

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the March 19, 2002/Phalguna 28, 1923 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

Flights to foreign countries from Kolkata

1629. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA
NAHATA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
introduce more international flights
particularly for Hongkong, Singapore and
Jordan from Kolkata International Airport
in view of foolproof security;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government have
any plan to start more Air India flights
from Kolkata?

Security lapse at Coimbatore airport

1630. SHRI C.P. THIRUNA-
VUKKARASU: Will the Minister of
CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether security lapse has been
reported at the Coimbatore airport as
nearly 25 approach light fittings on the
runway were found missing recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount lost in the theft; and

(d) the steps taken by the authority to
avoid such happenings?

Civil Aviation Training Academy in Bangalore

1631. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under
Government's consideration to set up a
Civil Aviation Training Academy in
Southern part of the country;

(b) whether Karnataka Government
has offered 50 acre of land for setting up
the Academy in Bangalore; and

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

New airports in private sector

1632. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared
any proposal for setting up of any new
airport projects in private sector in the
country;

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

(c) the details of proposals received
by Government from private sector so far;
and

(d) by when these projects are likely
to be cleared and completed?

Signing of bilaterals by AI

1633. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has signed a record number of bilaterals with the airlines operating in the Gulf Countries in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Air India has sought security clearance for the same?

Discount scheme of IA and Alliance Air

1634. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Alliance Air have offered heavy discounts and schemes inspite of the fact that the Airlines is running into heavy losses;

(b) if so, in what manner airlines plans to manage losses created by offering unwanted discounts; and

(c) the details of discounts and schemes offered by Indian Airlines during the last one year and how much is the loss to Indian Airlines on this during the last one year?

Losses suffered by IA due to aviation fuel

1635. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines are incurring losses worth crores of Rupees on aviation fuel due to connivance between some officials of air

traffic control and private airlines;

(b) whether Government have received any such complaint; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

Free tickets issued under Desh-Videsh Scheme

1636. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "IA scheme flops, Government pays twice over" which appeared in the Statesman, New Delhi on 12th February, 2002;

(b) if so, the total number of free tickets issued to passengers under 'Desh Videsh' scheme with the total value of these tickets;

(c) whether Indian Airlines is incurring heavy losses during the last one year; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for announcing various schemes offering freebies to passengers?

Losses suffered by airports in Andhra Pradesh

1637. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the airports in Andhra Pradesh are incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise and airport-wise;

(c) the reasons for incurring consistent losses by these airports; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken to improve the situation?

Capacity of aircrafts to Kullu and Kangra

† 1638. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total capacity of aircrafts carrying passengers to Kullu and Kangra in Himachal Pradesh per week;

(b) the number of passengers deprived of air-journey as a result of lack of sufficient capacity;

(c) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard; and

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

Flights from Cochin International Airport

1639. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 408 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st August, 2001 and state:

(a) the names of the foreign airlines who have been given permission so far for operating flights from Cochin International Airport;

(b) whether it is a fact that many applications are still pending with the Ministry of Civil Aviation for want of clearance;

(c) if so, the names of the airlines; and

(d) the reasons for delay in this regard?

Touts at airports

1640. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noticed that the touts in the garb of travel agents

are active at almost all the busiest airports of the country;

(b) if so, the action Government have taken to eradicate this problem; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the service of ATM machines, pre-paid taxi services reduction in baggage clearance time and better signage at airports?

Smart cards for employees posted at airports

1641. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether BCAS after conducting series of security audits has now decided to restrict the movement of officials and staff posted at various airports;

(b) if so, whether the employees of the various agencies working at airports would be issued 'smart cards';

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of foolproof security measures BCAS propose to adopt at various airports in the country?

Panel of Traffic Assistant

1642. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a panel for the post of Traffic Assistant in Indian Airlines was formed during 1997 under the special recruitment drive for the Scheduled Caste candidates only;

(b) if so, the number of persons included in the panel together with number of persons who have been given appointment; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when, the remaining candidates are likely to be given appointment?

Anti-dumping regulations

1643. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the Doha Ministerial Conference of WTO with particular reference to Anti-dumping regulations;

(b) whether it has been defined in the WTO Agreement in the Doha conference; and

(c) if so, whether it has taken public interest into consideration within a broad framework of WTO?

Problems faced by plantation sector

1644. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deep crisis in the tea plantation sector affecting the planters, small farmers as well as the labour; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken by Government to solve the problem?

Monetary benefits to exporters

†1645. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented various schemes for providing economic assistance to promote export from the country; and

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and the average annual amount given to the exporters as economic relief under each scheme during the last three years?

Fall in rubber prices

1646. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the natural rubber producers are facing serious crisis due to the constant fall in price; and

(b) if so, the details of steps Government have taken to bail out the producers from the present crisis?

Procurement of natural rubber

1647. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural rubber procured by State Trading Corporation from Kerala during the current year;

(b) whether Government would consider to extend Central assistance to the State of Kerala for promoting the procurement of Rubber;

(c) whether Government have taken any step to get the natural rubber classified as an agricultural product in the WTO list; and

(d) whether Government persuaded the WTO for the same and the action taken in the matter so far and the decision, if any, arrived at?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Decline in export of leather

1648. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of Indian leather has declined at an alarming rate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost the export of leather?

