

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the August 19, 2003/Sravana 28, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

**Use of airlines' cargo service by
private courier companies**

2853. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether private courier companies
use airlines' cargo service;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Post
Office Act does not permit private courier
companies to use the airlines' cargo
service; and

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

Operation of small aircrafts

2854. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI JHUMUK LAL
BHENDIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan
to induct small jet engine aircrafts in
Indian Airlines, Alliance Air and Air India
to operate between smaller and less
economical routes like North-Eastern
States and Andaman and Nicobar and
Lakshadweep Islands, etc.;

(b) if so, whether any Committee has
been formed for the purchase of small
aircrafts;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government feel that it
would be feasible and economical to
operate small but good jet engine aircrafts?

Rajkot-Delhi air service

2855. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been made
to start Rajkot-Delhi flight;

(b) if so, whether Indian Airlines has
started any flight on this route;

(c) the number of passengers who have
travelled by air from Rajkot and Surat to
various parts of the country during the last
three years by Indian Airlines and Jet
Airways;

(d) whether the proposal as mentioned
in (a) above is being implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Air India in low cost airlines business

2856. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that premium airlines around the world are entering the low cost airlines business by launching no frill subsidiaries and Air India has decided to follow suit to retain its passenger payload; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this plan and the impact of this degradation of quality and customer satisfaction on the airlines business?

APEX fares of AI and IA

2857. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air India have introduced APEX fares for various sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof togetherwith fares on each sector;

(c) whether other private airlines have also announced similar schemes and their fares are less as compared to fares of Indian Airlines/Air India; and

(d) if so, the details of concessional fares and schemes announced by private airlines?

Expansion of air services from Gwalior

†2858. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that flights to other places in the country are not being started from Gwalior airport, Madhya

Pradesh despite all facilities and development of runway there;

(b) if so, what are the impediments due to which air services are not being started; and

(c) by when the arrangements for starting air services from Gwalior are being planned?

Revival of aerodrome at Cooch Behar, West Bengal

2859. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that an aerodrome exists in Cooch Behar, West Bengal which witnessed regular air-service in the past;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal seeking revival of the aerodrome and resuming air service; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken initiative in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

Upgradation of Raipur airport

2860. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposal with Government to upgrade the airport in Raipur;

(b) if so, by when the said upgradation work would start and be completed; and

(c) what funds are involved for the same?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Renovation of Varanasi airport

†2861. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes for the renovation of Babatpur airport in Varanasi, U.P. has been sanctioned but the same have not been started yet; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when these schemes are likely to be implemented?

Haj traffic

2862. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the carriers of Haj traffic during 2000, 2001 and 2002 with Haj fares as fixed by Government and paid to the carriers per pilgrim, year-wise;

(b) the prevailing New Delhi-Jeddah-New Delhi IATA fares in US Dollars and Indian Rupees at the time of fixation, Haj-wise;

(c) the number of Haj pilgrims who availed of the Haj service, year-wise;

(d) the Haj fare paid by the pilgrims, year-wise; and

(e) the total amount paid to the carriers out of Government funds as subsidy, year-wise?

Air ticket booking facilities

†2863. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of district headquarters having booking facilities of one or more airlines; State-wise; and

(b) whether his Ministry would consider provision of booking facilities in the major cities of such States where air services are minimum?

Use of retreaded tyre by Alliance Air

2864. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Alliance Air had used a six time retreaded tyre in a Boeing 737 chartered by Army to ferry its personnel from Leh recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or to be taken against the erring officials connected with this episode?

Purchase of flight simulators

2865. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to check air accidents;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are acquiring flight simulators in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the benefits of such flight simulators?

Bilateral air service agreements

2866. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bilateral air service agreements/negotiations concluded on the basis of balance of advantage and reciprocity to either side, during the last one year;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of flights/frequencies agreed to in the bilateral negotiations, country-wise/airlines-wise;

(c) whether Air India/Indian Airlines are not using allotted frequencies of air services on many sectors which is detrimental to their business interests; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

National Transportation and Safety Board

2867. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a National Transportation and Safety Board with a view to having an effective control over both the airlines and the Railway safety, as the existing system of having Railway safety organisation under Ministry of Civil Aviation has not proved effective; and

(b) if so, whether such modalities would be evolved which would also ensure credibility of the entire process of safety and accountability of the major forms of public transport?

Criteria for APEX fares

2868. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines offers APEX Fares on certain sectors;

(b) the criteria for selecting routes; and

(c) the reasons for discriminating against Delhi-Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad-Vizag Sector?

New convention and Exhibition Centre at Mumbai

2869. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the 68th Board meeting of Airports Authority of India, held on 14th July, 2003, it was decided to form a Public Limited Company for setting up of International level Convention and Exhibition Centre at Mumbai Airport; and

(b) if so, the details and the justification thereof?

Task Force on infrastructure

2870. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether upgradation of major metro airports in India to world class standards was one of the mandates given by the Task Force on Infrastructure, set up by the Prime Minister in 1998; and

(b) if so, the details of progress made by the Ministry of Civil Aviation from 1998 till date in this respect?

Provision of modern hand trolleys at Raipur airport

2871. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether old designed and insufficient number of hand trolleys are in use at Raipur airport, Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to make available modern designed hand trolleys in sufficient number at Raipur airport?

