswar Stock Exchange, as reported in the Business Standard dated the 6th January, 2003, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some persons have been arrested in the matter, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a new Administrator has been appointed by SEBI to protect the

interests of the investors and an enquiry has been ordered in the case; if so, the terms and references of the enquiry Committee and results thereof?

**Financial aid for Kanpur Irrigation Project**

56. SHRI B. J. PANDA:  
SHRI RAMACHANDRA  
KHUNTIA:

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

(a) whether Orissa Government has approached Japanese Bank for International Cooperation for financial aid for their Kanpur Irrigation Project, as reported in the New Indian Express dated the 19th December, 2002;

(b) whether the State Government has also asked for aid from the above Bank for reclamation of degraded forests; and

(c) if so, the amount of aid for each of these projects and role played by the centre for early sanction of the aid?

**Cases of corporate frauds**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to transfer cases of corporate frauds to Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO);

(b) if so, the details of cases transferred to SFIO till date;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed to dispose off these cases; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Oil refineries at Bhatinda and Bina**

58. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made thus far in setting up oil refineries at Bhatinda and Bina; and

(b) how these projects will be implemented after the contemplated privatisation of HPCL and BPCL?

**LNG Terminal at Kakinada**

59. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the present status of the proposed Rs. 500 crores LNG Terminal at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh and its future in view of gas found by Reliance Petroleum?

**Consumption of petroleum products**

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

(a) the expected consumption of petroleum products in the coming two years;

(b) the quantum of domestic production of such products alongwith quantum of products to be imported; and

(c) the expected amount of foreign exchange to be spent on the same?

**Survey for identification of oil and gas resources**

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

(a) whether Government have

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

conducted any survey to identify the oil and gas resources in the different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of places in Uttar Pradesh and other States where exploration of oil and natural gas has been undertaken by various oil companies during the last three years and till date?

#### **Introduction of Gasohol**

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

(a) the details in respect of pricing, expected demand and supply as also the phased programme drawn up for introduction of Gasohol in other parts of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Gasohol is considered less polluting; and

(c) if so, the details of studies conducted on its eco-friendly nature?

#### **Import of crude oil**

†63. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of crude oil during the first nine months of the year 2002-2003 has increased in comparison to that of the same period during the last year;

(b) if so, the additional quantum of crude oil imported during April to December in current year in comparison

to that of the import made during the said period of the last year; and

(c) the additional amount paid by the country due to the said additional import?

#### **Potential of oil and gas reserves**

64. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is projected to have the capability of producing up to 3 per cent of world's oil and gas output in the coming few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey/plan has been drawn up for identifying the possible areas of oil and gas reserves; and

(d) if so, by when the final results of the survey are likely to be available?

#### **Strike notice against privatisation of HPCL and BPCL**

65. SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that various trade unions in the public sector oil companies had served notice of strike against Government's decision to privatise HPCL and BPCL; and

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

#### **New retail outlets by Reliance Industries**

66. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Industries, who

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

have found gas deposits in Krishna-Godavari basin have declared that they would commission 1,500 retail outlets for petrol and diesel by April, 2004 as part of its marketing of petro products;

(b) whether Government have granted permission for marketing;

(c) whether Government have taken steps to coordinate in running the existing outlets and the proposed outlets of Reliance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Transportation of Gas found by RIL in KG Basin**

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

(a) whether Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) have rejected GAIL's offer to build pipeline grid to transport and market the company's recent gas find in Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin;

(b) if so, the details of plan for transportation by Reliance; and

(c) the action proposed for a joint venture to ensure better development in the National interest?

#### **Gas pipeline between Kakinada and Goa**

68. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay a Gas Pipeline from Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh to Goa for transportation and marketing of the Gas discovered in the Krishna - Godavari Basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target for completion of the project?

#### **Revision in price of LPG**

69. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government that price of cooking gas should not be hiked because this gas is being used by poor people; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response on the above request?

#### **Curbs on export of crude oil**

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

(a) the details of country's annual crude oil requirement, the indigenous production and import of the oil with revenue implication during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that ONGC has requested Government to lift curbs on export of crude oil; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

#### **Cost of production of LPG**

71. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase LPG price;

(b) if so, the reasons for the proposed increase; and

(c) the details of the efforts made by Government to reduce the cost of production of LPG?