Anti-dumping proceedings against Indian steel

1649. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA is taking an anti-dumping action against India due to huge export of Indian steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of adverse effect this will have on the Indian steel industry?

Exports to developed countries

1650. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 27 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) whether exports have received a severe setback due to terrorists attack on WTC and other places in United States on 11th September, 2001;

(b) if so, the present export position with US and other developed countries; and

(c) the steps taken to enhance exports to those countries?

Production and export of tea

1651. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of tea produced in the country during the last three years beginning from 1997-98, year-wise;

(b) the total volume of tea exports during the above period in terms of quantity and value togetherwith its share in the global export market;

(c) whether it is a fact that our tea exports to the international market has been stagnating, if not declining, during the above period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reverse the downward trend in tea exports?

Enforcement agency for TRIPS

1652. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the agency of Government which has been entrusted the responsibility of enforcement of the TRIPS; and

(b) whether Government have any plan for stricter enforcement of the TRIPS?

Promotion of inter-regional trade

†1653. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to grant more relaxations to promote inter-regional trade;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the comprehensive details thereof, and by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Exports from NER

1654. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of items exported from NER during the Ninth Five Year Plan alongwith the amount of foreign exchange earned through export of those items; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to increase the exports and the details of incentives being given to exporters?

Operation of French dairy

1655. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted a French dairy to manufacture and market its products in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the production would start?

Impact of tobacco consumption on health

1656. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 26 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly eight lakh people become cancer patients every year and the one-third of them have cancer as a result of tobacco consumption;

(b) the impact of increased production of tobacco products on health in India and abroad; and

(c) the names of the countries who promote and encourage the manufacture and marketing of tobacco products?

Agricultural imports

1657. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of agricultural products whose imports have gone up during the last three years;

(b) the extent of such increase in terms of rupees and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of these imports on domestic agricultural products in the country?

Single-window facilitator for foreign investment

1658. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the appointment of single-window facilitator for foreign investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, it is likely to start functioning?

Decline in infrastructure growth

1659. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that infrastructure growth has come down to 2 per cent in April-December, 2001 as compared to 6.8 per cent during April-December, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the sectors where the downward trend has been significant; and

(c) the causes for this downward trend and what is the estimated projection of growth of infrastructure in the year 2002?

Cases pending with PRC

1660. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending with the Policy Relaxation Committee for disposal;

(b) whether it is a fact that many cases are pending for more than six months for action;

(c) whether it is also a fact that PRC has not been held for more than two months; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such long delays and what steps are being taken to expedite matters and save the exporters from harassment?

FDI flow to Orissa

1661. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of FDI in India through financial collaborations and through joint ventures and technical collaborations with the State and industry-wise details;

(b) whether Government are taking any measures to bring FDI flow to Orissa in the coming plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Special Economic Zones

1662. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning new features in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to lure more investment to attain 11.9 per cent export annually;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are visualizing new economic zones in the coming plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Import of gold

1663. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of gold imported into India during the last three years with its value in terms of rupee, year-wise;

(b) whether gold imports into India have come to a halt recently; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Export Processing Zones

1664. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Export Processing Zones in the country, State-wise;

(b) the items and the total value of exports made through each of these zones in the last three years, year-wise and zone-wise; and

(c) the items and value of imports made through each of these zones during the last three years, year-wise and zone-wise?

FDI proposals for Rajasthan

1665. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal for Foreign Direct Investments in Rajasthan have been submitted during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decisions thereon; and
- (c) the details of the FDIs made in the State during the last three years?

Spreading of disease in prawn hatchery of Kerala

1666. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether officials of Marine Product Exporting Development Authority are aware of the disease which spread in the prawn hatchery of Kerala after June, 2001;
- (b) if so, the details regarding exact period when it came to notice, the nature and the reasons for spreading the disease, the area affected in each district, the total number of farmers whose hatchery is affected, the steps taken to control the disease and the amount spent therefor till date by MPEDA; and
- (c) the total quantity of prawn exported and the foreign exchange received during the last three years; State-wise and year-wise?

Tobacco export

1667. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer

to Unstarred Question 26 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal to allow foreign direct investment for cultivating international quality tobacco;
- (b) the special measures being taken to boost tobacco export; and
- (c) whether there are other steps contemplated in the interest of ryots?

FDI in real estate sector

1668. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for inviting FDI in real estate sector also;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, whether Government would consider doing so in future?

Waiver of interest on repayment of loan

1669. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to introduce a scheme under which interest is proposed to be waived on the loan upto Rs. 25,000/- in the event of repayment of Principal amount of loan in lump sum;
- (b) if so, the salient feature of the scheme; and
- (c) the manner in which Government are likely to be benefited?

Budgetary assistance for States from foreign countries

1670. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted any State Government to receive "budgetary assistance" from foreign countries;

(b) if so, the States which have been given permission and the countries from which these funds are coming; and

(c) whether there are any pre-conditions to such budgetary assistance?

Loans to weaker sections of society

† 1671. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government are considering to issue guidelines for providing loan from banks to weaker sections of society;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action, so far, in this regard; and

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

CBI's dossiers on customs personnel

1672. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CBI has prepared dossiers on a large number of customs and excise men containing details of favours granted by them; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on these cases?