Outstanding dues against organisations

2872. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the organisations which are issued air tickets by Indian Airlines on the receipt of Exchange orders duly signed by the competent authority;

(b) the quantum of amount which is outstanding against each organisation as on 31st March, 2003; and

(c) what steps are being taken to recover that amount from them during the last three years and with what results?

Import of Chinese goods

†2873. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Chinese goods are being stockpiled in the country;

(b) whether Chinese goods are being imported as per the import policy and tax regime; and

(c) if not, whether he has held any dialogue with the Government of China on this problem?

Private placements with UTI

2874. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI N. K. PREMA-
CHANDRAN:
SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI K. B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has written to Government that an inquiry be conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation into investments by private placements with UTI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto and

by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Investigation into investments made by UTI

†2875. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH LALAN': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to get the investigation about the investments made by UTI in various institutions during last years, done by SEBI;

(b) if so, the details of the capital investments to be investigated; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to complete the investigation; if so, the details thereof?

North East Industrial Policy, 1997

2876. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced the North East Industrial Policy, 1997 for North Eastern Region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the relief granted to the industries so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the same relief has been withdrawn, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are aware that there is a strong resentment amongst the people in the North East Region against this measure; and if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Dearness Allowance

2877. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Dearness Allowances due for payment to the Central Government employees w.e.f. 1st July, 2003; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to release the payment?

Fresh infusion of capital into LIC

2878. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Life Insurance Corporation's business has suffered a setback in the context of entry of private sector in the insurance business;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the LIC is in urgent need of infusion of fresh capital to maintain its solvency, and if so, how much;

(c) whether Government propose to restructure the Corporation to face the competition from the private insurance companies; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

Pending income tax cases

2879. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending income tax cases, circle-wise and year-wise in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Kanpur since the assessment year 1999-2000 onwards;

(b) the number of cases, out of the

above, where refunds of Rupees ten lakh and above are to be made to the assesseees; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite these cases?

Directors on the Boards of banks

2880. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to debar Members of Parliament and State Legislatures from becoming directors on the Boards of Commercial and Cooperative Banks;

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

(c) whether the viewpoint of the Reserve Bank of India has been sought with regard to the proposed move and if so, the details thereof?

National Tax Tribunal

†2881. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a National Tax Tribunal for making improvement in the tax system;

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

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to hasten the pace of getting tax refunds and dispute settlements?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana

2882. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the benefits provided under 'Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana' introduced in 2003-04 for citizens above 55 years of age;

(b) whether Government are considering to allow participation of private life insurance companies in the above scheme; and

(c) if so, the names of the private insurers proposed to be allowed to take up this scheme?

Schemes by Income Tax Department of Uttar Pradesh

†2883. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes received from the Income Tax Department of Uttar Pradesh and the amount sanctioned for this during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) the amount given to the State Government out of the said amount; and

(c) by when the remaining amount would be released?

IDBI's notice to defaulters

2884. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial Development Bank of India has issued notices to a number of defaulters during the last six months;

(b) whether some defaulters have

approached the IDBI for settlement of dues; and

(c) if so, the number of such defaulters and whether some settlements have been reached with the Bank?

Opinion of Expert Committee on rural credit

†2885. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's Attention has been drawn to the opinion of Expert Committee on rural credit that additional facilities will have to be provided by banks in order to disburse more loans in rural areas;

(b) whether this Committee has also opined about the facilities which are necessary for the banks to be provided; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Guidelines on arbitrary use of instruments

2886. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has issued guidelines to put a bar on arbitrary use of instruments;

(b) whether it has also restricted the banks from taking long or short credit derivative positions with a trading intent; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Execution of bonds in lieu of end use exemptions of customs duty

2887. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bonds executed in lieu of end use exemptions of customs duty during 1998-99 to 2002-2003 and the number of bonds that are pending cancellation of more than three years, two years and one year;

(b) the reasons for delay in their cancellation and the amount of duty remains unrealized at the end of each financial years during the above period; and

(c) the steps contemplated to accelerate the procedure and quick cancellation of bond so that the duty could be realised?

Central Co-operative Banks in Orissa

2888. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an urgent demand to open additional Urban Banks and Central Co-operative Banks (CCBs) in Orissa;

(b) whether there are only 17 Urban and 17 Central Co-operative Banks in the State at present;

(c) whether the State has made a request in this regard to the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to meet the demand?

Financial health of LIC

2889. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred

Question 897 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th July, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has asked the Life Insurance Corporation of India to give a status report on its financial health position;

(b) if so, whether the report received by the Ministry has found LIC falling short of capital norms and solvency requirements; and

(c) if so, the other steps Government propose to restore its financial health?

Interest rate on NRI rupee deposit scheme

2890. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
DR. A.R. KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has put a cap on the interest rate that banks can offer on the popular non-resident Indian rupee deposit scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the banks can now offer rates upto 250 basis points above the dollar LIBOR (London Inter Bank Offered Rate) on these deposits;

(d) if so, whether this has been opposed by the NRIs;

(e) if so, what are main arguments given by them; and

(f) to what extent this decision would help Government?