**Oil reserves with public sector oil companies**

72. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of oil reserves with various public sector oil companies;

(b) whether any assessment on strategic petroleum reserves has been made; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Potentiality of oil and gas in Himalayan region**

†73. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has now been drawn to the potentiality of oil and gas in the Himalayan region as per scientific data regarding presence of petrol and gas in that area; and

(b) if so, the details of amount likely to be spent on this and for how many years this programme is likely to go on and by when the success is likely to be achieved in this regard?

**Government's share in oil exploration by private companies**

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

(a) the mechanism evolved for ascertaining the share of Government and Private Sector in exploitation of oil and gas reserves, being explored by Private Sector;

(b) the quantity and places of oil and gas explored by each of the companies of Private Sector so far; and

(c) by when, such exploitation is likely to commence?

**Guidelines on allotment of petrol pumps**

75. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI RUMANDLA  
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court had quashed the Prime Minister's order on pump cancellation;

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

(c) whether after this, almost all those who were allotted pumps have been cleared and have been issued licence for running these petrol pumps;

(d) if so, whether any guidelines have been prepared as to in what manner the petrol pumps will be allotted in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Overseas oil projects**

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

(a) whether Government have a proposal to take some projects in the oil sectors in other countries;

(b) if so, the details of the projects in which investment is proposed to be made; and

(c) the amount of investment involved in these projects?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



### **Neglected monuments in Orissa**

77. SHRI B.J. PANDA:  
SHRI RAMACHANDRA  
KHUNTIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that various ancient monuments, sculptures and heritage sites are lying neglected in Orissa, as reported in the New Indian Express dated the 4th January, 2003;

(b) whether some of these centres are on the verge of collapse and ASI has failed to preserve the images of Gods and Goddesses at these centres; and

(c) if so, the remedial action proposed to be taken to help the State in the matter?

### **Tourism activities in Himachal Pradesh**

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

(a) whether there has been any increase in tourism activities in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether tourist spots have shown arrival of many tourists from March to December, 2002; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to attract more foreign tourist in the State?

### **Renovation and development of tourist spots in Himachal Pradesh**

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

(a) the names of tourist spots in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the details of these spots which are based on religious background and also on other aspects;

(c) whether any new projects on tourism are under consideration of Government;

(d) if so, the details of the decision regarding new projects and the sanction of funds; if any; and

(e) whether Government have any proposal for renovation and development of existing tourist spots?

### **Conversion of Central Jail, Goa into a National Monument**

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

(a) whether Government are aware that Ajwada Fort Jail (Central Jail) Goa played a historic role in Goa Liberation Movement;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to convert the same into a national monument and inscribe on its walls the history of the Liberation Movement togetherwith the names of the heroes of the great struggle; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Setting-up of Tourist Police Force**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has requested all the State Governments and UT Administrations to set up Tourist Police Force for the safety of tourists in their territorial Jurisdiction particularly foreign tourists who complain of harassment, duping and even molestation which tarnish the image of the country abroad; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of each State and UT in this regard?

**Funds allocated for tourism in  
Andhra Pradesh**

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the Tourism Master Plan of Andhra Pradesh prepared by World Tourism Organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Central assistance provided so far and proposed to be provided to the State for the implementation of the Master Plan?

**Comprehensive plan for development  
of Lakshadweep Island**

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

(a) whether any comprehensive plan for promotion and development of tourism sector in the different parts of the country including Lakshadweep Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

**Creation of National Park around the  
Taj Mahal**

84. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of fresh projects have been drawn up to attract more tourists to the Taj Mahal by beautifying the heritage corridor and creating a National Park around this world famous monument; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals including the financial contribution offered by the sponsors, if any?

**Reduction of taxes in hotel and  
tourism industry**

85. SHRI BHAGAT RAM  
MANHAR:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebration, a NRI Conference held in January, 2003 have urged Government to reduce high taxes in hotel and tourism industry;

(b) if so, the complete details of suggestions made by the above Conference; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to these suggestions?

**Improvement of Kalkaji Temple in  
Delhi**

86. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are taking any measure to improve the management of Kalkaji Temple in south Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to improve conditions in and around this old temple?