Excise duty on chewing tobacco and gutka

1673. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual excise duty on chewing tobacco and gutka has been reduced drastically during the last one year;

(b) if so, the revenue collected from chewing tobacco and gutka product manufacturers during the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) the top five manufacturers of chewing tobacco and gutka who have paid highest excise duty during the last two years, year-wise?

Lending to irrigation corporations by commercial banks

1674. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government to promote commercial banks to classify lending to irrigation/irrigation corporations constituted by the State Governments either as direct or indirect priority sector;

(b) whether Government are aware that such measures will ensure adequate financial resources for the State Government; and

(c) whether Government would take steps to make lending to irrigation/irrigation corporations by commercial banks more liberal by removing all restrictions and treating it as priority sector in Karnataka?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reduction in Central excise duty on cigarettes

1675. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tobacco farmers are demanding reduction in Central excise duty on cigarettes and waiver of interest on bank loans; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

FDI in private sector banks

1676. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has notified to allow 49 per cent FDI in private sector banks in the country; and

(b) if so, whether the portfolio investment in these banks by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) will be within the FDI limit of 49 per cent or outside?

Revision of money changing rules by RBI

1677. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED
KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently revised and relaxed money changing rules; and

(b) if so, the intent, purpose and other details in this regard?

UTI's Rajyalakshmi Scheme

1678. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the court had stayed the withdrawal of UTI's Rajyalakshmi Scheme of deposit for girl-child before the expiry period;

(b) if so, the number of depositors who have not yet withdrawn their deposits made under this scheme;

(c) what is the present status of the scheme; and

(d) whether UTI proposes to take any action to see that the depositors who have not yet opted out of the scheme, do not suffer losses on their deposits?

Forgery by M/s United Breweries Limited

1679. MISS FRIDA TOPNO:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2930 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th December, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Enforcement has since received any report in regard to investigations made by the Delhi Police for the forgery committed by M/s United Breweries Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any challan has been filed in the court; and

(d) if so, the details in the regard?

Overdraft position of State Governments

1680. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the overdraft position of all State Governments worsened considerably during the current year and their accounts were frozen by RBI treasuries were closed down for a few days;

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

(c) the main reasons for worsening of the financial position of States and in what way the Central Government propose to help these States?

Outstanding loan against industrial houses

† 1681. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified such big 20 industrial houses which have taken maximum loans from Government banks and other financial institutions and have not returned the same in due time;

(b) if so, the total amount of loan of these institutions outstanding against the above said houses by the end of December, 2001; and

(c) the percentage of above said loan in terms of amount of non-performing assets of all financial institutions?

Insurance cover in Assam

1682. SHRI INDRAMONI BORA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Sector Insurance Companies operating in some of the districts in Assam took decision to withdraw insurance cover in this region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such decisions to withdraw insurance cover has been taken in other States also;

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

(e) if not, the reasons for taking such decisions in respect of Assam only?

Redemption of partly convertible debentures by M/s Shalimar Wires and Industries Limited

1683. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has recently received complaints regarding delay in payment arising out of redemption of partly convertible debentures by M/s. Shalimar Wires and Industries Limited (SWIL), 27-A, Camac Street, Calcutta-700016 for which duly discharged certificates were asked for by the company by 30th November, 2001 from the debenture holders; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter so far?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Perks under Desh-Videsh scheme of Indian airlines

1684. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether schemes like Desh-Videsh offer of Indian Airlines involve any perk when the travel is at Government's expense;

(b) whether such schemes lead to increased/avoidable travels at Government's expense; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to regulate this perk?

Outstanding taxes

1685. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether outstanding amount of unrecovered taxes has been increasing continuously during the last few years;

(b) the outstanding amount of account of Income Tax, Corporate Tax, Customs Duty and Central Excise Duty as on 31st March of 1999, 2000 and 2001; and

(c) the plan of action by Government to liquidate the same?

Flouting of rules by MNCs

1686. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some Multi-National Companies are flouting rules of excise and customs;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is investigating customs exemption issue on life saving drugs; and

(c) the number of Indian Pharmaceutical Companies against whom cases of crores of rupees as excise and customs duties are pending?

Closure of Urban Cooperative Banks

1687. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the panic stricken situation caused by reported closure of Urban Coop. Banks in Anand, Nadiad (Gujarat) and the Coop. Bank in Pune (Maharashtra);

(b) whether it is a fact that during the last fortnight more than Rs. 60.00 crores have been withdrawn from these banks by the depositors;

(c) whether the Bank of Punjab is also facing cash liquidity problems as reported in the press; and

(d) whether the Reserve Bank of India is keeping a vigil over the functioning of Urban Cooperative and private banks, after the Madhavpura Bank collapse?

SBI's India Millennium Deposit

1688. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Bank of India's net asset dipped to 21 percent on account of India Millennium Deposit and V.R.S.; and

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

World Bank aid to irrigation projects in A.P.

1689. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has sent proposals worth Rs. 8,000 crores to World Bank to take irrigation projects to provide water to 11.60 lakh acres in the State's Telengana region; and

(b) if so, when these proposals were sent and by when a decision is likely to be taken and funds released?

Loss of revenue due to uniform tax in Pondicherry

1690. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to implementation of uniform tax in the Union Territory of Pondicherry, the State has incurred a loss in revenue to the tune of Rs. 60 crores per year; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government are going to compensate the loss?