Import of foreign cars

2891. SHRI THENNALA G.
BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreign cars

imported through Cochin Port during the last three years by NRIs;

(b) whether Revenue Intelligence has taken any cases against any NRI imports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have received any complaint against DRI officers regarding harassment of importers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Merger of IFCI

†2892. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRIMATI SARLA
MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received by Government from the Co-ordination Committee of Employees and Officers Union of Industrial Finance Corporation of India through Members of Parliament in which they have requested Government that keeping in view the financial condition of the Corporation and security of the services of the staff of I.F.C.I., it should be merged with Industrial Development Bank of India, State Bank of India or the Life Insurance Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are considering the representations sympathetically?

Investment in agriculture sector

†2893. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to the higher rate of interest on loans given to the farmers as compared to the rate of interest on loans given to industries,

housing and other sectors, there is steep decrease in the investment in agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

Counterfeit stamp racket

2894. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major racket in sale of counterfeit stamps and non-judicial stamp paper has been unearthed recently; and

(b) if so, the amount involved in such racket during the last three years?

Branch offices of Oriental Bank of India on rent

†2895. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branch offices taken on rent by the Oriental Bank of India, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that by neglecting the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, the Managers of the said bank, have decided to hire the buildings at increased rates by vacating the buildings at cheaper rates;

(c) if so, on which basis this decision has been taken; and

(d) the loss suffered by Government due to this?

Import of currency printing papers

2896. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of currency printing papers imported during the last three years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the name of the country and company from whom the import has been made;

(c) whether the standard of currency paper has been changed during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

Branches of State Bank of Indore

†2897. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of State Bank of Indore functioning in Gwalior division;

(b) the number of branches functioning in rented buildings in this division;

(c) the number of house owners who have lodged complaints in Head Office of the Bank regarding ownership of the building;

(d) the action taken by Government on these complaints; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Appointment on compassionate ground in National Insurance Company, Solan

2898. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of dependents of deceased employees of National Insurance Company employed at Solan, Himachal Pradesh who died in harness in March till date are seeking job;

(b) if so, the number of applications pending with the headquarters and how many were received since January, 2003 till date and the reasons for delay in

settlement of such cases; and

(c) whether Government are aware that a number of representations have been submitted by the Members of Parliament in this regard; and if so, the details thereof?

Loans to private sector

†2899. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial institutions under public sector have provided loans to the private sector for establishment of industrial projects and small scale industries in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi during the last three years;

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

(c) the terms and conditions prescribed for the loans to be granted for above purpose and the manner in which these projects have been established with the help of these loans; and

(d) the details of the projects established in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi with the assistance of such loans during the said period?

Report of Banchu Committee on black money

†2900. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Banchu Committee has published its report with reference to origin of black money in the country from 1960 to 1980; and

(b) if so, the measures Government propose to take to check it?

Pending cases of IT refund

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

2901. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total backlog of IT refunds, sector-wise pending for more than three years;

(b) what are the reasons for this backlog;

(c) what steps are being taken to clear the outstanding of these refunds; and

(d) by when this exercise will be completed?

Black money

†2902. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a parallel economy of black money is running in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that this money is also being used for committing different types of crimes in the country;

(c) whether Government have made any evaluation of black money; and

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

District Central Cooperative Banks

2903. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has been instructed to directly refinance District Central Cooperative Banks;

(b) whether there is any proposal to slash interest rates for these banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether interest on crop loans of less than Rs. 50,000 has been reduced recently;

(f) if so, the details of crop loans of less than Rs. 50,000, State-wise as on today; and

(g) the measures taken so that volume of credit to agriculture sector and lending rates in the balance sheets of banks would not decrease?

Drifting away of US investors

2904. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US based investors are turning away from routing Foreign Direct Investment into India through Mauritius;

(b) if so, the details of the investment made through the Mauritius route during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the decline and Government's reaction thereto?

Annual Bank Meet

2905. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three day Annual Bank Meet was organised during last May on economics development;

(b) if so, the salient observations made on development of infrastructure etc. for accelerating the process; and

(c) the recommendations accepted by Government for implementation?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development of Delhi and Mumbai airports

2906. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for developing Mumbai and Delhi airports to the international standards has been sent back to the Ministry of Civil Aviation with a rider to make them first as independent companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Lokayukta for tax related complaints

†2907. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to appoint Lokayukta for quick disposal of tax related complaints;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to reduce the number of tax related forms to streamline the tax system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Institution of IT-Ombudsman

2908. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee on Direct Taxes has proposed setting up of an independent institution of IT-Ombudsman;

(b) whether such an institution will operate from 10 tax paying cities and all the State capitals; and

(c) whether the IT-Ombudsman will also enquire into practice and performance

of all classes of tax professionals on complaints filed by the tax payers?

Pension for senior citizen scheme

2909. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pension for senior citizen scheme is likely to impose upon the Centre a burden on account of hefty interest subsidy;

(b) whether Government have committed itself to bridging the gap on the returns earned by LIC on the premium collected and assured return of 9 per cent;

(c) whether Government propose to deploy the premium collections on Golden Quadrilateral Project of NHAI which would ease the subsidy burden of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

SFMS in banks

2910. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur is working on a proposal for the installation of Structural Finance Messaging System (SFMS) wherein the transfer of money from one branch to the other would take place within a few minutes;

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

(c) how the system functions and how safe is the technology; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to provide such SFMS facilities to other PSU banks?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Return of paid-up capital by banks

2911. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some public sector banks have returned their paid-up capital to Government in the recent past;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

National Income Tax Network

2912. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up National Income Tax Network connecting all Income-tax offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be set up?