**Preservation and promotion of  
Tribals in Andhra Pradesh**

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

(a) whether Government have prepared any action plan for the preservation and promotion of Tribals, their languages, folk arts and culture in the tribal areas of the country including those in Andhra Pradesh; and

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

### **Completion of SYL Canal**

†88. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work of Satlej-Yamuna link canal could not be completed till 15th January, 2003;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that some other agency would be selected by the Government to complete its construction work;

(c) if so, the plan of Government in this regard; and

(d) by when, this project is targeted to be completed now?

### **Chief Ministers meeting on linking of rivers**

89. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has called a meeting of Chief Ministers of States to discuss the linking of rivers of the country;

(b) if so, whether there is unanimity of views on this subject; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken in this regard?

### **Tribunal on sharing of Krishna water**

90. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a petition seeking constitution of a Tribunal to regulate sharing of the Krishna water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

### **New irrigation projects for Himachal Pradesh**

91. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new irrigation project for Himachal Pradesh has been formulated by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds sanctioned for the same;

(c) by when these projects are likely to be started; and

(d) if reply to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

### **Joint meeting of Indus Waters Commission**

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

(a) whether the 88th joint meeting of the Indus Waters Commission was held in Islamabad on 30th January, 2003; and

(b) what matters were discussed in the meeting?

### **Recharge of underground water source**

93. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that underground water source is depleting alarmingly in the country;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to recharge the underground water source; and

(c) whether Government propose to enact a Legislation for the protection and maintenance of ground waters; if so, the details in this regard?

#### **Pending irrigation projects in Karnataka**

94. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incomplete irrigation projects which have already swallowed huge resources bedevil the irrigation in the country;

(b) if so, the amount required for completion of the projects in the country;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to mobilise funds and the time required to complete them; and

(d) the details of incomplete irrigation projects in Karnataka, the amount and time required to complete the projects in the State?

#### **Foreign aided irrigation schemes of Uttar Pradesh**

†95. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of irrigation schemes of Uttar Pradesh which have received foreign aid;

(b) the scheme-wise foreign aid received during the last three years;

(c) the actual amount spent on irrigation schemes of the State during the said period;

(d) the number of irrigation proposals pending with Government alongwith reasons therefor; and

(e) by when these proposals are likely to be sanctioned?

#### **Mobilisation of resources for river linking project**

96. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to rope in Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) including corporates controlled by PIOs in massive projects like linking of the rivers and to mobilise PIO resources for river linking project; and

(b) if so, the PIOs and corporates controlled by PIOs who have evinced interest in the river links projects and the offers made by them?

#### **Release of water from Tungabhadra Dam**

97. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka had not released Andhra Pradesh's share of 4 tmc. ft. of water from the Tungabhadra Dam;

(b) if so, whether the water was meant to meet the drinking water requirements of Kurnool city and Adoni and Yemmiganur Municipalities in Kurnool district;

(c) whether there is no response from the officials in Karnataka despite repeated pleas for the release of water; and

(d) if so, whether the Central Government have agreed to issue instructions to Karnataka to release water to Andhra Pradesh?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Projects on interlinking of rivers**

†98. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to construct 30 projects for interlinking rivers in the country with a view to provide water to dry areas from extra water flowing areas;

(b) if not, the number and other details thereof;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the construction of each project; and

(d) the quantum of additional water likely to reach in dry areas under each scheme?

**Completion of projects on interlinking of rivers**

†99. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
'LALAN':

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to complete the construction of all the projects of inter connecting the rivers in the country by 2016; and

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

**Sutlej-Yamuna link canal**

100. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:  
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sutlej-Yamuna link canal has been completed as directed by the Supreme Court;

(b) whether Government are aware that Haryana is agitated over the delay in completion of SYL Canal;

(c) by when the construction work on this canal will be restarted and its likely date of completion;

(d) the cost of remaining work and amount of money allocated for 2003-04; and

(e) the steps being taken to complete the project expeditiously ?

**Implementation of Dastur Plan**

†101. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to link all rivers of the country;

(b) if so, the details of roadmap thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to implement 'Dastur Plan' of the decade of sixties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 11th February, 2003*  
*Magha 22, 1924 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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