State of foreign Banks in Indian Banks

1691. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has asked Government to clarify the foreign banks' stake in Indian Banks as reported in 'Business Standard' of February 9, 2002;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the names of foreign Banks in the country with their operations making inroads into nationalised banks;

(c) the details regarding the work culture of Indian and foreign Banks; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating sweeping Bank reforms on the lines of China's Central Bank?

Misappropriation of investors' money by private companies

† 1692. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of all efforts made by the Department of Company Affairs, the whereabouts are not known in respect of the companies which have misappropriated the amount of investors to the tune of Rs. 65 crore and Rs. 63 lakhs;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to return the misappropriated amount to the investors; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

Restructuring of Departments by ERC

1693. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Departments identified by the Expenditure Reforms Commission for restructuring/downsizing;

(b) the number of Group C and D employees likely to be rendered surplus, once the recommendation of the Expenditure Reforms Commission are implemented;

(c) the amount of expenditure on the voluntary retirement scheme made available to employees declared surplus; and

(d) whether voluntary retirement scheme will be available to employees not declared surplus?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Structural Adjustment Loans from foreign institutions

1694. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Governments have been permitted to negotiate Structural Adjustment Loans from multilateral or bilateral foreign institutions or countries; and

(b) if so, with which country or foreign institution?

Examination of balance sheet of Mohan Nagar Sehkari Avas Samiti

1695. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Questions 64 and 65 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government have examined the Balance Sheet for 2000-2001 issued by Mohan Nagar Karamchari Sehkari Avas Vikas Samiti Limited, Mohan Nagar, in December, 2001;

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken by Government;

(c) the complete names with father's names and addresses of 995 members mentioned in the above balance sheet togetherwith payments of (i) development charges and (ii) cost of land against each; and

(d) whether such payments have been reflected in Income tax returns?

Genuineness of foreign currency parcels

1696. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign currency permitted to be sent through foreign parcels;

(b) the details of such parcels containing foreign currencies received in the foreign parcel post office at Ahmedabad during the last two years along with the names of the countries from where such parcels have been received;

(c) whether Government have any device to ascertain the genuineness of these foreign currencies entering the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the manner in which Government propose to prevent entry of foreign currency in the country?

Non-availing of Annual Plan

1697. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Ministries including the Ministries of Commerce, Tourism, Heavy Industries, Planning, Power and External Affairs have not been able to avail of the Annual Plan provision fully in the first seven months of this fiscal year;

(b) whether the overall expenditure of Government has been only 42 percent of the budgeted expenditure from April to October, 2001; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the effect it has on the development of the country?

Rise in price of Gold

1698. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that price of Gold is increasing at a rapid rate;

(b) what will be the effect on our economy due to this hike;

(c) the reasons for this sudden increase; and

(d) the steps taken to contain the situation?

ATM facilities in Karnataka

1699. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Nationalised banks which providing ATM facilities in Karnataka;

(b) the number of ATMs of these banks in Karnataka and the places where these are functioning;

(c) whether Canara Bank has its ATMs in Bangalore and other parts of Karnataka; and

(d) the number of ATMs of various Nationalised banks which are proposed to be opened in Karnataka during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003?

Declaration of SBI branch as rural banks

1700. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of India, Head Office, New Delhi declared the SBI, Dosha, Govindpuri and Maharajpur, Uttar Pradesh as rural banks;

(b) if so, from which date;

(c) the criterion for declaring a bank as rural branch;

(d) whether officers who had worked in these branches during 1992—1996 would be deemed to have completed rural assignment; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Promotions in State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur

1701. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total employees post-wise promoted by State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur during the last three years;

(b) what is the number of SC/ST employees out of the above;

(c) the details of issues raised by All India Association for SC/ST and Physically handicapped people upliftment with bank during the last year;

(d) whether Association has been informed about the action taken till now;

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

(f) by when action will be taken to give reply to the Association and to sort out all issues?

Small savings scheme of post offices

1702. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions when Government resorted to cut in rate of interest on all small saving schemes in post offices and banks togetherwith the details thereof;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware that such frequent reduction of rate of interest on small term deposits are likely to have an adverse effect on the growth in small

savings besides affecting the income of the salaried group and senior citizens?

Excise free life saving drugs

1703. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have requested the Ministry of Finance to make the life-saving drugs excise free for the benefit of the public;

(b) if so, the details of proposals sent by that Ministry and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) by when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken and announced?

**Misappropriation of funds by
M/s Golden Forest Ltd.**

1704. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that M/s Golden Forest (India) Ltd., SCO, 834, Mani Majra, Chandigarh, had collected huge amounts from the public in 1997 as fixed deposits and recurring deposits;

(b) whether it is a fact that the company is refusing to repay that amount to the public;

(c) if so, whether Government would hold an enquiry into the affairs of the company and provide relief to innocent investors; and

(d) whether Government propose to take action against the company?