Issue of PAN by UTI

2913. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have engaged Unit Trust of India for issuing Permanent Account Number Cards;

(b) if so, what is the response from the public; and

(c) whether a time-frame has been set to issue cards to all income-tax assesseees?

Payment of employees in foreign countries

†2914. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain multinational companies are making payment of pay and allowances of their employees working in India in foreign countries without getting permission from the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the multinational companies against whom action has been taken for the violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA); and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check the violation of FERA by these multinational companies?

Computerisation of revenue records

†2915. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-frame had been fixed for computerisation of revenue records in the country;

(b) if so, what was the target and the progress made in this regard till June, 2003;

(c) whether it is a fact that some hurdles have been faced in achieving the target and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken to remove them?

Financial irregularities in Bank of Maharashtra

2916. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that through a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Maharashtra, Bombay dated the 11th May, 2002, a Sub-Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Workmen Director to study and report within three months on the serious

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

financial irregularities of some credit proposals in the bank;

(b) if so, whether the said Sub-Committee has finalised and submitted its report; and

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

Performance of DRTs

2917. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Debt Recovery Tribunals have shown good performance last year;

(b) if so, what was the amount recovered; and

(c) whether Government would review the performance of the tribunals?

Introduction of cash management

2918. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for improving quality of public expenditure, Government have introduced cash management in some Government Departments;

(b) if so, the results achieved; and

(c) what are the future plans in this regard?

Utilisation of surcharge

2919. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that last year Government levied a five per cent surcharge and collected Rs. 4,253 crores in the name of national security but all this money was utilised bridging the fiscal deficit due to drought relief; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to utilise this money for the purpose of national security?

Sponsoring of racing event

2920. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the major liquor producers sponsored Formula One Racing Sport held in London in violation of FERA at a huge cost;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that one of the liquor producers had forged official documents; if so, the action taken in the matter?

Fiscal reform programme for States

2921. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 11th Finance Commission had recommended a monitorable fiscal reform programme for all the States;

(b) if so, the States which have adopted this programme;

(c) what incentive has been given to such States during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) how far the fiscal deficit has been controlled as a result thereof?

Penalties on auditors carrying on non-audit services

2922. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering of imposing stiff penalties on auditors carrying on non-audit services;

(b) whether the Ministry of Finance is also thinking of insertion of a new Section 226A to ensure that the statutory auditors or associates or subsidiaries affiliated endorse services other than auditing; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Insurance scheme for shepherds

†2923. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any insurance scheme for the backward shepherds in the country;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether a draft has been prepared for the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Opening of finance companies

†2924. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing rules for opening/operating a finance company; and

(b) the action taken by Government against the finance companies operating against the rules?

Custom duty realisation from Gaya Airport

2925. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been abysmally low customs duty realisation from Gaya International Airport during the last seven months;

(b) whether customs duty realisation of a paltry sum of Rs. 3.5 lakhs was effected during the entire seven months;

(c) whether a Central customs team from Delhi took control of customs at Gaya Airport recently and realised a staggering Rs. 65.00 lakhs as customs duty in a single day; and

(d) what punitive action has been taken against those manning the Gaya Airport customs for the last seven months for causing huge losses to the public exchequer?

Foreign institutional investors in stock market

2926. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of foreign institutional investors operating in Indian stock market; and

(b) what are the names of different foreign institutional investors and their exposure in different stock exchanges?

Transfer of income tax appeals to Delhi

2927. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

recommend transfer and hearing of Income Tax appeals against search and seizure of Companies to Delhi for final decision; and

(b) if so, who will be the appellate authority?

Closure of bank branches in rural areas

†2928. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian and Foreign banks are closing their branches in rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the guidelines and incentives being extended by Government to the banks for keeping their business alive in the rural areas?

Opening of Insurance sector for infrastructural sector

2929. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open up the Insurance sector for financing infrastructure sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the financing of infrastructural sector is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Banks' proposal for bond buyback scheme

2930. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has rejected a proposal to allow banks greater flexibility in using the income received

from the bond buyback scheme announced in this year's budget;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the rejection;

(c) whether any compromise has been considered; and

(d) if so, the other alternatives being suggested by the Ministry to consider banks' proposal?

Fall in public savings

2931. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that from a level of 2.5 per cent in 1990s, rate of public savings has fallen to around a negative 2.5 per cent in 2002-2003, thereby bringing Government investment on infrastructure to 4.5 per cent of GDP from earlier 5 per cent;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of drastic reduction in subsidies and also adopting other measures; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the time-frame fixed for the purpose?

Participation of private firms in pension funds

2932. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would allow public and private firms to launch pension funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to set-up a Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority to govern those firms involved in pension funds; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether any Bill is pending before the House in this respect?

Credit deposit ratio of States

†2933. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of credit-deposit ratio of various States, State-wise;

(b) whether credit-ratio as compared to the deposits of banks in Bihar is far less than the ratio of other States and that of the national ratio due to non-cooperation of banks;

(c) whether Government propose to issue guidelines to banks in Bihar to bring this ratio at par with the national ratio; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Request of Chartered Accountants Action Committee

2934. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chartered Accountants Action Committee, for level playing field, has urged not to permit any more Multinational Accounting Firms (MAF) to establish business in India either as consulting company or accounting firm;

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

(c) whether JPC on stock scam also Commented about the working of MAF; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto alongwith the action taken on the request of Chartered Accountants Action Committee?

Credit of interest on PPF account

2935. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of bank branches dealing with PPF account do not credit the interest for the year on the last working day of the year, as provided in the scheme;

(b) if so, the names of SBI and associate branches in Delhi which have not done so far the last three years; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

VRS in insurance sector

†2936. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in insurance sector who have opted for VRS during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons who have been provided with jobs during this period;

(c) whether it has been proposed to provide new jobs in the insurance sector; and

(d) if so, the details of job provided year-wise?

Loan disbursed by RRBs

†2937. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loan disbursed by various Regional Rural Banks in the country;

(b) the loan recovered, so far;

(c) the details with regard to Regional Rural Banks of Maharashtra; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) what necessary steps are proposed to be taken to recover the balance loan?

Change in Government accounting system

2938. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of Twelfth Finance Commission has asked for change in Government accounting system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have agreed with the views of Twelfth Finance Commission; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposed new accounting system?

Decline in Asia Pacific private equity

2939. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Asia Pacific private equity in India has declined to \$ 920 million in May-June this year as compared to \$ 1.7 billion in corresponding period last year;

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

(c) the prospects of foreign private equity in coming years?

LTC bills of Government employees

2940. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TA/LTC bills of Government employees who perform journey by private airlines are being

rejected on the ground that they should have performed journey by Indian Airlines even though their claim is restricted to rail fare and no financial implication is involved;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Flexi/Apex/Bidding Fares of private airlines are less than the fares of Indian Airlines; and

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

Appointment on compassionate ground

†2941. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of State Bank of India in Himachal Pradesh who died in harness during 2001-2002;

(b) whether their dependants have been given employment on compassionate ground, if so, the names of such persons, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the dependants of the employees of UCO Bank at Himachal Pradesh; Haryana and Punjab, who died in harness, got the employment on compassionate ground, if so, the names, designation and place of appointment of those persons?

Heads of IRDA

2942. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether heads of different regulatory authorities in India like Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority are bureaucrats;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether industry sources say that this practice is not in conformity with liberalised economy and it should be done away with; and

(c) what is Government's response in this regard?

Allotment of kerosene to dealers in Orissa

2943. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of kerosene allotted and being released at present to Grameswara Kero Fuels, Jagatsinghpur, Orissa;

(b) whether Government have received a number of representations from MPs for releasing allotted quota; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation of gas to Gujarat

2944. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

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

(a) the production of natural gas during the last three years;

(b) whether the allocation of 0.4 MMCMD of gas from December 2002 and 0.2 MMCMD of gas from March, 2003 to power stations of Gujarat was considered by Government;

(c) if so, the reasons for not making the allocations; and

(d) by when the gas is to be allocated as demanded by Government of Gujarat considering the importance of Pipavav Power Project and shortage of power in Gujarat?

Delay in phasing out subsidies

2945. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are facing problems in phasing out subsidies on kerosene and LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in phasing out subsidies on these products; and

(d) by when Government propose to phase out subsidies on the above items?

Acquisition of gas field in Saudi Arabia

2946. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Videsh propose to acquire a gas field in Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the mode of transportation contemplated; and

(c) by when the project will commence?

Supply of kerosene to Madhya Pradesh

†2947. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

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

(a) whether after the formation of Chhattisgarh allocation of kerosene oil to Madhya Pradesh has continuously declined;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the allocation of kerosene made to Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and whether this allocation is being made on the basis of the population;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from Government of Madhya Pradesh to enhance monthly quota of kerosene in view of shortage of electricity in the State; and

(d) if so, whether Government would take any action in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Dual price system for kerosene

†2948. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that two rates have been fixed to collect excise duty on kerosene oil;

(b) if so, the basis on which price determination is made; and

(c) the reason for fixing two rates?

Annual average price of petroleum products

†2949. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that average annual price of petrol, diesel and L.P.G. has been determined at Rs. 12636.88, Rs. 12712.40 and Rs. 11932.00 per ton, respectively to recover the excise duty for the year 2002-03;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for variation in the prices of above mentioned products; and

(d) the details of other expenses included in the price of LPG, apart from the actual cost of its production, alongwith the details of the rates thereof?

Crude oil prices in international market

2950. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of crude oil in the international market during each of the last six month;

(b) the impact on domestic prices of petroleum products and oil pool deficit due to increase in the international prices of crude oil;

(c) whether Government propose to follow policy of market price instead of subsidised price in regard to petroleum products; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Exploration of oil in Indo-Gangetic plains

2951. SHRI LALU PRASAD:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have placed 24 exploration blocks on general bidding for production sharing contract under New Exploration Licensing Policy-IV (NELP-IV);

(b) whether out of these only one block

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

known as Indo-Gangetic block VI (numbered GV-ONN-2002/1) is located in Bihar;

(c) whether Government propose to intensify exploration in the Indo-Gangetic plains in future; and

(d) if so, by what measures and by when?