**Control on use of residential
telephones**

†1705. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would issue at the earliest the guidelines to check or control the unlimited payment of residential telephone bills of concerned officers of all Ministries/Departments; and

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

**Stipulation on number of telephone
calls**

†1706. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue orders for stipulating the number of telephone calls and making the payment mandatory by the respective officers in respect of those telephone calls which are in excess to stipulated limits; and

(b) if so, the time by when the orders are likely to be issued and effected and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Transfer of staff in State Bank of
Bikaner and Jaipur**

1707. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of transfer applications of award staff received by State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur on medical ground from different Zones of Jaipur, Bikaner and Sikar between 1st January, 1997 to 31st December, 2001 year-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the applications considered on merit and employees transferred showing SC/ST separately in (a) above;

(c) by when action on remaining will be taken; and

(d) the total transfers made from 1st January, 1996 to date on request without medical ground and husband/wife not working in other States under Central/ State Government Offices and Departments?

Provision of agricultural loans by banks

† 1708. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banks in the country are not showing much interest in giving loans in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of loans taken by farmers for agriculture in rural areas during the last three years, State-wise?

Redemption pressure on UTI Schemes

1709. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 schemes of the UTI were under severe redemption pressure during the six months ending December, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to overcome these problems?

Fake stamp papers from Central Security Press, Nasik

1710. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake stamp papers could be originating from the Central Security Press at Nasik, as stated by Revenue Minister, Karnataka as reported in the Hindu dated the 10th January, 2002, Bangalore Edition;

(b) if so, the details of persons involved and the worth of fake stamp papers produced so far; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps against the culprits involved in the racket?

Fiscal deficit

1711. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the fiscal deficit for the current financial year *vis-a-vis* 2000-2001, 1999-2000 and 1998-1999;

(b) the revenue deficit during the above period;

(c) the reasons for high fiscal deficit at present;

(d) whether non-tax revenue receipts have registered a reverse growth;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the corrective steps proposed by Government in this regard?

Private Insurance operators

1712. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the number of private insurance operators who have been given permission to operate in the country and those foreign firms who have entered the fray;

(b) the number of applications presently pending with Government for clearance;

(c) the guidelines presently followed clearing the cases; and

(d) in what manner the performance of these operators are monitored by Government and whether any complaints have been received against them and if so, the details thereof?

Asset Reconstruction Corporation of India Limited

1713. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked all the public sector banks to contribute towards the initial equity for Asset Reconstruction Corporation of India Limited;

(b) if so, the names of the banks which have already contributed to ARC and amount deposited by each bank;

(c) whether Government have chalked out the areas/States which are to be given priority of allocation of funds from ARC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the criteria adopted by Government in selecting the areas or States where funds from ARC will be invested?

Conversion of loans of sick companies into equity

1714. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Financial Institutions have now made it a convention to convert all loans of large sick companies into equity;

(b) if so, whether such a policy has been cleared by Government;

(c) if so, the extent to which such a policy has a negative impact on the Financial institutions; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to review this decision?

Decrease in investments in core sectors

1715. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decreased the earmarked investment in the core sectors during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to increase investment in current budget for the core sector during the next three months; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Examination of export consignments

1716. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have relaxed norms for customs examination of export consignments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner it would benefit the exporters?

Funds from U.K. for bilateral development programme

1717. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of UK has decided to increase funding for the bilateral development programme to 300 million pounds by 2003-2004 from 175 million pounds in the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether the UK Government has signed an agreement with the Indian Government;

(c) if so, to what extent UK has decided to provide funds for development programmes in India; and

(d) the time by when these funds would be made available to India?

Misuse of DEPB Scheme

1718. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of the DRI have recently discovered a fishy scam as reported in the Statesman dated the 24th February, 2002;

(b) if so, the *modus-operandi* of the scam;

(c) whether Government are aware that the DEPB Scheme is grossly misused by exporters in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the exporters may not indulge in misuse of DEPB Scheme?

Donations to Narmada Bachao Andolan

1719. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Enron donated Rs. 10 Lakhs to Narmada Bachao Andolan, a voluntary organisation;

(b) whether the donation was made as per established procedure laid down by Government; and

(c) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Central Government against NBA?

Telephone subscribers under income tax net

1720. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the expansion of telephone network, particularly to the villages is being hampered because of the fear that getting a telephone would draw them to income tax net;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take telephone connections out of the list of items the ownership of which makes filing income tax returns compulsory; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Appointment of agents for change of soiled currency

1721. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some agents have been appointed in Delhi and Himachal Pradesh to deal with change of soiled/torn currency notes;

(b) if so, what are their names and location, State-wise togetherwith charges fixed for each service;

(c) whether RBI, New Delhi is issuing new currency notes and coins of Rs. 1, 2 and 5 denominations to general public on demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with formalities required in each case and if not, the reasons therefor?

Accounts of terrorist organisations

1722. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have instructed Reserve Bank of India to freeze the accounts of Terrorist Organisations; and if so, the names of the organizations?

Sharing of foreign exchange with States

1723. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow the States a share of foreign exchange earned by units located in the States as the State Governments have to incur considerable expenditure to provide infrastructural support to export-oriented units that receive financial benefits from the State Governments in the form of tax remission, incentives etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Projection of fiscal deficit

1724. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have projected that current fiscal deficit would continue to be at 5.3 per cent of GDP or Rs. 135,524 crore as compared to 2001-2002 when the deficit was Rs. 131,721 crore being 5.7 per cent of GDP;

(b) whether in absolute terms, the projected deficit is Rs. 4,803 crore more than the revised estimates for the current fiscal;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for the fiscal deficit front to remain grim; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to raise/bridge the wide gap between resources mobilised and its bludgeoning expenditure during 2002-2003?

VRS in all Union Ministries

1725. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission has favoured the introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in virtually all Union Ministries;

(b) whether Government have decided "to take up for consideration VRS for Central Ministries" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 5th February, 2002;

(c) if so, the Ministries/Departments which likely to be covered under VRS indicating names Ministry-wise, Department-wise strength-wise/amount-wise reduction in the each case; if implemented; and

(d) the reaction of the Central Government Employees Trade Unions to such plans of VRS?

Agricultural loans to women

1726. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Banks are not extending agricultural loans to women;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to

take steps to provide such loans to women?

Model stock market exchange

†1727. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider to set up a model exchange with a view to keep in declining confidence of investors in share market as well as to maintain the credibility of share workers;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the share market activities are likely to be monitored?

Investors Protection Fund

1728. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-
SHANKER DAVE:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any claims under Investors Protection Fund (IPF) have been lodged with National Stock Exchange, by Stock Broker during the last one year;

(b) whether NSE has not settled any claims of small investors below Rupees Five lacs during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and why should NSE collect funds for IPF; and

(d) whether the Ministry would take over the IPF for the benefit of small investors, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Decline in Note Examination Sections

1729. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Note Examination Sections has declined considerably *i.e.* from 102 in 1991 to 52 in 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that frequent closure of Note Examination Sections of Reserve Bank of India resulted in huge accumulation of soiled notes in various Reserve Bank of India regional offices which will adversely affect the economy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for strengthening the Note Examination Section?

Single asset management structure for UTI

1730. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of trustees of UTI has decided to pitch for a single asset management structure;

(b) if so, the details of such a decision;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are thinking of privatising the UTI in this year itself;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when, Government are going to put the asset management structure?

Export of crude oil by IOC

†1731. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Corporation has formulated a plan to export imported crude oil;

(b) if so, the quantity of imported crude oil sold by the abovesaid institution during the current year; and

(c) the profit earned or loss suffered by the said institution in this trade?

New Auto Fuel Policy

1732. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new auto fuel policy based on recommendations of the R.A. Mashelkar Committee has been finalised;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the new policy has been cleared with undue haste without giving adequate opportunity to the affected interests to discuss and analyse the document?

Impact of global prices on domestic oil prices

1733. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED
KHAN (DURRU):

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

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

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Production of oil from new wells

†1734. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether production from the crude oil wells explored since March, 1998 has since been started;

(b) if so, the number of oil wells from which the production has been started during the above period; and

(c) the year-wise production of crude oil from these oil wells during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

Investment made in exploration of oil

†1735 SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether new crude oil wells have been explored in the country during March, 1998 to December, 2001;

(b) if so, the location thereof and the assessment made regarding the quantity of crude oil expected to be found in those wells; and

(c) the total amount spent on exploration of these oil wells?

Reconsideration of IBP disinvestment

1736. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has purchased IBP in the privatization process;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether this deal will lead to the creation of a monopoly of IOC in the petroleum sector; and

(c) if so, whether Government would reconsider their decision and halt this deal and if not, the reasons therefor?

Share holding in Haldia Petro-Chemicals

1737. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present shareholding of Government of West Bengal in Haldia Petro-chemicals Limited;

(b) what are the details of the principal shareholders of HPL;

(c) whether Indian Oil Corporation has shown its interest for shareholding and if so, the percentage asked for;

(d) whether IOC has put "to have management control" as a condition for taking shareholding; and

(e) the present accumulated loss of HPL?

LPG distribution agency in Jashpur

†1738. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) since when the proposal for setting up a LPG distribution agency in Jashpur District Headquarter (Chhattisgarh) is pending;

(b) the time when advertisement was given for the same alongwith the number of times the same was published;

(c) the reasons for not granting them clearance; and

(d) by when the agency would be established in Jashpur Nagar?

Mixture of water in LPG cylinders

†1739. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints from consumers of LPG cylinders filled with water at the time of its supply;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by Government during the last three years in this regard and also less weighing LPG cylinders, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government on each complaint, so far?

Financial performance of HPCL

1740. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether HPCL has posted 82 per cent drop in net profit for the October-December, 2001 quarter than a year ago;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for improving performance of HPCL?

Exploration of Hydro-carbon on KG Basin

1741. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has recommended to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to undertake Hydro-carbon Exploratory activity in Krishna-Godavari Basin along the Andhra Pradesh coast; and

(b) if so, the production of gas from

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

this Basin during the last one year and what was the production target?

Supply of clean fuel to Hyderabad

1742. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hyderabad has been declared a "Clean-City";

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has approached Government to include Hyderabad as one of the Metro cities where only clean fuels are supplied;

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, by when a decision is expected to be taken?

Shares acquired by IOC

1743. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of acquisition of shares made by IOC since 1998; and

(b) the total amount depleted from the reserves of IOC?

Hike in royalty on crude

1744. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government propose to hike royalty on crude;

(b) the details of royalty per tonne at present and the royalty after the proposed hike;

(c) the States which are getting royalty at present; and

(d) by when the increased royalty will be paid?

Import of petroleum products

† 1745. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petroleum products imported in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the target fixed for import of petroleum products in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether it is a fact that import of petroleum products is going to be increased; and

(d) if so, the ratio of increase during the last three years, year-wise?