Production of CBM in Gujarat

2952. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal for Coal Bed Methane production in the State;

(b) if so, when the proposal was received and what is the offer made;

(c) by when a decision is to be taken with regard to the proposal; and

(d) the estimated quantity of Coal Bed Methane in the country, State-wise and the production of Coal Bed Methane during the last three years?

Introduction of hydrogen as an alternate fuel

2953. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government have set-up a high-powered Committee to finalise a road-map for the introduction of hydrogen as an alternative fuel;

(b) if so, whether this panel has been

given a fixed time schedule for submitting its recommendations;

(c) if so, what are the other issues the Committee will go into;

(d) what is the composition of the Committee; and

(e) by when the Committee is likely to submit its report?

Launching of Jatropha plantation

2954. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have mooted a proposal for launching nation-wide Jatropha plantation to generate environment friendly bio-fuels to tap-non-conventional source of energy;

(b) if so, the details of the dream project and how far it would help to reduce the oil import bill; and

(c) the areas identified for plantation and by when the project would start showing results?

Sale of crude oil to China

2955. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC Videsh has sold its share of one million barrels of crude from the Sudan oilfields to China, if so, the amount generated out of this deal;

(b) the details of other foreign market where the company will sell its share of crude to add to its profits of Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000 crores during the current fiscal; and

(c) the contribution of the company to home oil refineries?

Subsidy on transportation of petrol and kerosene

2956. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to provide Rs. 1700 crores as subsidy for transportation of petrol and kerosene under Public Distribution Scheme in the country's remote areas; and

(b) by when this concession is going to be introduced?

Rehabilitation Scheme to dependants of Kargil martyrs

2957. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have quietly abandoned the scheme of helping widows and dependants of the Kargil martyrs;

(b) if so, whether Government have informed the widows and dependants in this regard;

(c) if so, what was their reaction;

(d) whether any delegation has come and represented the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Production of crude oil

2958. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan has been drawn up to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of crude oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of production of crude oil within the country and of imports, with the annual foreign exchange outgo thereon?

Petrol pumps in Uttaranchal

†2959. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps functioning in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether these petrol pumps are sufficient to meet the present requirement of transport in Uttaranchal; and

(c) if not, the number of petrol pumps required in this State and by when the remaining petrol pumps shall be set-up?

Compulsory sale of gasohol

2960. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several sugarcane-producing States were slow on creating infrastructure for producing ethanol by forcing the Central Government to extend the deadline for the compulsory sale of gasohol for another three months; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Supply of underweight gas cylinders

2961. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some gas agencies are supplying underweight gas cylinders to the consumers and a number of complaints have been submitted in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof giving names of the agencies against whom complaints have been received; and

(c) what action has been taken against them?

Sale of underweight petrol by petrol pumps

†2962. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that petrol pumps sell underweight quantity of oil to customers;

(b) if so, the action taken against the petrol pump owners so far; and

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated with a view to providing full quantity of oil to customers?

Commissioning of LNG Petronet Project, Kochi

2963. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that power and industrial projects coming up in Kerala are mainly dependent on the early commissioning of LNG Petronet Project at Kochi;

(b) by when the LNG terminal at Kochi and Gas pipeline project are likely to be commissioned;

(c) whether Government would ensure the timely completion of the above project; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Closure of HP Waterfed Storage Depot

2964. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the closure of Hindustan Petroleum Waterfed Storage Depot at Ponmana Kollam in Kerala;

(b) what is the present stage of the said establishment and for what purpose it is being utilised now;

(c) whether there is any proposal to open the depot, and if so, Government's reaction thereto and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the said land and infrastructure will be given back for some other useful projects?

Pipeline gas connections in Agartala

2965. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas pipeline connections to houses/hotels etc. all over the country, State-wise;

(b) the progress of work to provide house-to-house pipeline gas connection at Agartala; and

(c) the annual income generated from the supply of gas in Tripura?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Impact of natural gas import on supply

2966. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had to cut natural gas supplies to several industrial units in the capital city;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to import natural gas from Qatar;

(c) if so, whether the industrial units would get their original quota of natural gas; and

(d) if so, by when?

Subsidy on LPG and Kerosene

2967. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the subsidy on LPG and Kerosene distributed through the PDS network during 2002-2003 and projections for 2003-2004;

(b) whether Government propose to phase out these subsidies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of steps taken to minimise cost of production of LPG and Kerosene?

Recognition of IIMC's diplomas

2968. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether degree/diploma awarded by prestigious organisations *i.e.* Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi in the field of Public Relations are not being recognised and considered by organisations like ONGC in the recruitment procedure;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure recognition of these degrees/diplomas by ONGC;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Finding of oil off Yeman Coast

2969. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reliance Industries have found oil off the Yeman Coast;

(b) if so, the estimate of oil and gas in this block; and

(c) by when commercial production is likely to commence from there?

Establishment of Octane Testing Centres in Chhattisgarh

2970. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Chhattisgarh has requested any financial assistance for establishment of stationary as well as mobile octane testing centres in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the request has been accepted by the Central Government?