Science city in Gujarat

1746. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has sent any proposals to Government for setting up of Science City Project;

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

(c) the amount of funds/assistance released by Government so far?

Valuation of IBP

1747. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry in the wake of observations that IOC might have paid

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

more for the purchase of IBP shares in the recent divestment had defended IOC decision in some electronic media on the basis of valuation of IBP assets by replacement cost method;

(b) if so, whether the valuation of IBP on which Government took its final decision to arrive at the reserve price was on the basis of replacement cost method; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the valuation of IBP made on the basis of the four internationally accepted methods?

Development of tourist places in Uttar Pradesh

†1748. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 605 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th March, 2002 and state:

(a) the number of such cities Government are contemplating to develop from the tourist point of view in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details thereof?

Boost to tourism industry

1749. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States and Europe take 78 per cent stake of tourism, whereas India has a meager of 0.4 per cent tourist while the rest of South Asia take 0.5 per cent of tourists;

(b) whether irrational taxes, high visa fees, lack of lending permit facilities and unhygienic conditions including beggar menace are some of the important

drawbacks for Indian Tourism Industry; and

(c) if so, what urgent steps are being taken by Government to give boost to the Tourism Industry as a whole?

Development of rural tourist spots

†1750. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to develop tourist spots in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of the rural tourist spots earmarked for this purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to attract foreign tourists towards rural tourist spots?

Funds allocated for temples in Gujarat

1751. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

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

(a) whether the former Minister of Culture had agreed to allocate Rs. Ten crores as first instalment for Ahimsa University Project in Gujarat from the funds earmarked for Bhagwan Mahavira 2600th Janma Kalyanak Committee;

(b) if so, the follow up action taken by Government;

(c) whether Jain temples affected or demolished by earthquake in Gujarat have been considered for allocation of grants;

(d) if so, the details of number of such

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Jain temples and the amount sanctioned to each one of them; and

(e) the details of other projects which have been given grants, with project-wise and State-wise details?

Security of Taj Mahal

1752. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT
RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an E-mail threatening to destroy the Taj was received;

(b) whether Taj trapezium is vulnerable to terrorist attack from North-side when river flows; and

(c) if so, the action taken to tighten security from that side in view of E-mail threat received to destroy the Taj?

Revival of Tourism Industry

1753. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN:
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the Tourism Industry in our country has been very much affected in the recent days;

(b) if so, what are the details of remedies proposed by Government for revival of tourism of our country; and

(c) the details of funds earmarked for this purpose?

Funds allocated for development of tourist places

† 1754. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the development of tourist places of different States of the country during the last three years;

(b) the names of the tourist places of the country which are yet to be developed; and

(c) the details of total amount allocated for the development of tourist places under the Ninth Five year Plan alongwith the total amount spent so far?

Theft of books in National Museum

† 1755. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that many important books are missing from Publication Division of the National Museum;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take to prevent such thefts from such an important National Museum; and

(c) the name of the agency which has been asked to conduct an inquiry in this regard?

Setting up of Casinos in HP

1756. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some instructions have been issued to States and Territories to set up Casinos;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Casinos have been set up at Kullu and Manali in Himachal Pradesh, are in terms of existing instructions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor togetherwith the action to be taken in the matter?

**Expenditure on old monuments in
Sibsagar District of Assam**

1757. SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN:
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND
CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any expenditure to bring Sibsagar District of Assam, which has some old monuments, under the tourist map of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action is being taken for development of Majuli?

Tourism under Concurrent List

1758. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND
CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring Tourism under the Concurrent List;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what concrete steps are being taken to remove dirt and filth, the beggars and unsanitary conditions in places of tourist interest so as to attract more tourists?

**Development of tourism in Tamil
Nadu**

1759. PROF. M. SANKARA-
LINGAM: Will the Minister of
TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sign MoU with other States particularly Tamil Nadu on the lines of signing MoU with Uttar Pradesh as reported in Indian Express dated 22nd February, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details for the development of tourism in Tamil Nadu and other States of the country?

Infrastructure on Buddhist sector

1760. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY:
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND
CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister on his recent visit to Japan and address to Chambers of Commerce at Kansai (OSAKA) have pledged to improve the infrastructure on Buddhist sectors to woo Japanese tourists;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he had promised to open new routes in Ladakh to the foreign tourists; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, the steps being taken by Government to improve the infrastructure on Buddhist sector and which new destinations are being opened in Ladakh?

**Hotel industry of infrastructure
sector**

1761. SHRI GOPALSINH G.
SOLANKI: Will the Minister of
TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government have

recognized the hotel industry as an infrastructure sector since it has been a sub-sector to tourism;

(b) if not, whether Government plans on this issue; and

(c) in what manner Government are using the international offices of the tourism department to promote tourism in the country and the amount spent on each of tourist offices abroad per year?

Decline in tourist arrivals

† 1762. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of the tourists in the country has come down to less than half after the month of September last year;

(b) whether the ratio thereof has been the same in the case of Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar as well;

(c) the contribution of the Tourism Industry in the total revenue of the country as well as in respect of the said States separately; and

(d) in case of a downfall in the revenue, what steps are being taken by Government to get out of this situation?