Criteria for allotment of LPG agencies

2971. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for allotment of LPG agencies and the number of agencies in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether in many cases the agencies are storing far more cylinders than the approved capacity and many of them are engaged in illegal filling and transfer of LPG cylinders that are of substandard quality; and

(c) if so, the penal action provided for in the relevant Regulations and the action taken/proposed to be taken against such defaulters?

Schemes to attract Bodh pilgrims

†2972. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to implement any scheme to attract Bodh pilgrims from all over the World towards Indian Bodh pilgrimages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

International Golf Championship course in Goa

2973. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.K. based Professional Golf Association wants to set-up an International Golf Championship course in Goa;

(b) whether Government have agreed to this;

(c) if so, the facilities provided by the State Government of Goa and the Central Government; and

(d) by when this Golf Course of International standard will be ready for holding International Championship?

Condition of tourist places in U.P.

†2974. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that condition of tourist places in Uttar Pradesh is deteriorating day-by-day;

(b) if so, the schemes being formulated by Government to maintain the tourist places; and

(c) the time to be taken in completion of these schemes in order to increase the inclination of tourists towards Uttar Pradesh?

Upkeep and maintenance of records in National Museum, Delhi

2975. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Museum, Delhi, does not have till date a complete inventory of some two lakh prized and invaluable artefacts, rare manuscripts and other objects in its possession, nor their complete documented photographs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time-bound programme drawn up; if any, to properly document the collection and compile a single catalogue for easy reference for research, physical verification etc.; and

(d) the steps taken for proper upkeep and maintenance of the artefacts etc. to save them from deterioration and also for their safe custody?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Apex fares for Delhi-Srinagar sector

2976. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic and foreign tourists have started visiting Kashmir Valley during the last six months;

(b) if so, the number of tourists who have visited the valley during this period;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian Airlines has not introduced any special fares for tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Indian Airlines would announce APEX fares for Delhi-Srinagar sector?

Retrieving of Indian antiques

2977. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to retrieve Indian antiques specially the Kohinoor, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Kalgi and the sword of Shivaji, now in possession of U.K.; if so, the details of the action-plan;

(b) whether Government have prepared an exhaustive list of such antiques, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether efforts were made earlier also, if so, the reasons for their failure?

Development of Dal Lake

2978. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

give Central assistance to conserve and develop "Dal Lake" to make it a major tourist spot in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be sanctioned; and

(c) the present status of the above proposal?

Sangeet Natak Academy

†2979. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for promotion of Sangeet Natak Academy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Recovery in tourist traffic

2980. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government feel that aggressive marketing and slew of budgetary allocations and concessions had led to dramatic recovery in tourist traffic in latter part of 2002 and early 2003;

(b) whether promotional campaign has been launched in Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Kolkata simultaneously to attract tourists to Nepal as Nepal Tourism Board has identified its Indian neighbours as the largest tourists visiting Himalayan Kingdom; and

(c) to what extent it has given fillip to tourists of both countries?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development of tourism in North Bengal and Sikkim

2981. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have assured financial and technical assistance for all round development of tourism in North Bengal and Sikkim besides North Eastern Region; if so, the details of the project;

(b) whether a similar action plan has been drawn for Orissa to boost its economy; and

(c) the details of ongoing new schemes and subsidy projects and also proposed ones to develop and promote tourism in the country?

Bringing back Saraswati Idol

2982. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI BIMBA
RAIKAR:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to bring back the Saraswati Idol, taken away from the disputed Bhojshala/Kamal Moula Mosque by the British and is installed in the London Museum; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard to bring back the Idol and to restore it in the temple?

Contribution by Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation for opening of new libraries

2983. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of funds contributed by Raja Rammohun Roy Foundation for opening new libraries and refurbishing the existing libraries in the country;

(b) whether Government are satisfied that the Foundation has achieved the objective for what it was created; and

(c) whether it has been able to start library movement in the country?

Maintenance of ASI sites by private parties

2984. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to handover Archaeological Survey of India properties/sites to private persons or organizations for proper maintenance and upkeep;

(b) if so, whether such properties/sites have been identified;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the terms on which these are proposed to be given to private persons/organizations?

Maintenance of Razia Sultana tomb in Delhi

†2985. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tomb of Razia Sultana at Turkman Gate in Delhi has been recognised as historical heritage;

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking for the maintenance of this tomb;

(c) whether Government are aware that this tomb has been encroached upon from all sides; and

(d) if so, Government's plan to facilitate the tourists to visit this place of international importance easily?

Restoration of historical wall of Shahjahanabad

2986. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wall that gave the walled city (Shahjahanabad) its name and character is disappearing; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to restore the historical wall?

New construction project around Hampi

2987. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO has strongly objected to the building of two bridges across the Tungabhadra saying that development work, pollution and vibrations from vehicles will steadily destroy the 400 years old heritage site of Hampi;

(b) whether it is mandatory for Government to inform UNESCO about the development work around heritage sites and if so, whether Government have informed the UNESCO of the new construction projects around Hampi;

(c) whether the Paris based World Heritage Committee had marked Hampi as a heritage site 'in danger'; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

Facilities at pilgrim centres in Karnataka

2988. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop infrastructural facilities at important tourist and pilgrim centres in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Harassment to domestic tourists at Taj

2989. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the security staff at Taj Mahal are asking proof of citizenship from the domestic tourists who are visiting Taj Mahal; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Violence and cheating with foreign tourists

†2990. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during the last three years;
- (b) the number of incidents of violence and cheating that have occurred with foreign tourists during these years; and
- (c) the States where these incidents happened and the action taken in this regard?

Popularity of sea travel

2991. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that sea travel is becoming increasingly popular among tourists, both domestic and overseas; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to identify and develop spots suitable for pleasure trips on sea by tourists togetherwith the details of potential areas in each State?

Setting up of multi-purpose cultural complex in Orissa

2992. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to set up multi-purpose cultural complex all over the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith number of such complexes to be set up in Orissa; and

- (c) the steps taken to ensure time-bound execution of the plan?

Rehabilitation of ousted people

2993. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any record of people ousted from their land to make place for dams;
- (b) if so, the number of such persons; and
- (c) for how many years they remained unrehabilitated?

Irrigation water supply to Chhattisgarh

2994. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a fall in the quantity of irrigation water supplied to Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the year-wise details of water utilization in Chhattisgarh for irrigation purpose during the last three years;
- (c) whether this quantity of irrigation water received by Chhattisgarh will be maintained every year; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Ban on drilling of handpumps

2995. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have imposed ban not only on sinking of small handpumps for drilling drinking water but

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

also on deepening the ones that have gone dry in the Capital;

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

(c) whether Government are aware that as a result of severe water crisis, residents of the Capital have to pay both the police and Municipal Officers for not only drilling new tubewells but also for deepening the old ones which had gone dry; and

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

Height of Sardar Sarovar dam

2996. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
DR. A. K. PATEL:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether height of the Sardar Sarovar dam was to reach 100 mt. by June, 2002 and 110 mt. by June, 2003;

(b) whether it is a fact that the target of raising the dam to height of 100 mt. by June, 2002 could not be achieved due to delay in completion of R&R works to be carried out in the participating States and non-extending of cooperation by them; and

(c) if so, what mechanism Government are considering for resolving differences among the participating States and by when?

Overdrawing of water by Karnataka

2997. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRIMATI VANGA
GEETHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints that Karnataka was over-drawing water more than its entitlement;

(b) whether Government have sent any team to see the actual position;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has brought to the notice of Government, the question of Pragodu Project and raising of height of Upper Tunga across Chitravathi which will adversely affect the drought prone districts of Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh; and

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

Ongoing irrigation projects

2998. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the progress of various ongoing irrigation projects in the country;

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

(c) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

Review of National Water Policy

2999. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are

considering to review the National Water Policy keeping in view its opposition by various NGOs and other institutions;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any progress has been made in the implementation of National Water Policy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Funds allocated for water conservation scheme for Uttar Pradesh

†3000. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the amount spent by Government for water conservation during the last three years;
- (b) the details of the schemes, Government propose to implement in this area in the forthcoming years;
- (c) whether Government have allotted any fund under this scheme for Uttar Pradesh in the current financial year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Success of NWDA

3001. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) to carry out water balance and feasibility studies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the success NWDA has achieved towards the mandate given to it so far?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Financial assistance for irrigation projects in Rajasthan

3002. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank and other external financial agencies have offered assistance for irrigation projects in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total amount of assistance received from these agencies during the last three years, project-wise and district-wise; and
- (d) the status of completion and benefits accrued out of those projects?

Release of Sindhu water for Gujarat

3003. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Gujarat Government has sought the release of Sindhu (river) water for its arid District of Kutch from Islamabad;
- (b) whether Government propose to take up this question with Pakistan as confidence building measure during proposed Indo-Pak talks; and
- (c) whether Government are aware that it will provide great relief to the parched areas of Gujarat?

Centrally-sponsored water schemes in Karnataka

3004. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Centrally-sponsored schemes being implemented in Karnataka

for providing assistance to State Government for augmenting water resources and exploitation thereof;

(b) the year-wise amount allocated alongwith the amount released to Karnataka during the last three years, till date; and

(c) what has been the achievement of this State with regard to conservation of additional water and exploitation of water resources?

Law for water harvesting

3005. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a law not to allow building of individual homes or housing societies without water harvesting provisions throughout the country;

(b) if so, by when an enactment is anticipated;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the targets fixed by Government to augment the water availability by reviving the traditional water system and by constructing the water harvesting structures throughout the country; and

(e) the achievement made so far through both the ways?

New projects in Krishna basin

3006. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation from Andhra Pradesh met him and submitted a memorandum requesting that Karnataka Government be restrained to construct new projects in the Krishna basin; and

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

Funding of Godavari basin projects

3007. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank and Japanese Bank for International Co-operation have evinced interest in funding the Godavari basin projects proposed to be taken up by the Andhra Pradesh Government;

(b) if so, the names of projects to be taken up with assistance of these agencies; and

(c) by when the work on these projects are likely to be taken up?

NEW DELHI;
The 13th August, 2003
Sravana 22, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X (Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 2853, 2854, 2855, 2856, 2857, 2858, 2859, 2860, 2861, 2862, 2863, 2864, 2865, 2866, 2867, 2868, 2869, 2870, 2871, 2872,
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