National Library Policy

1763. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate a National Library Policy to give impetus to the

growth of the library movement across the country;

(b) if so, whether he has made a suggestion that all Members of Parliament spend Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 lakhs annually for setting up and improving the libraries in their constituencies; and

(c) if so, whether any concrete policy in this regard have been worked out?

Private participation in duty free shops at airports

1764. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) had invited proposals for private participation in the duty free business at the Indian airports;

(b) if so, the names of the airports where the duty free business is to be given to the private parties;

(c) the proposals received by the ITDC in response to its tenders;

(d) whether Government have examined these proposals and if so, details thereof; and

(e) how far the running of duty free shops by private parties would be more beneficial to Government?

Constitution of Tourism Advisory Council

1765. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted the Tourism Advisory Council at the national level; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in constituting it, especially in view of the downturn in tourism?

Inclusion of Roerich Art Gallery in UNESCO Heritage List

1766. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Himachal Pradesh Government have requested to take action to preserve the Roerich Art Gallery at Naggar in Kullu by adding it to the World Heritage List; and

(b) if so, the action taken to raise the matter in UNESCO?

Tourism Policy

†1767. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

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

(a) the details of the effective steps being taken by Government to develop the tourist places of different States of the country;

(b) whether Government have formulated any tourism policy in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Compulsory collection of rain water

†1768. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan for making the collection of rain water mandatory on the roof of industrial enterprises in National Capital Territory;

(b) whether a warning for punitive action under Section 15 of Environment Protection Act, 1986, has been issued for not going in for adoption of water collection system on the roof by 31st December, 2001; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken in the light of directions of Government?

Water level in Gujarat

1769. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether entire State of Gujarat is standing on an empty tank as the water level of the State has gone down to all time low;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study or survey through satellite to know the most affected area of Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to mitigate the water problem of the State?

Decline in per capita availability of water

1770. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for decline in the per capita availability of water in the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the steps Government are contemplating for a comprehensive and integrated approach to water management especially in the context of its demand;

(c) if so, the details of measures proposed to be adopted by Government in this regard; and

(d) whether there has been any evaluation of the previous national water policies to ascertain the causes responsible for the decline?

Modernisation of KC Canal

1771. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought assistance for modernisation of KC Canal for execution of medium irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

Fresh irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh

1772. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Water Commission had cleared certain fresh irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh for getting World Bank loan;

(b) if so, the amount of loan; and

(c) the irrigation projects to be financed with this loan; and

(d) by when the loan is likely to be materialise?

Diversion of funds to various heads

†1773. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amount allocated to the Ministry of Water Resources for controlling erosion by Ganga and for providing drinking water to people of hilly regions been diverted for other heads instead of making proper use of the same;

(b) if so, the year-wise/item-wise details of amount allocated to Uttar Pradesh during the last five years; and

(c) whether Government will ask for the details of the amount spent on other heads to insure the completion of the same by State Government?

Completion of 'KELO' water project

†1774. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) since when the proposal for constructing the KELO Multipurpose Water Project in Chhattisgarh has been pending with Government;

(b) the present cost of the project;

(c) the date on which foundation stone was laid; and

(d) the details of amount spent on various heads of this project?

Restoration of irrigation projects in A.P.

1775. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that many major and minor irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh stand damaged due to floods, cyclones, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government have taken to repair and restore those projects of the State on priority?

Fall in public investment in irrigation

1776. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public investment in irrigation has fallen significantly over successive five year plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to address this problem in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Increase in irrigation potential

1777. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite large investments in irrigation only about 40 percent of agricultural area is irrigated;

(b) if so, the reasons for this state of affairs;

(c) in what manner Government propose to generate irrigation potential to cover additional non-irrigated land; and

(d) what has been the role of major and medium irrigation projects in this regard?

Renovation and revival of Orissa Coast Canal for Irrigation

1778. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for renovation and revival of the Orissa Coast Canal for development of irrigation facilities; and

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for the said purpose and the progress of the work so far?

New tribunal for surplus Krishna water

1779. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has moved to the Central Government for the constitution of a new tribunal for determining the States' share of the surplus Krishna water;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to constitute a Tribunal to determine the share of Krishna surplus water; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Share of Rajasthan in BBMB

1780. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government has sought higher share of water from Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB); and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on demand of Rajasthan Government?

Clearance to Kushivali Dam in Maharashtra

1781. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given clearance to 'Kushivali Dam' in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof;
 (c) whether Government are aware that the allocated amount has been diverted elsewhere as the work of the same Dam has not yet started; and

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

Pending irrigation projects in Bihar

† 1782. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the medium as well as major irrigation projects of Bihar which are pending with Government;

(b) the reasons for the projects lying pending; and

(c) whether non-clearance of projects has adversely affected the development of Bihar?

Flood Control

1783. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total flood and drought prone areas in the country in each plan period from First to Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(b) whether dams on the rivers are causing dryness/silting of all rivers beds thereby causing floods; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 13th March, 2002
Phalgun 22, 1923 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X (Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 1629, 1630, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1639, 1640, 1641, 1642,
Commerce and Industry	: 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1668,
Finance	: 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1697, 1698, 1699, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1728, 1729, 1730,
Petroleum and Natural Gas	: 1731, 1732, 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, 1747,
Tourism and Culture	: 1746, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767,
Water Resources	: 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783.